

**MARINE RESERVE IMPLEMENTATION:  
PILBARA**

**PLANNING AND PRE-DECLARATION PROCESSES  
FOR A MARINE PROTECTED AREA IN THE  
MONTEBELLO/BARROW ISLANDS REGION**

**Progress Report: MRI/PI/MBI - 22/1999**

A collaborative project between  
CALM Marine Conservation Branch and the Pilbara Regional Office

A project partially funded through the Natural Heritage Trust's  
Coast and Clean Seas Marine Protected Area Programme  
Project No: WA9702

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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

### *Direction*

- Dr Chris Simpson - Manager, Marine Conservation Branch (MCB)

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- The planning and pre-declaration processes for a marine protected area in the Montebello/Barrow islands region is partially funded by a grant of \$43,000 provided through the Natural Heritage Trust's Coast and Clean Seas Marine Protected Area Program.
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## BACKGROUND

The Montebello/Barrow islands area was recommended in the *Report of the Marine Parks and Reserves Selection Working Group* (CALM, 1994) as worthy of consideration for reservation.

The *Conservation and Land Management (CALM) Act* allows for the establishment of multiple-use marine conservation reserves for the purposes of conservation of marine flora and fauna and public recreation. Commercial activities, such as fishing, aquaculture and petroleum exploration and production, are also acceptable within specific zones of multiple-use marine conservation reserves. The Western Australian Fisheries Department manages commercial and recreational fisheries in marine conservation reserves.

The *CALM Act* specifies the statutory process for the reservation of marine conservation reserves, including a public planning process for the development of management zoning schemes that allow for the spatial separation of incompatible activities in a marine park. In anticipation of this process the major marine resources and current uses of a number of the areas recommended for reservation in the Marine Parks and Reserves Selection Working Group report, are being identified. As part of the statutory marine conservation reserve pre-declaration process, it is required that the biological, economic, social and cultural resources of a proposed marine conservation reserve be assessed before the Notice Of Intent (NOI) is issued. This process has been designed improve the community's awareness of the issues concerned with the creation of a marine conservation reserve prior the release of the NOI. The data layers provide the basic information for a consultative process resulting in the determination of preliminary boundaries and zonings, so that current users have a clear appreciation of how the proposed marine reserve will affect their current and future activities.

In December 1997, the Western Australian Government, following advice provided by the Western Australian Marine Parks and Reserves Authority, announced that the Montebello/Barrow islands region as priority areas for the establishment of marine conservation reserves under the *CALM Act*. Designation of the waters of Dampier Archipelago region as a marine conservation reserve was also recommended in the Karratha Area Development Strategy (WAPC, 1998).

Currently, there is no other marine conservation reserve in the "Pilbara offshore" Interim Marine and Coastal Regionalisation for Australia bioregion (IMCRA, 1998).

The Marine Conservation Branch (MCB) of the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) is conducting this project as part of the Marine Reserve Implementation programme, and is being conducted in collaboration with CALM's Pilbara Region in Karratha.

The aims of the project are:

1. to initiate planning and pre-declaration processes for the proposed Montebello/Barrow islands marine conservation reserve;
2. to compile the ecological and socioeconomic information;
3. to provide advice to the WA Government, through the stakeholder/community advisory committee process, on the suitable reserve category, boundaries and management zoning options, and;
4. to develop and implement a community consultation process.

This report details progress achieved on Project No WA9702 “Planning and pre-declaration process for a Marine Protected Area in the Montebello/Barrow islands region” up to September 1999.

## AREA OF INTEREST

The area of interest (Figure 1) referred to as the Montebello/Barrow islands region, falls in the Pilbara Offshore IMCRA bioregion.

The area of interest is covered by:

- ◆ AUSLIG Topographic Series 1:250,000
  - SF50-1 Barrow, and;
  - SF50-2 Dampier.
  
- ◆ AUSLIG Topographic Series 1:100,000
  - 1955 Airlie;
  - 1956 Barrow;
  - 1957 Tryal;
  - 2055 Mardie, and;
  - 2056 Sholl.

The following latitudes and longitudes cover the extent of the area of interest.

Bearing	Latitude	Longitude
North	20° 17' 24" S	115° 31' 12" E
North west	20° 28' 48" S	115° 24' 00" E
West	20° 50' 24" S	115° 15' 00" E
South west	21° 00' 36" S	115° 19' 12" E
South	21° 09' 00" S	115° 28' 12" E
South east	21° 01' 48" S	115° 32' 24" E
East	20° 42' 00" S	115° 37' 48" E
North east	20° 21' 36" S	115° 37' 12" E

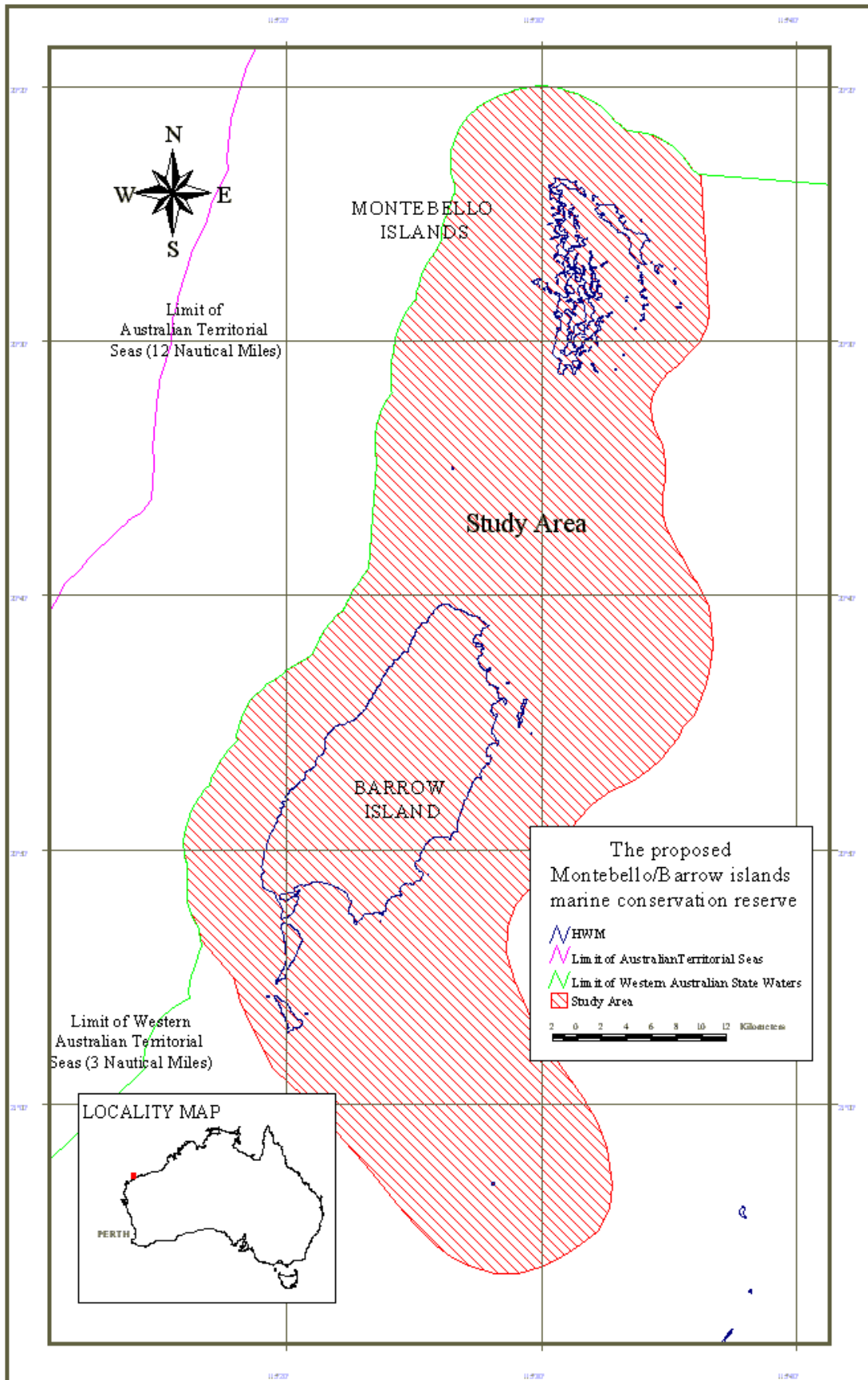


Figure 1. Area of interest. The Montebello/Barrow islands region

## PROGRESS AGAINST PROJECT SCOPE ITEMS

Progress against scope items have been satisfactory (see below)

<b>Task</b>	<b>% Achieved</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Information attached</b>
1. Review and collation of existing information layers and acquisition of additional layers.	80%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Literature reviews have been undertaken.</li> </ul>	
	70%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data have been acquired from appropriate government departments and agencies.</li> </ul>	
	70%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resource assessment of region was undertaken.</li> </ul>	(a) Field programme report (Appendix a)
2. Preparation of advisory committee information package	80%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A regional perspectives paper is well progressed.</li> </ul>	(b) Draft table of contents attached (Appendix b)
	70%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Procedural guidelines for Western Australian marine reserve planning and management legislation.</li> </ul>	(c) Draft attached (Appendix c)
	80%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relevant biological, economic and social information layers have been acquired from appropriate government departments and agencies. A number of products are being produced: Broad scale habitat map, tenure, commercial and recreational fishing.</li> </ul>	
3. Establishment of the community/ stakeholder advisory committee	100%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Calls for expression of interest for membership of the community advisory committee advertised in the West Australian dated 15/5/99.</li> </ul>	(d) Advertisement attached (Appendix d)
	40%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The selection process is well progressed with the scheduled inaugural meeting of the Dampier Archipelago/Cape Preston Advisory Committee currently waiting for approval by the State Minister for the Environment.</li> </ul>	
4. Implementation of community consultation programme	10%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Programme has been initiated.</li> </ul>	
	20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interpretive posters are being designed.</li> </ul>	
	50%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interpretive brochures are well progressed.</li> </ul>	

### EXPENDITURE TO DATE

Item	Funding	Expenditure	Balance
NHT funds received 1998/99	\$32,250		<b>\$32,250</b>
Expenditure 1998/99		\$13,561	<b>\$18,689</b>
Funds on progress report (Oct 1999)	\$0		<b>\$18,689</b>
Expenditure 1999/2000 (to Sep 1999)		\$6,482	<b>\$12,207</b>
Residual expenditure 1999/2000		\$22,957	<b>(\$10,750)</b>
Funds on final report 1999/2000	\$10,750		<b>\$0</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$43,000</b>	<b>\$43,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>

### WORK SCHEDULE

NHT funding was not accessible until late December 1998, which resulted in a three month delay in starting the project. When considering the delay, this project is still within time limits. It is envisaged that the Montebello/Barrow islands advisory committee will hold their inaugural meeting in late October or early November 1999.

Tasks	Oct 98	Nov 98	Dec 98	Jan 99	Feb 99	Mar 99	Apr 99	May 99	Jun 99	Jul 99	Aug 99	Sep 99	Oct 99	Nov 99	Dec 99	Jan 00
Review and collation of existing information layers and acquisition of additional data	●	●	●	●	●											
				➔	➔	➔	➔	➔	➔	➔	➔	➔				
Preparation of an information package, comprising regional and biological perspectives papers; relevant information layers in GIS format and procedural guidelines	●	●	●	●	●											
						➔	➔	➔	➔	➔	➔	➔	➔			
Progress Report						●	●									
												➔	➔			
Establishment of community advisory committee process	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●							
						➔	➔	➔	➔	➔	➔	➔	➔			
Implementation of a community consultation programme				●	●	●	●	●	●							
								➔	➔	➔	➔	➔	➔	➔	➔	➔
Prepare final draft NHT funding report for comment and submit final report to EA									●	●	●					
														➔	➔	➔

- Work plan as outlined in September 1998
- ➔ Actual and predicted work plan as of September 1999



## REFERENCES

- Bancroft, K.P. (1999). Resource assessment of the Montebello/Barrow islands and the Dampier Archipelago/Cape Preston regions: 14-25 June 1999. Marine Reserve Implementation Field Programme Report MRI/PI/MBI & DA – 20/1999. Unpublished report.
- CALM (1994). A representative marine reserve system for Western Australia. Report of the Marine Parks and Reserves Selection Working Group. Department of Conservation and Land Management. June 1994.
- IMCRA (1998). Interim Marine and Coastal Regionalisation for Australia: an ecosystem-based classification for marine and coastal environments. Version 3.3. Environment Australia, Commonwealth Department of the Environment, Canberra.
- WAPC (1998). Karratha area development strategy. Western Australian Planning Commission.

## **APPENDICES**

**Appendix a. Bancroft, K.P. (1999). Resource assessment field survey of the Montebello/Barrow islands and the Dampier Archipelago/Cape Preston regions. 14-25 June 1999. Field Programme Report. MRI/PI/MBI & DA - 20/1999**



**Appendix b. DRAFT Table of contents: Montebello/Barrow islands regional perspectives paper.**

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DRAFT

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Marine turtles

Fish

Cave-dwelling fauna

Marine invertebrates

*Corals*

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**NATURE RESERVES AND CONSERVATION PARKS**

## Within the study area

*Montebello Islands Conservation Park**Barrow Island Nature Reserve**Lowendal Nature Reserve**Great Sandy Island Nature Reserve**Boodie, Double, Middle Islands Nature Reserve*

## Nearby nature reserves

**HUMAN USAGE****CULTURAL HISTORY**

Aboriginal history

Maritime history

Existing declared shipwreck sites

Nuclear testing

**CURRENT ADMINISTRATIVE SETTING**

Local Government Authority

The role of State Government agencies in the marine conservation reserve implementation

*Department of Conservation and Land management**Fisheries Western Australia**Department of Transport**Department of Mineral and Energy**Environmental Protection Authority*

Port Areas and Shipping Routes

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North West Shelf Joint Environmental Management Study

CALMScience Rat &amp; cat eradication

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## **Appendix d. Advertisement for the formation of the community advisory committee**

WEST AUSTRALIAN 15/5/99  
**FORMATION OF COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEES  
 PROPOSED MARINE CONSERVATION RESERVES**

The Government of Western Australia is committed to the establishment of a statewide system of marine conservation reserves under the Conservation and Land Management Act 1984 for the conservation and sustainable use of the marine environment. To ensure that all community interests are considered in areas proposed as marine conservation reserves, a local community advisory committee is appointed by the Minister for the Environment. This advertisement calls for expressions of interest for membership of two committees to consider proposed marine conservation reserves in the following areas:

- ❖ DAMPIER ARCHIPELAGO / CAPE PRESTON
- ❖ MONTEBELLO / BARROW ISLANDS

The committees will advise on the proposals in terms of the appropriate category of marine conservation reserve under the CALM Act, boundaries, zoning and the preparation of an indicative management plan.

Nominations are sought from people with a particular interest in or knowledge of the conservation and management of these areas, including from the perspectives of local government, conservation, recreation and tourism, recreational and commercial fishing, indigenous interests, science and education, industry, and pearling and aquaculture. Members will be appointed in their own right rather than as representatives of organisations. Sitting fees will not be payable.

Inquiries can be directed to Mr Andrew Hill of CALM's Marine Conservation Branch on ph: 9432 5100; fax: 9430 5408; email: [andrewhi@calm.wa.gov.au](mailto:andrewhi@calm.wa.gov.au).

Applications for membership, containing a one-page resumé outlining your particular interests including relevant experience and knowledge of the area, and specifying which of the two committees you are interested in, should be forwarded by no later than Friday 4 June 1999, to:

Manager  
 Marine Conservation Branch  
 Department of Conservation and Land Management  
 47 Henry Street  
 FREMANTLE WA 6160



DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

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