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Proposed South Coast Marine Park



PLAN FOR OUR PARKS



Tjaltraak Rangers working on a conservation project.

How does joint management work?

What is joint management?

Joint management is a partnership between the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) and traditional owners to work together to care for country.

Joint Management Agreement

A Joint Management Agreement sets out how traditional owners and DBCA will come together to make decisions and provide recommendations about how the park is managed, including how to protect traditional owners' sites and values.

Joint Management Body

The Joint Management Agreement sets up a Joint Management Body of relevant traditional owner members and senior staff from DBCA. The main role of the Joint Management Body is to oversee the implementation of the management plan. The Joint Management Body meets regularly to set priorities and make decisions about the management of the park while the traditional owner rangers and DBCA staff do the day to day operational work.

Decisions must be consistent with the law and the management plan

Management decisions and recommendations made by the Joint Management Body must be consistent with the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*, the management plan and DBCA policies. The proposed south coast marine park management plan is being developed with community consultation and input, including a public submission period.

If the Joint Management Body wanted to do something that was inconsistent with the management plan, or make changes to it, the management plan would need to be amended. Further consultation with the south coast community would be a legal requirement before any management plan amendments could be made.



Right Tjaltraak Rangers maintaining walk trails. Photos – Esperance Tjaltraak Native Title Corporation



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What if members of the Joint Management Body don't agree?

The aim of joint management is to reach decisions that everyone is happy with. The Joint Management Agreement requires people to try to make decisions unanimously. If everyone does not agree to a decision, then the majority of traditional owner representatives and the majority of DBCA representatives need to support a decision.

If traditional owners and DBCA members of the Joint Management Body have a disagreement about a decision, then the CEOs of both Aboriginal body corporate and DBCA try to work it out together. If the two CEOs cannot agree, then the Minister for the Environment is required to decide how to resolve the dispute.

So far decisions of the Joint Management Body in any of the joint management partnerships in Western Australia have not required these interventions.

Top Rangers.

Above Carrying out a dig for Aboriginal artefacts. Photos – Esperance Tjaltjraak Native Title Corporation

Existing arrangements

Over the last ten years, DBCA's joint management program has grown steadily, with 12 Joint Management Agreements in place across the State. These management partnerships are functioning well and delivering conservation benefits as well as employment, training and capacity building for traditional owners.

More information

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Header photos: Leafy seadragon. Photo – Peter Nicholas. Southern right whales. Photo – Peter Nicholas/DBCA. Fishing on the south coast. Photo – Tourism WA. Information current at September 2021. This publication is available in alternative formats on request.