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Proposed Dampier Archipelago Marine Park and Cape Preston Marine Management Area – have your say



You are invited to HAVE YOUR SAY
on how the proposed reserves
(if declared) are managed over the
next 10 years.

Submit your views on the indicative
management plan before 10 May 2005.



The Dampier Archipelago and Cape Preston marine environment

A diverse array of marine plants and animals live in the warm tropical waters of the Dampier Archipelago and Cape Preston region.

The archipelago is the richest area of marine biodiversity known in Western Australia, with a biodiversity comparable with that of northern Queensland.

Situated on the Pilbara coast 1600 km north of Perth, it is one of Australia's richest marine areas.

Whales, dolphins, endangered turtles, fish, corals, crustaceans and molluscs exist in abundance, with new animals and plants being discovered as research continues.

Latest figures from research by the Western Australian Museum in partnership with Woodside Energy show the archipelago has 229 hard coral, 543 crustacean, 1227 mollusc, 286 echinoderm (sea star, urchin and sea cucumber), 275 sponge, 182 marine algae and 650 fish species. Many are new for the area and for WA, while some species are new for Australia or even new to science.

The archipelago now ranks second to Ashmore Reef in terms of the number of hard coral species for a WA coral reef ecosystem.

It also has WA's highest number of echinoderm species—starfish, sea urchins, sea lilies and sea cucumbers—and is home to 12 whale and dolphin species and hawksbill, flatback and green turtles.

Isolated sandy beaches are important nesting sites for turtles, in particular Rosemary Island, which is the most important hawksbill rookery in the Indian Ocean region.

Saltmarshes, mangroves, mudflats and intertidal reefs are important feeding areas for shorebirds and migratory waders. Some of the small, outer islands and rocks also support large seabird colonies.

The archipelago is one of the world's richest sites for prehistoric rock engravings and has an Aboriginal heritage dating back 20,000 years. The islands are culturally and recreationally significant to Aboriginal people who continue to hunt and fish there.

The Indicative Management Plan for the Proposed Dampier Archipelago Marine Park and Cape Preston Marine Management Area has been developed in consultation with local communities and other interested parties to provide a framework to conserve the archipelago's natural and cultural values for future generations.

This brochure summarises the key information in the indicative management plan, with the proposed zoning, tables showing the activities permitted in the various zones and a submission form. There is a four-month public comment period and your views on the indicative management plan are sought.



Dampier – industry hub and aquatic playground

Dampier is a major exporting base for the State's minerals, oil and gas. The Dampier Port is the largest port by tonnage in Australia with 82.5 million tonnes of product worth more than \$6 billion exported in 2000 (IRC Environment, 2002).

Most of the exports are salt, iron ore and petroleum products from industries located in the Pilbara region.

Commercial prawn, aquarium, finfish and shark fishers operate in the Dampier Archipelago and Cape Preston area.

The Dampier Archipelago is also an important area for pearling and aquaculture with both aquaculture and pearling leases within the proposed reserves.

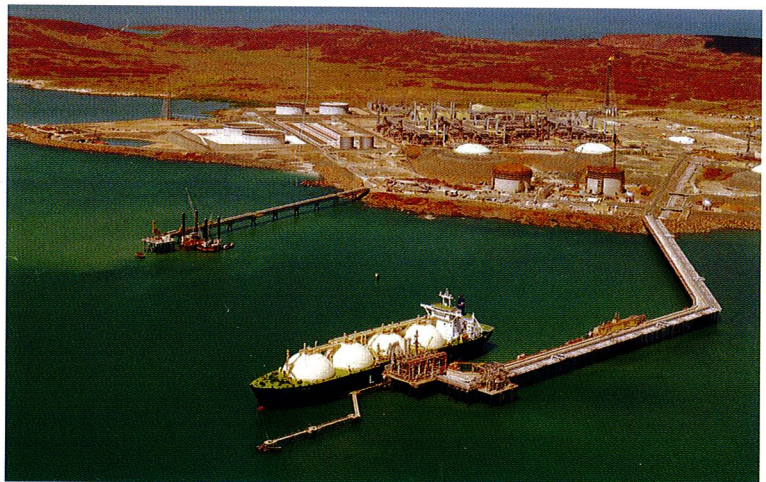
The natural rugged beauty of the islands and mainland, attractive underwater scenery and the variety and abundance of plants and animals provide a valuable experience for locals and visitors who enjoy the natural environment. Diving, snorkelling, fishing, boating, wildlife appreciation, nature-based tours, camping and four-wheel driving are just a few of the recreational activities undertaken in the area.

The Pilbara has the highest ratio of boats to people in WA, with about 2100 private vessels registered in the Pilbara region.



Recreational fishing from boats and the shore is popular with locals and visitors. Preliminary data from Department of Fisheries interviews in 1999/2000 with 4000 fishers show the annual recreational boat-based fishing effort in the archipelago was the equivalent of about 85,000 fisher days. The most intense recreational fishing occurs in the Dampier Port and the southern part of Nickol Bay.

Careful management of commercial and recreational activities within and adjacent to the proposed reserves is required to protect the ecological values of the reserves and to reduce conflicts between user groups.



What is a marine park and marine management area?

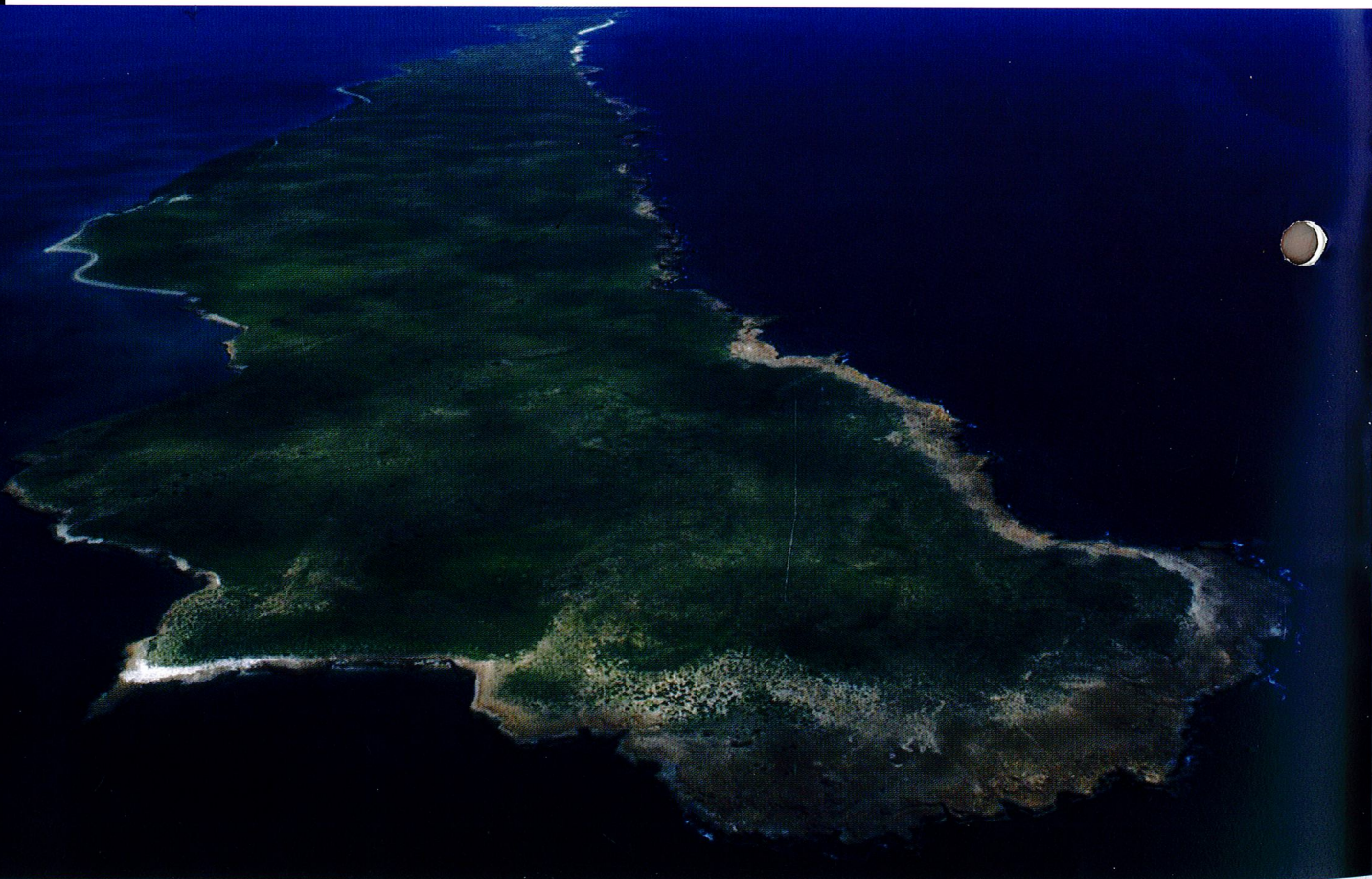
Marine parks and marine management areas are two of three marine reserve categories that can be used to protect the marine environment in WA under the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (CALM Act).

Marine parks are created to protect natural features and aesthetic values while at the same time enabling recreational and commercial uses to continue where these activities do not compromise conservation values.

Marine management areas provide a formal integrated management framework over areas that have high conservation value and intensive multiple use (particularly petroleum industry uses). In a marine management area, conservation is just one of the values managed under the broader purpose of managing and protecting the marine environment.

Marine parks and marine management areas are vested in the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority (MPRA), a seven member authority with a community-based membership appointed by the State Government to oversee the establishment and management of WA's marine conservation reserve system. Marine parks and marine management areas are managed in accordance with a management plan that is prepared on behalf of the MPRA by the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) in consultation with the community.

Once created, the proposed Dampier Archipelago Marine Park and Cape Preston Marine Management Area will become part of the National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas.



How was the indicative management plan developed?

The management plan for the Dampier Archipelago islands was released in 1990 and recommended that the adjacent waters be reserved as a marine park, followed by a similar recommendation by the Marine Parks and Reserves Selection Working Group Report in 1994.

The proposal for a marine conservation reserve at the Dampier Archipelago/Cape Preston area was initiated in May 2000, with the appointment of a community-based advisory committee. They were chosen for their local knowledge of the area and their understanding of recreational and commercial fishing, aquaculture and pearling, science, conservation, tourism, Aboriginal heritage, and the petroleum industry and other industrial activities.

Nine meetings were held in Karratha between November 2000 and February 2003, with stakeholder groups being

encouraged to provide input and feedback on the draft proposals. This included the release of the proposed zoning twice for comment by the broader community.

The committee provided advice on the type of reserves, the boundaries and appropriate management objectives, targets and strategies including the types and locations of zones and this advice was summarised in an indicative management plan. The MPRA considered the indicative management plan and subsequently provided its advice to the Minister for the Environment.

Given the complex issues associated with high conservation and human usage values in the area, the Minister for the Environment requested further consultation on the zoning scheme with stakeholders. The indicative management plan has now been released for public comment.



What are sanctuary zones?

Zoning is an important part of the management framework in multiple use reserves and is used to protect marine diversity as well as manage human uses in an equitable and sustainable way.

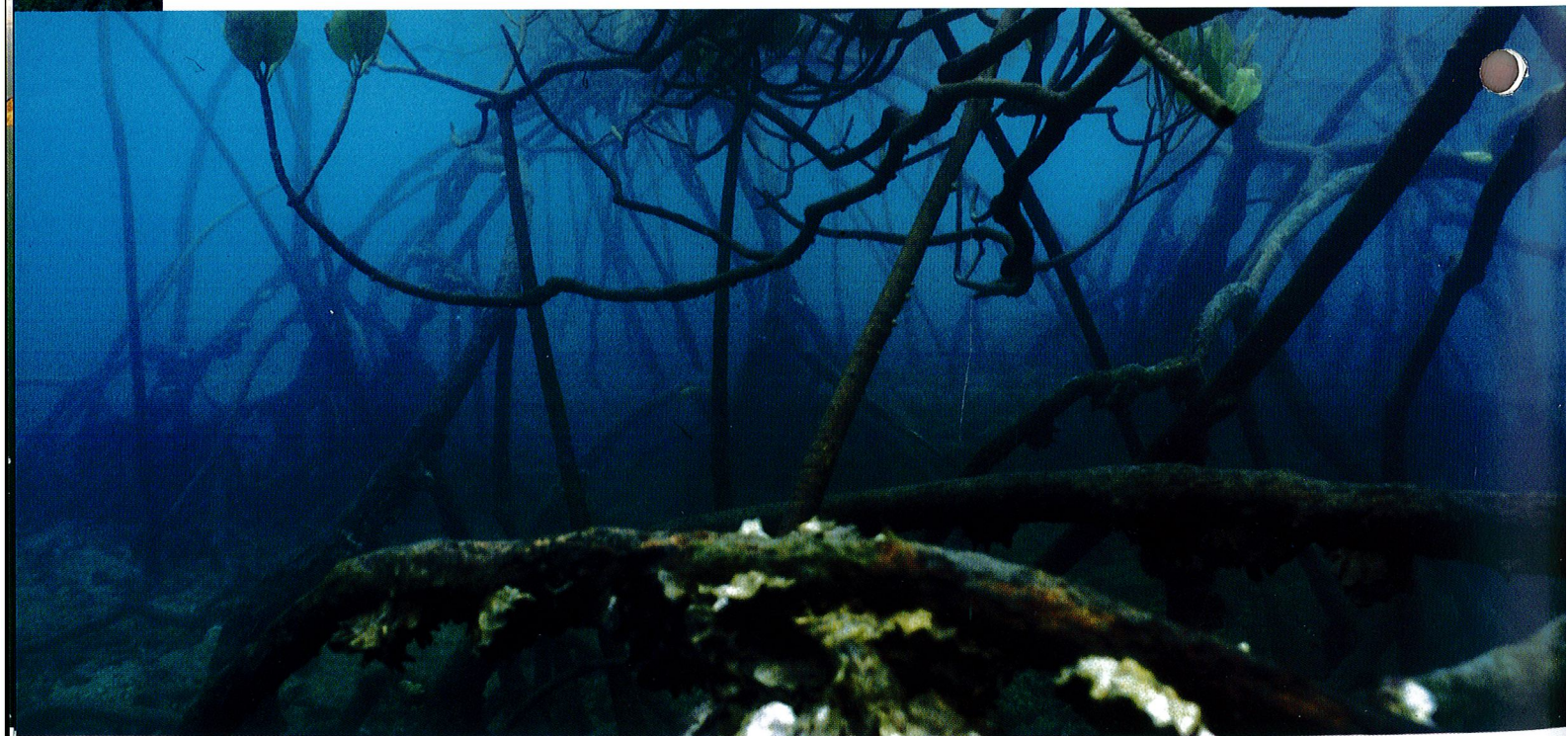
Sanctuary zones are 'look but don't take areas' which provide a high level of protection to plants, animals and habitats from extraction and disturbance while allowing low-impact recreation and tourism. Sanctuary zones conserve biodiversity, provide education opportunities, assist in fisheries management and provide research and reference areas against which we can assess human impact on the environment. It is important that all habitats are represented in sanctuary zones and that the sizes of these zones conform to internationally recognised criteria.

Within the proposed Dampier Archipelago Marine Park seven sanctuary zones are proposed at Delambre, Legendre, Dolphin, and Enderby islands and also at Searipple Passage and Watering Cove. The total area of sanctuary zone is approximately 8655 ha or seven per cent of the marine park.

Special purpose zones are managed for a particular priority use or issue such as protecting a habitat, seasonal events including wildlife breeding or whale-watching, or a particular type of commercial fishing. Uses compatible with the priority purpose of these zones will remain. Special purpose zones proposed for intertidal reef protection, mangrove protection, and benthic protection encompass a total area of approximately 7450 ha or six per cent of the marine park. Special purpose zones are also proposed for pearling or aquaculture and for the purpose of multiple use (approximately 2150 ha or two per cent of the marine park and 40,325 ha or 33 per cent of the marine park, respectively).

Recreation zones are proposed to be located at Conzinc Bay and Rosemary Island. These areas will be managed for conservation and recreation, including recreational fishing subject to Department of Fisheries regulations.

Areas of the proposed Dampier Archipelago Marine Park not zoned as



sanctuary, recreation or special purpose zones will be zoned for general use. Conservation of natural resources is a priority in general use zones, but other activities such as sustainable recreational and commercial fishing, aquaculture, pearling and petroleum exploration and production are permitted provided they do not compromise the conservation values of the marine park.

Classified areas, or zones, can also be established in marine management areas under Section 62 of the CALM Act. Two conservation areas to protect flora and fauna and one conservation area to protect mangroves are proposed for the Cape Preston Marine Management Area. These conservation areas will encompass 16,730 ha or 18 per cent of the marine management area. Two small commercial areas for aquaculture or pearling are also proposed.

The types and locations of zones and the activities permitted within them are described in the maps and tables in the indicative management plan and the back of this brochure.

While the proposed zoning may generate the most discussion within the community, it should be remembered that it is just one of many management strategies proposed in the indicative management plan. Strategies to protect the marine environment and cater for human use include education and interpretation, public participation, research, monitoring, surveillance and enforcement, direct management intervention and administrative frameworks (including zoning). These management strategies do not work in isolation, but together they form a framework to direct management for the long-term protection and use of the area.



What is proposed?

Most existing activities will continue within the proposed marine park and marine management area but there will be some restrictions in particular areas.

Recreational uses

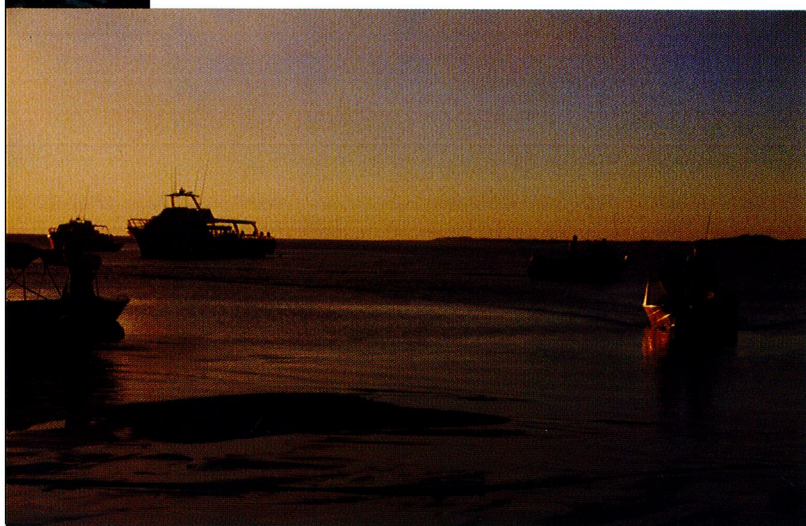
Recreational uses within the proposed reserves will be managed to maintain the marine diversity and ecological integrity of the area and to ensure visitor experiences are not diminished by human activities.

Recreational boating can continue in all areas of the proposed reserves, except a small area west of Rosemary Island where a seasonal speed restriction on boating will apply. This seasonal speed restriction will be put in place to minimise disturbance of aggregating, mating and nesting turtles. Restrictions on anchoring and vessel type and speed may be introduced in other areas of the reserves if these activities affect the ecological or social values of the area (e.g. sensitive seafloor habitats, marine wildlife or conflict with other users). No anchoring will be permitted in the proposed benthic protection zones at Rosemary, West Lewis, West Enderby and Goodwyn islands and intertidal reef protection zones in Nickol Bay and Cleaverville.

Recreational fishing

Where possible, sanctuary zones and areas of restricted fishing access have been located to minimise the impacts on recreational fishers. A total of 193,585 ha or 90 per cent of the proposed reserves is available for recreational fishing. The Dampier Port is also available for recreational fishing. Recreational fishing will continue in all areas of the proposed reserves except sanctuary zones and conservation (flora/fauna protection) areas. There will be some restrictions on some fishing methods in the special purpose intertidal reef protection, benthic protection and mangrove protection zones and in the conservation (mangrove protection) zone. Recreation zones are proposed for Conzinc Bay and Rosemary Island to highlight that recreational activities are a priority in these areas.

The Government recognises the important conservation values of the area and the current level of recreational fishing effort. Consequently it is proposed that a review of recreational fishing regulations for the Pilbara and Kimberley that is currently underway be broadened to consider whether catch restrictions need to be tightened in the proposed marine park to ensure that stocks of targeted species are maintained at appropriate levels in the proposed marine park. These revised management arrangements will be developed by the Department of Fisheries taking into consideration the views of the community, including the public submissions made to the indicative management plan.



Commercial fishing

It is proposed that commercial fishing continue to be permitted in general use zones of the marine park and unclassified areas of the marine management area.

During the planning process for the proposed reserves a range of issues were raised with respect to conflicts between recreational and commercial fishing. In response to these issues it has been proposed that all commercial fishing be prohibited in the western portion of the proposed marine park with the exception of commercial aquarium/specimen (fish, coral and shell) collecting, which is proposed to be phased out of this area within three years of creating the proposed reserves. It has also been proposed that commercial prawn trawling be prohibited within one nautical mile of the Nickol Bay coast. The Department of Fisheries will develop these proposals in liaison with key stakeholders.

Dampier Port and industry

The indicative management plan proposes strategies to ensure that management of the port and the proposed reserves will be integrated and activities managed to ensure the protection of the reserves' values. Proposals for new industry operations (such as the laying of petroleum pipelines or seismic activity) will be assessed by relevant agencies in accordance with ecological management targets and objectives for the proposed reserves.

How to make a submission

All submissions are welcome and every submission is important.

To make a submission, refer to the indicative management plan and:

- Complete the submission form in this brochure and fold it so that the return address panel is on the outside, then mail it. No stamp is required. Please include additional sheets if there is insufficient space.
- OR, send your submission electronically, either by completing the submission form online (www.naturebase.net/haveyoursay), or by emailing dampier@calm.wa.gov.au.
- OR, write a letter and mail it to the—
Plan Coordinator
Indicative Management Plan for the Proposed Dampier Archipelago Marine Park and Cape Preston Marine Management Area
Marine Conservation Branch
CALM
47 Henry Street
Fremantle WA 6160

The closing date for submissions is 10 May 2005.

If you would like additional information or assistance to complete your submission, please contact the Plan Coordinator at CALM's Marine Conservation Branch, 47 Henry Street, Fremantle WA 6160 or by ringing (08) 9336 0117.

Where to obtain copies of the plan

Copies of the indicative management plan can be inspected at the office and libraries of the Shire of Roebourne. Copies of the plan can be obtained from the following CALM offices:

- State Operations Headquarters, 17 Dick Perry Avenue, Technology Park, Western Precinct, Kensington WA 6151;
- Marine Conservation Branch, 47 Henry Street, Fremantle WA 6160; and
- Karratha Regional Office, Mardie Road, Karratha Industrial Estate, Karratha WA 6714.

The plan is also available online at CALM's NatureBase website at www.naturebase.net/haveyoursay.

What happens now?

At the end of the public submission period all submissions received will be reviewed and, where appropriate, the MPRA may make recommendations to the Minister for the Environment to amend the indicative management plan based on feedback from the community.

The Minister for the Environment will then seek concurrence from the Ministers for State Development and Fisheries to create the marine reserves. The Minister for the Environment will then approve a final management plan for the reserves and a summary of the public submissions will be made available to the community.



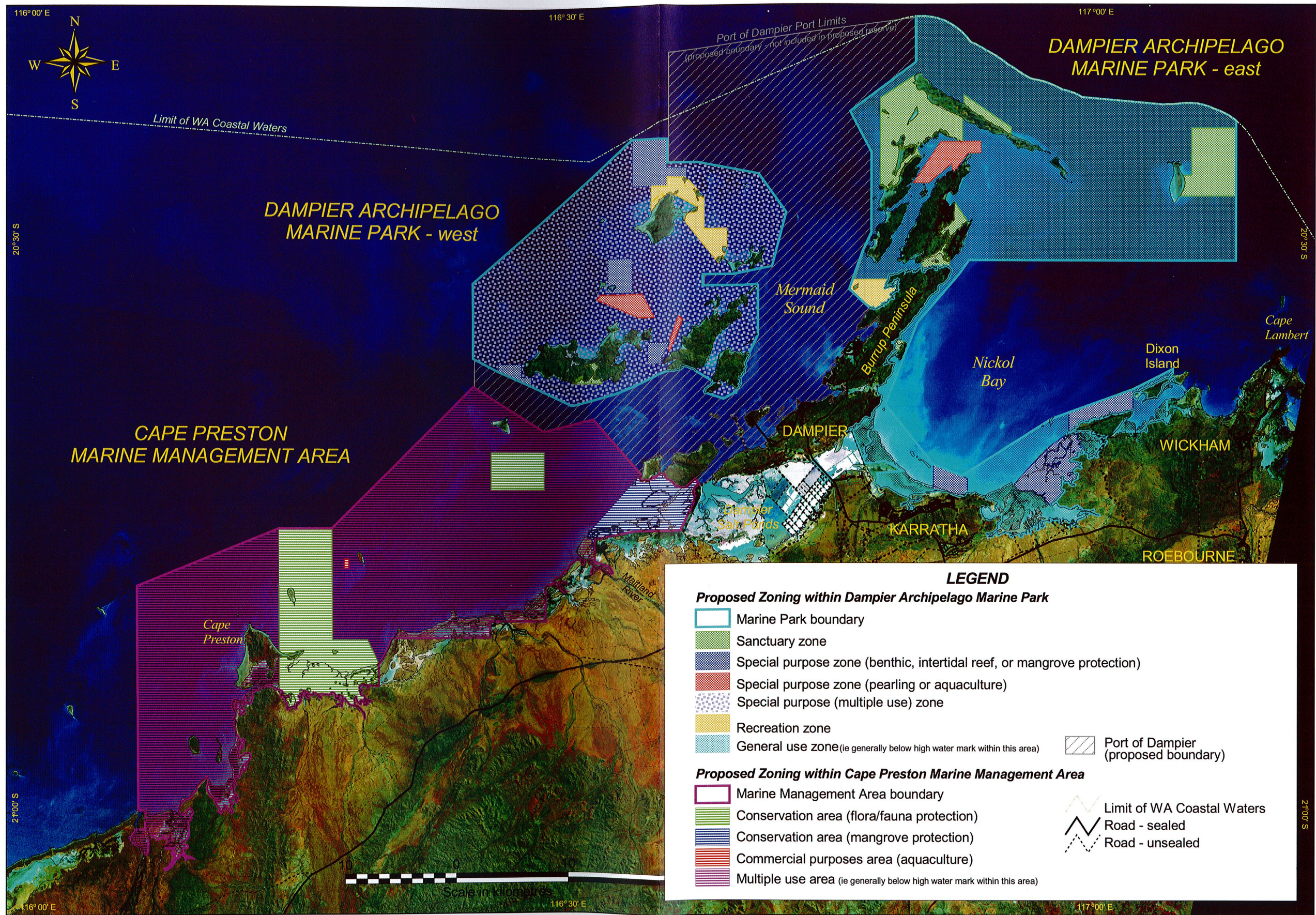


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DEPARTMENT OF
Conservation
AND LAND MANAGEMENT
Conserving the nature of WA

MPRA
MARINE PARKS &
RESERVES AUTHORITY



Activities permitted in each zone of the proposed Cape Preston Marine Management Area

Activity	Conservation (flora/fauna protection) area	Conservation (mangrove protection) area	Commercial (aquaculture) area	Unzoned areas
COMMERCIAL				
Pearling ^{bd}	No	No	Yes	Yes
Aquaculture ^{bd}	No	No	Yes	Yes
Commercial beche de mer fishing ^{bd}	No	No	Yes ^e	Yes
Commercial trap fishing ^{bd}	No	No	Yes ^e	Yes
Commercial wet lining (non-trolling) ^{bd}	No	No	Yes ^e	Yes
Commercial trolling ^{bd}	No	No	Yes ^e	Yes
Commercial prawn trawling ^{bd}	No	No	Yes ^e	Yes
Commercial mud crabbing ^{bd}	No	No	No	No
Commercial aquarium collecting (fish & coral) ^{bd}	No	No	Yes ^e	Yes
Commercial specimen collecting (shell) ^{bd}	No	No	Yes ^e	Yes
Mineral & petroleum exploration (seismic) ^{dg}	Assess	Assess	Assess	Assess
Petroleum drilling & mineral development ^{dg}	No	Assess	Assess	Assess
Charter fishing activities ^{bd}	No	Yes ^e	Yes ^e	Yes
Charter non-fishing activities ^{cd}	Yes ^f	Yes ^e	Yes ^e	Yes
Trading vessels in transit (i.e. large ships) ^a	No	No	Yes ^e	Yes
Commercial vessels in transit (e.g. fishing vessels, barges etc) ^a	Yes ^f	Yes ^f	Yes ^f	Yes ^f
RECREATIONAL				
Boat access (motor & non-motorised) ^{af}	Yes ^f	Yes ^f	Yes ^f	Yes ^f
Access by foot	Yes	No	N/A	Yes
Vehicle access (car or motorbike)	No	No	N/A	Yes
Recreational lobster fishing ^b	No	N/A	Yes ^e	Yes
Recreational line fishing (other than trolling) ^b	No	Yes ^e	Yes ^e	Yes
Recreational trolling ^b	No	Yes ^e	Yes ^e	Yes
Recreational netting ^{bd}	No	No	Yes ^e	Yes
Spearfishing ^b	No	No	Yes ^e	Yes
Recreational crabbing ^b	No	Yes ^e	Yes ^e	Yes
Recreational aquarium/specimen collecting ^b	No	No	Yes ^b	Yes ^b
Snorkelling & diving	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wildlife interaction ^c	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
OTHER				
Proposals for marine infrastructure (e.g. moorings) ^{ad}	Assess	Assess	Assess	Assess
Pipelines (including dredging for pipelines) ^{dg}	No	Assess	Assess	Assess
Dredging & dredge spoil dumping for shipping activities ^d	No	No	No	Assess
Research ^d	Yes ^e	Yes ^e	Yes ^e	Yes
Anchoring (other than emergency anchoring) ^a	Yes ^f	Yes ^f	Yes ^f	Yes ^f

KEY:

- Subject to the *Western Australian Marine Act 1982*.
- Subject to the FRM Act and *Pearling Act 1990*.
- Subject to the CALM Act and WC Act.
- Licence required from CALM and/or DoF and/or DoIR and/or DoE/EPA.
- Activities permitted unless the activity is shown to be incompatible with the specified primary purpose of the zone.
- Restrictions on vessel type, speed etc. and anchoring may be introduced in consultation with the community and major users where vessels are impacting on the ecological and/or social values of an area.
- Subject to the EP Act.

Assess Proposal will be assessed by relevant agencies in accordance with standard procedures.
N/A Not applicable.

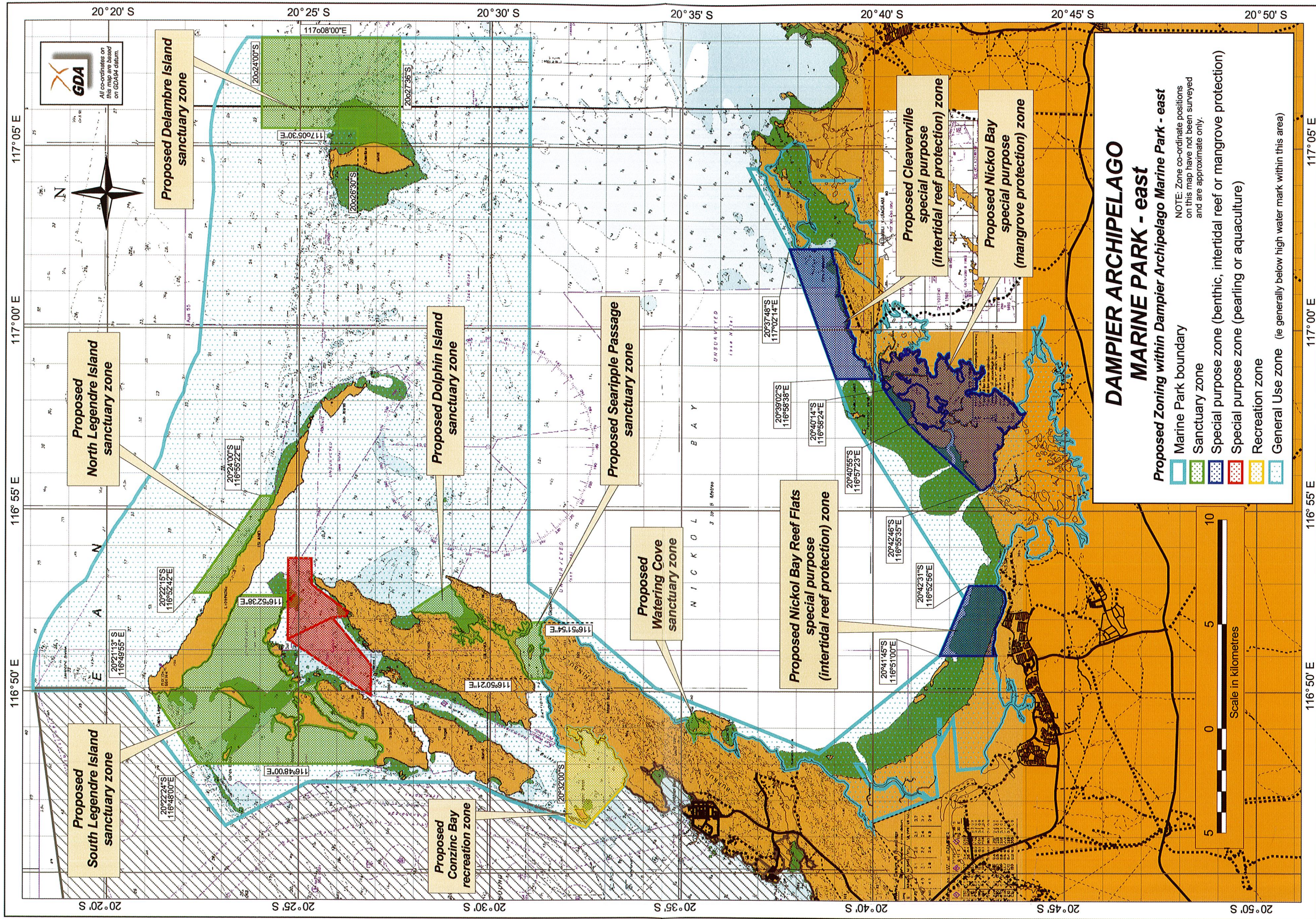
Activities permitted in each zone of the proposed Dampier Archipelago Marine Park

Activity	Sanctuary zone	Special purpose (mangrove protection) zone	Special purpose (benthic protection) zone	Special purpose (intertidal reef protection) zone	Special purpose (pearling or aquaculture) zone	Special purpose (multiple use) zone	Recreation zone	General use zone
COMMERCIAL								
Pearling ^{bd}	No	No	No	No	Yes ^h	No	No	Yes
Aquaculture ^{bd}	No	No	No	No	Yes ^h	No	No	Yes
Commercial beche de mer fishing ^{bd}	No	No	No	No	Yes ^{eh}	No	No	Yes
Commercial trap fishing ^{bd}	No	No	No	No	Yes ^{eh}	No	No	Yes
Commercial wet lining (non-trolling) ^{bd}	No	No	No	No	Yes ^{eh}	No	No	Yes
Commercial trolling ^{bd}	No	No	No	No	Yes ^{eh}	No	No	Yes
Commercial prawn trawling ^{bd}	No	No	No	No	Yes ^{ehi}	No	No	Yes ⁱ
Commercial mud crabbing ^{bd}	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Commercial aquarium collecting (fish & coral) ^{bd}	No	No	No	No	Yes ^{eh}	Yes ^h	No	Yes
Commercial specimen collecting (shell) ^{bd}	No	No	No	No	Yes ^{eh}	Yes ^h	No	Yes
Mineral & petroleum exploration (seismic) ^{dg}	Assess	Assess	Assess	Assess	Assess	Assess	Assess	Assess
Petroleum drilling & mineral development ^{dg}	No	Assess	Assess	Assess	Assess	Assess	No	Assess
Charter fishing activities ^{bd}	No	Yes ^e	No (except trolling)	No	Yes ^e	Yes ^e	Yes	Yes
Charter non-fishing activities ^{cd}	Yes ^f	Yes ^e	Yes ^e	Yes ^e	Yes ^e	Yes ^e	Yes	Yes
Trading vessels in transit (i.e. large ships) ^a	No	No	Yes ^{ef}	N/A	Yes ^{ef}	Yes ^{ef}	No	Yes
Commercial vessels in transit (e.g. fishing vessels, barges etc) ^a	Yes ^f	Yes ^f	Yes ^f	N/A	Yes ^f	Yes ^f	Yes ^f	Yes ^f
RECREATIONAL								
Boat access (motor & non-motorised) ^{af}	Yes ^f	Yes ^f	Yes ^f	Yes ^f	Yes ^f	Yes ^f	Yes ^f	Yes ^f
Access by foot	Yes	No	N/A	Yes ^e	N/A	Yes ^e	Yes	Yes
Vehicle access (car or motorbike)	No	No	N/A	No	N/A	Yes ^e	Yes	Yes
Recreational lobster fishing ^b	No	N/A	No	No	Yes ^e	Yes ^e	Yes	Yes
Recreational line fishing (other than trolling) ^b	No	Yes ^e	No	Yes ^e	Yes ^e	Yes ^e	Yes	Yes
Recreational trolling ^b	No	Yes ^e	Yes ^e	Yes ^e	Yes ^e	Yes ^e	Yes	Yes
Recreational netting ^{bd}	No	No	No	No	Yes ^e	Yes ^e	Yes	Yes
Spearfishing ^b	No	No	No	No	Yes ^e	Yes ^e	Yes	Yes
Recreational crabbing ^b	No	Yes (from boats only) ^e	No	Yes ^e	Yes ^e	Yes ^e	Yes	Yes
Recreational aquarium/specimen collecting ^b	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Snorkelling & diving	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wildlife interaction ^c	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
OTHER								
Proposals for marine infrastructure (e.g. moorings) ^{ad}	Assess	Assess	Assess	Assess	Assess	Assess	Assess	Assess
Pipelines (including dredging for pipelines) ^{dg}	No	Assess	Assess	Assess	Assess	Assess	Assess	Assess
Dredging & dredge spoil dumping for shipping activities ^d	No	No	No	No	No	Assess	No	Assess
Research ^d	Yes ^e	Yes ^e	Yes ^e	Yes ^e	Yes ^e	Yes ^e	Yes ^e	Yes
Anchoring (other than emergency anchoring) ^a	Yes ^f	Yes ^f	No	No	Yes ^f	Yes ^f	Yes ^f	Yes ^f

KEY:

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- Licence required from CALM and/or DoF and/or DoIR and/or DoE/EPA.
- Activities permitted unless the activity is shown to be incompatible with the specified primary purpose of the zone.
- Restrictions on vessel type, speed etc. and anchoring may be introduced in consultation with the community and major users where vessels are impacting on the ecological and/or social values of an area.
- Subject to the EP Act.
- DoF proposes to prohibit commercial fishing from all zones in the western portion of the proposed marine park, except commercial aquarium/specimen (fish, coral and shell) collecting, which will be phased out of this area within three years of creating the proposed reserves.
- DoF proposes to prohibit commercial prawn trawling within one nautical mile of the Nickol Bay coastline.

Assess Proposal will be assessed by relevant agencies in accordance with standard procedures.
N/A Not applicable.



DAMPIER ARCHIPELAGO MARINE PARK - east

Proposed Zoning within Dampier Archipelago Marine Park - east

- Marine Park boundary
- Sanctuary zone
- Special purpose zone (benthic, intertidal reef or mangrove protection)
- Special purpose zone (pearling or aquaculture)
- Recreation zone
- General Use zone (ie generally below high water mark within this area)

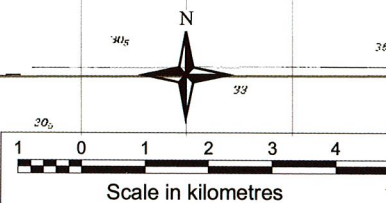
NOTE: Zone co-ordinate positions on this map have not been surveyed and are approximate only.

DAMPIER ARCHIPELAGO MARINE PARK - west

Proposed Zoning within Dampier Archipelago Marine Park - west

- Marine Park boundary
- Sanctuary zone
- Special purpose zone (benthic, intertidal reef, or mangrove protection)
- Special purpose zone (pearling or aquaculture)
- General use zone (ie generally below high water mark within this area)
- Special purpose (multiple use) zone
- Recreation zone
- Seasonal speed restriction area (DPI-navigable waters regulations)

NOTE: Zone co-ordinate positions on this map have not been surveyed and are approximate only.



Proposed Goodwyn Island
special purpose
(benthic protection) zone

Proposed Enderby Island
sanctuary zone

Proposed West Enderby Island
special purpose
(benthic protection) zone

Seasonal boating speed restriction
- implemented under
Dept. of Planning and Infrastructure
navigable waters regulations

Proposed Rosemary Island
special purpose (benthic protection) zone

Proposed Rosemary Island
recreation zone

Proposed West Lewis Island
special purpose
(benthic protection) zone



All co-ordinates on
this map are based
on GDA94 datum.

