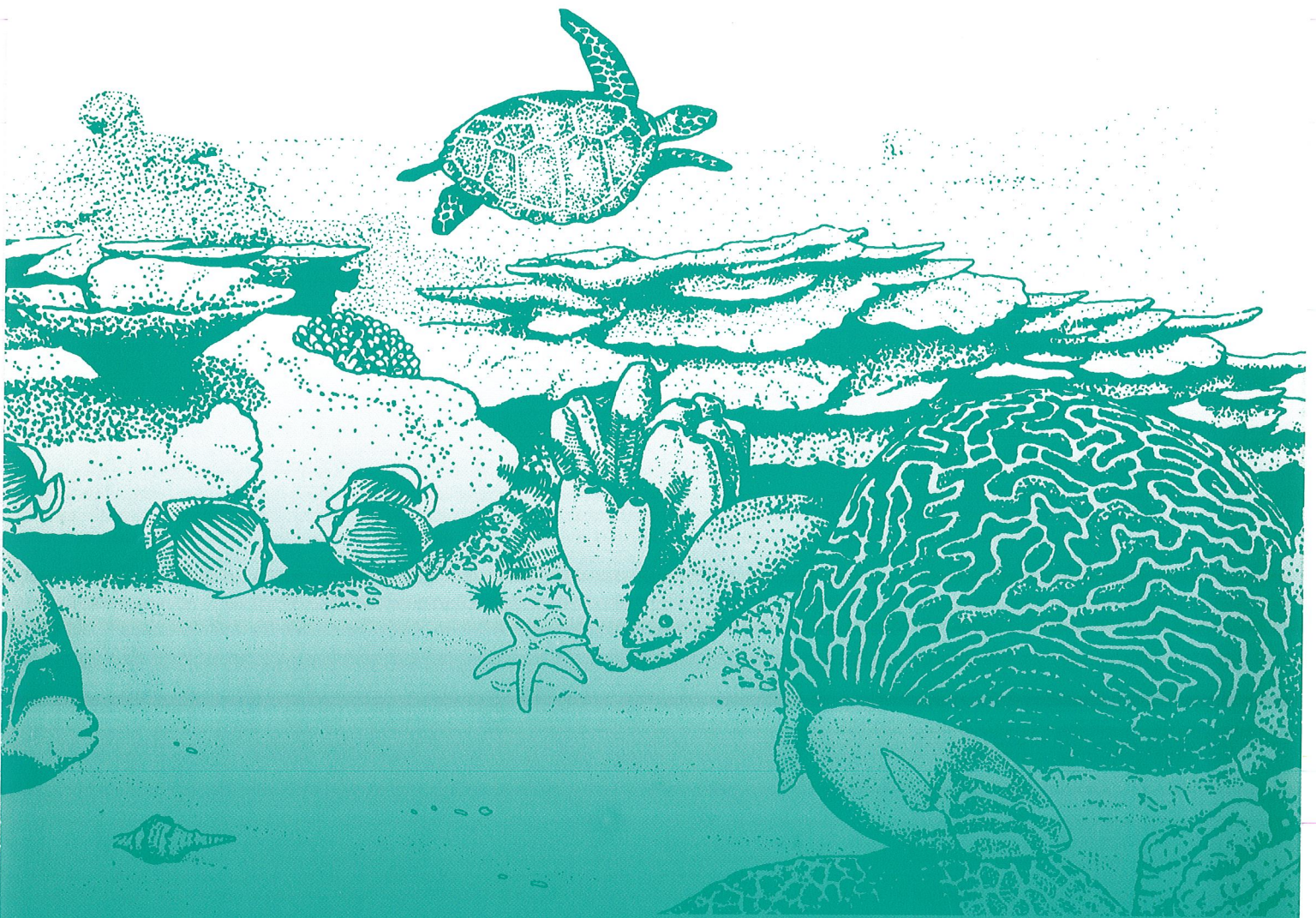


# Annual Report

Marine Parks and Reserves  
Scientific Advisory Committee



1 July 2001 – 30 June 2002





Marine Parks and Reserves  
Scientific Advisory Committee

# ANNUAL REPORT

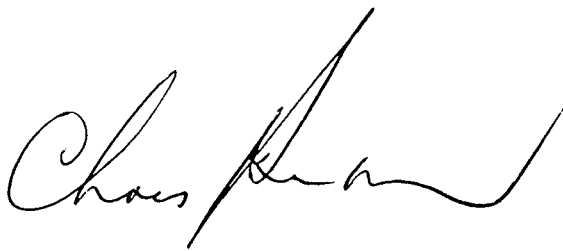
1 July 2001 - 30 June 2002

Address: 47 Henry Street, Fremantle  
Western Australia 6160  
Telephone (08) 9336 0100

Address for correspondence:  
C/- Department of Conservation  
and Land Management  
47 Henry Street  
FREMANTLE WA 6160

HON MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

In accordance with section 31 of the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*, I submit for your information and presentation to Parliament, the fifth annual report of the Marine Parks and Reserves Scientific Advisory Committee.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Simpson', with a large, sweeping flourish extending from the end of the name.

Dr Chris Simpson  
Chairman  
Marine Parks and Reserves Scientific Advisory Committee

October 2002

# CONTENTS

- Chairman's Review** ..... 1
- General Information** ..... 2
  - Functions of the Marine Parks and Reserves Scientific Advisory Committee.....2
  - Advisory Committee membership .....2
  - Advisory Committee meetings.....2
  - Resources .....3
  
- Advice to the Minister and the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority ..... 4
  
- Marine Parks and Reserves Authority** .....5

---

# CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW

I welcome the opportunity of introducing this report of the Marine Parks and Reserves Scientific Advisory Committee (MPRSAC) for the period 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002.

The membership of the Committee has remained the same as last year apart from Dr Jacqueline Alder who resigned in September 2001. The process to replace Dr Alder has been deferred until the statutory review of the MPRSAC is completed.

The MPRSAC received no formal requests for advice in 2001/2002 from either the Minister for the Environment and Heritage or the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority. However, the Chair of the MPRSAC, Dr Chris Simpson, attended ten of the twelve MPRA meetings throughout 2001/2002.

I would like to acknowledge my fellow Committee members for the contribution each of them has made to the Committee during the last year. I also thank Department of Conservation and Land Management staff who have assisted the Committee.

---

---

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## **FUNCTIONS OF THE MARINE PARKS AND RESERVES SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

On proclamation of the Acts Amendment (Marine Reserves) Act on 29 August 1997, the Marine Parks and Reserves Scientific Advisory Committee was established under section 26F of the CALM Act.

The functions of the Scientific Advisory Committee under section 26G of the CALM Act are “ ... *to provide scientific advice to the Minister, where the Minister has sought that advice, on issues relevant to the conservation of marine and estuarine fauna, flora and environments and marine reserves, both generally and as those issues relate to the functions of the Marine [Parks and Reserves] Authority; to provide scientific advice to the Marine Authority where the functions of the Marine Authority may be affected by a matter being considered by the Marine Committee; on matters referred to the Marine Committee by the Marine Authority; and on matters which, in the opinion of the Marine Committee should be brought to the attention of the Marine Authority*”.

The annual report of the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority should be referred to for details of its activities including involvement in policy development, management plans, leases, licences and permits, aquaculture and pearling, petroleum and mining.

## **ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

The Advisory Committee is made up of 7 members appointed by the Minister under the provisions of section 26H(1) of the CALM Act. The Marine Committee shall comprise not more than 7 members appointed by the Minister for whom –

- (a) one shall be a senior scientific officer of the Department;
- (b) one shall be a senior scientific officer of the Fisheries Department;
- (c) one shall be a senior scientific officer employed and nominated by the Trustees of the Western Australian Museum under the *Museum Act 1969*;
- (d) one shall be a person employed by or affiliated with a tertiary educational institution or research institution in the State who has special knowledge and experience in a discipline

relevant to the functions of the Marine Committee;

- (e) one shall be a scientist, not employed by the State or Commonwealth Government or a State or Commonwealth Government instrumentality, who has special knowledge and experience in a discipline relevant to the functions of the Marine Committee; and
- (f) one or 2 shall be scientists who, in the opinion of the Minister have knowledge and experience which is relevant to the functions of the Marine Committee.

(Note: Except where otherwise indicated, the terms "the Minister", "the Department", "the Act" and "the Amendment Act" used in this report refer to the Minister for the Environment, the Department of Conservation and Land Management, the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* and the *Acts Amendment (Marine Reserves) Act 1997* respectively).

The chairman and deputy chairman of the MPRSAC are appointed by the Minister (section 26H(2)).

Membership for the period 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002 is recorded below.

## **Appointed Members**

- (1) Dr Chris Simpson (Chairman)  
(section 26H(1)(a))
- (2) Dr Iva Stejskal (Deputy Chairman)  
(section 26H(1)(e))
- (3) Dr Patrick Berry  
(section 26H(1)(c))
- (4) Dr Louis Evans  
(section 26H(1)(f))
- (5) Dr Andrew Heyward  
(section 26H(1)(d))
- (6) Dr Jim Penn  
(section 26H(1)(b))
- (7) Replacement for Dr Alder deferred until the statutory review of the MPRSAC is completed.

## **ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

There were no formal meetings of the Scientific Advisory Committee during the period.

---

---

## RESOURCES

The Department provides the necessary secretarial staff to the Advisory Committee, being part of one officer's duties. Other Departmental staff also provide input to the Advisory Committee on request.

The MPRSAC has no financial functions. Costs relating to honoraria, travel costs and day to day

running costs are met from the Consolidated Fund appropriation of the Department. There was no expenditure for the 2001/2002 year (excluding Department of Conservation and Land Management officers' salaries).

In accordance with the requirements of Section 175ZE of the *Western Australian Electoral Act 1907*, the MPRSAC incurred nil expenditure for the 2001/2002 year.



---

# ADVICE TO THE MINISTER AND THE MARINE PARKS AND RESERVES AUTHORITY

## LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND

The Scientific Advisory Committee provides scientific advice to the Minister, where the Minister has sought that advice on issues relevant to the conservation of –

ξ marine and estuarine fauna, flora and environments and marine reserves

ξ marine reserves

The Committee also provides advice to the Marine Authority –

ξ where the functions of the Authority may be affected by a matter being considered by the Committee

ξ on matters referred to the Committee by the Authority

ξ on matters which, in the opinion of the Committee, should be brought to the attention of the Authority.

(Refer section 26G(1)(g) and (i) of the CALM Act.)

## ACTION DURING 2000/2001

The Minister for the Environment did not seek any advice from the MPRSAC during 2001/2002.

The MPRA did not seek any advice from the MPRSAC during 2001/2002.

The Pilbara marine conservation reserve processes remained in the community Advisory Committee phase during 2001/2002. As such, there was no requirement for the MPRSAC to be involved during this phase. The Chair of the MPRSAC, Dr Chris Simpson, attended ten of the twelve MPRA meetings throughout 2001/2002.

---

# MARINE PARKS AND RESERVES AUTHORITY

The *Acts Amendment (Marine Reserves) Act 1997* (Amendment Act) was proclaimed on 29 August 1997 and included amendments to the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (CALM Act), which established the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority (MPRA) as the vested body for Western Australia's marine conservation reserves. Vesting was transferred from the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority (NPNCA) to the Marine Authority. The MPRA was created as a Controlling Body under section 26A of the CALM Act. The Authority is responsible to the Minister for the Environment.

Western Australia's marine nature reserves, marine parks and marine management areas are vested in the MPRA. Day to day management of these vested waters and lands is carried out by the Department of Conservation and Land Management.

In addition to being the vested authority for these conservation reserves, section 26B(1)(b) of the CALM Act prescribes the functions of the Authority. These are:

1. Development of policies
  - (a) to preserve the natural marine and estuarine environments of the State;
  - (b) to provide facilities for the enjoyment of those environments by the community;
  - (c) to promote appreciation of marine and estuarine flora and fauna and natural marine and estuarine environments; and
  - (d) to achieve and promote the management objectives of the various types of marine conservation reserves vested in it, as outlined at section 56 of the Act.
2. To consider and advise (in accordance with section 17) any proposed cancellation, change of purpose or boundary alteration in respect of land or water vested in it.
3. To advise the Minister on proposals for reservations (for the purposes of section 14).
4. To submit proposed management plans, for the marine conservation reserves vested in it, to the Minister for consideration and approval (Part V of the Act).

5. With the approval of the Minister, causes study or research to be undertaken to assist in policy development.
6. In relation to management plans for land and waters vested in the Authority
  - (a) to develop guidelines for monitoring the implementation of the management plans by the Department;
  - (b) to set performance criteria for evaluating the carrying out of the management plans; and
  - (c) to conduct periodic assessments of the implementation of the management plans.
7. Inquire into and advise the Minister on any matter on which the Minister has sought the Authority's advice. However, if the matter involves a specific area of land or waters, the Authority is required under section 26B(4), to first contact the relevant local government council to provide an opportunity for it to comment. If the matter relates to marine archaeology, the Authority is required under section 26B(6), to first contact the WA Museum to provide an opportunity for it to comment.
8. In response to requests, provide advice to any person or body on matters relating to conservation reserves vested in the Authority - if it is practical for the Authority to do so and if also in the public interest.