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## PROPOSED SOUTH COAST MARINE PARK NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the second issue of the *Proposed South Coast Marine Park Newsletter*.

### In this issue:

- [Official launch of consultation process](#)
- [Apply now to join the Community Reference Committee](#)
- [Reminder: information sessions happening this week](#)

The Government of Western Australia acknowledges the traditional owners throughout Western Australia and their continuing connection to the land, waters and community. We pay our respects to all members of the Aboriginal communities and their cultures; and to Elders past, present and emerging.

In particular, DBCA and DPIRD acknowledge the traditional owners and native title holders in the study area for the proposed south coast marine park; the Esperance Nyungars, Wagyl Kaip Southern Noongar, Ngadju People, and WA Mirning People.

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### Official launch of consultation process

On Friday 24 September 2021, the State Government issued a media statement announcing the official launch of the consultation process for the proposed south coast marine park.

Environment Minister Amber-Jade Sanderson said the south coast was globally recognised for its diverse marine habitats, plants and animals, with many species occurring nowhere else in the world.

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"It is so important for these areas to be protected," she said. "Marine parks can help to increase the resilience of marine ecosystems against pressures such as pollution, climate change, overuse of resources and marine pests."

Fisheries Minister Don Punch said the creation of State marine parks in Western Australia was crucial for the conservation of the State's aquatic environment.

"Only by supporting the coexistence of valuable commercial fisheries with protected marine ecosystems can we ensure the long-term sustainability of both recreational and commercial fishing experiences into the future," Minister Punch said.

"Genuine engagement with our aquaculture, commercial, recreational and charter fishing sectors is planned through an extensive engagement process, and the State Government is committed to undertaking meaningful consultation with traditional owners, the fishing sectors and other stakeholders."

Management arrangements for the marine park will be developed in consultation with a Community Reference Committee, informed by Sector Advisory Groups, to ensure a balanced approach that provides for ongoing sustainable use, including commercial, recreational and charter fishing and aquaculture.

Former McGowan Government Minister for Emergency Services; Corrective Services, Hon. Francis Logan has agreed to be the chairperson of the Community Reference Committee.

"I look forward to working with the Community Reference Committee and the Sector Advisory Groups to bring the proposed South Coast Marine Park to fruition," Hon. Francis Logan said.

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## Apply now to join the Community Reference Committee

Expressions of interest are now being sought from suitably experienced people to apply for membership on the proposed south coast marine park Community Reference Committee.

The Committee will be appointed by the Minister for Environment to guide planning for the proposed south coast marine park, including development of an indicative management plan and proposed management arrangements.

The Committee will comprise up to 12 members and remain in place until the planning process concludes in late 2023. The Committee will be non-representative with members selected based on their expertise, local knowledge or experience across a broad range of interest areas. An information package is available at [dbca.wa.gov.au/south-coast-marine-park](https://dbca.wa.gov.au/south-coast-marine-park).

**Expressions of interest must be received by 5pm, 29 October 2021.**

[View the EOI information pack](#)

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## Reminder: information sessions happening this week

Community information sessions for the proposed south coast marine park are underway this week.

These sessions provide information to local communities and stakeholders about the south coast marine park proposal, including the current status of the marine park, why a marine park has been proposed for

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The event is free, but registration is required due to capacity limits in venues.

### Hopetoun

6-8pm, Wed 13 Oct, Hopetoun Community Centre (with bus service leaving Ravensthorpe Town Hall at 4:45pm) ([Register for the Hopetoun session](#))

### Esperance

6-8pm, Thurs 14 Oct, Esperance Yacht Club (ticket allocation exhausted)  
and

10am-12pm, Fri 15 Oct, Esperance Yacht Club ([register for the Esperance Fri 15 Oct session](#))

Tea and coffee will be available. Please note that information sessions in Albany and Bremer Bay took place earlier this week.

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### Photos in header image:

**Top:** Southern right whales by Dave and Fiona Harvey

**Left to right:** Sea star by Peter Nicholas. Boat by Black Jack Charters. Snorkelling at Woody Island by Tourism WA. Leafy seadragon by Peter Nicholas. Fishing on the south coast by Tourism WA



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