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PROPOSED SOUTH COAST MARINE PARK



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

During the next phase of the planning process, we will be seeking to tap into the wealth of information that is held by you, the south coast community. To progress the planning process more information will be collected on how people value and use the south coast. This is a very important aspect within the planning process, and you are encouraged to contribute. There will be different ways to share your knowledge, so keep an eye out for the next newsletter.

In this issue:

- Official launch of community consultation and Ministerial panel
- Community information sessions
- Community Reference Committee membership announced
- Sector Advisory Groups
- Joint management and Tjaltjraak Sea Country aspirations
- Meet the DPIRD team
- What Lies Beneath photo contest
- Feature video

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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On 10 November 2021, Hon. Amber-Jade Sanderson MLA, Minister for Environment, and Hon. Don Punch MLA, Minister for Fisheries, were joined by over 60 community members and stakeholders for the official launch of community consultation for the proposed south coast marine park (PSCMP) and Ministerial panel.

Staff of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions and the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development were also in Esperance for the occasion. The event, held at the Pink Lake Golf Club, presented an opportunity for the community and stakeholders to hear from the two Ministers about the proposed marine park and planning process, and to ask questions. The questions and answers are now online (see below).

Questions and answers from the Ministerial panel session (PDF 193KB)



Ministers with Esperance Senior High School students. Photo - L-A Shibish/DBCA

Community information sessions

The DBCA and DPIRD planning team conducted a series of community information sessions designed to inform south coast communities about the proposed south coast marine park. The five sessions were undertaken from 11-15 October in Albany, Bremer Bay, Hopetoun and Esperance.

There were 13 staff presenting and 234 participants asked a total of 306 questions. Answers to all questions are now on the PSCMP website (see below). Participants registered from 20 different postal areas. DBCA and DPIRD also presented to the Shire of Esperance and had a stall at the two-day Esperance Agricultural Show on 15 and 26 of October.

A copy of the presentation can be found on the PSCMP website: <u>Community Information Session presentation (PDF 12MB)</u>.

Responses to questions - Albany - 11 October (PDF 223KB)

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- Responses to questions Esperance 15 October morning session (PDF 232KB)
- Responses to guestions Esperance 15 October evening session (PDF 232KB)





Above left: Albany community information session 11 October 2021.

Above right: Esperance community information session 15 October 2021. Photos - L-A Shibish/DBCA

Community Reference Committee membership announced

Following a call for expressions of interest, a total of 28 nominations were received for the Community Reference Committee (CRC).

On 25 November 2021, Environment Minister Amber-Jade Sanderson appointed 12 people to the CRC, to be chaired by former McGowan Government Minister for Emergency Services; Corrective Services, Hon. Francis Logan.

Members were appointed based on relevant experience and expertise, as well as geographical location to ensure all communities and interest areas were well represented.

The members of the CRC are:

- Kristy Alexander
- Kim Bennett
- Ron Chambers
- Kim Colero
- Manue Daniels
- · Wayne Daw

- · Helen McCarthy
- Nathan McQuoid
- Karen Milligan
- Kristen Perks
- Ken RichardsonRob Stewart

View the Minister's media statement announcing the committee

Sector Advisory Groups

Sector Advisory Groups (SAGs) are being established to provide broader sectoral input to the CRC deliberations and will be kept informed about the planning process. Information on how to join a SAG can be found at document-declaration-new-park (look for the dropdown titled 'Sector Advisory Groups').

Registrations have already been received from the following sectors:

The first meeting of the CRC will occur on 15-16 December.

- · commercial fishing
- recreation fishing
- diving
- tourism
- science

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environment.

If you wish to participate by becoming a member of a SAG or organising your own, please email pscmp@dbca.wa.gov.au.

Joint management and Tjaltjraak Sea Country aspirations

Joint management is a partnership between the State Government and traditional owners or native title holders in Western Australia. It involves Aboriginal people who have a cultural connection with a particular area and wish to be involved in park management. This partnership is based on recognition, trust, mutual respect and shared goals.

Information sheets on joint management can be found on the PSCMP website, including:

- Joint management partnerships (PDF 4MB)
- How joint management works (PDF 3.98MB)
- <u>Native title, traditional ownership and joint management of a south coast marine park (5.08MB)</u>

The Esperance Tjaltjraak Native Title Aboriginal Corporation has established a Tjaltjraak Ranger Group which gives practical effect to the aspirations of Elders to look after Country, including Sea Country. Recently DBCA's *LANDSCOPE* magazine featured the work of the Aboriginal Ranger Program, which has provided funding support for Tjaltjraak Ranger Group operations.



Read the LANDSCOPE magazine feature article (PDF 4.24MB)

Meet the DPIRD team

DPIRD is the lead agency for fisheries and aquatic resource management in Western Australia. DPIRD will be responsible for managing fishing and fishing compliance within and outside of the PSCMP.

DPIRD is a joint project partner with DBCA and relevant traditional owners for the development of the PSCMP.

Meet the team!





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Tim Nicholas, Tahryn Thompson and Jess Ngeh are the Marine Park Planning team at DPIRD. Tim and Jess are based in Perth, and Tahryn works from the Albany office. They are working with DBCA and traditional owners to offer fisheries-specific expertise and provide information to the CRC and SAGs to ensure fishing interests and the views of fisheries stakeholders are taken into consideration during the planning process.

DPIRD's Community Education Officer Kim Jenkins is based in Esperance. You will see Kim out and about with DBCA Community Engagement and Information Officer Lori-Ann Shibish at local events and markets. She is very happy to help answer any fisheries-specific enquiries.

What Lies Beneath photo contest

Thanks to everyone who entered the What Lies Beneath contest in the first issue of this newsletter.

The image in the contest (see below) is a *Euprymna tasmanica*, also known as the southern dumpling squid or southern bobtail squid. It lives in shallow (0.5m to at least 80m) temperate coastal waters of southern Australia's continental shelf. Living for up to 8 months, the adults can grow up to 7cm long, with a mantle length of up to 4cm.

They are found in seagrass beds or areas with soft silty or muddy bottoms from Brisbane on the east coast to Shark Bay on the west, as well as around Tasmania.

Southern dumpling squid are nocturnal. During the day hiding in sand or mud, covered in a mucus-lined coat of sediment. If disturbed, acid glands can quickly remove this coat as an additional decoy to ink squirting.





Southern dumpling squid. Photos - Ocean Imaging

New challenge! Can you identify this interesting sea creature?

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Contest.

Read the terms and conditions (PDF 125KB).



Photo - Ocean Imaging

Feature video

The creation of a south coast marine park will make a significant contribution to WA's current network of marine reserves and Australia's National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas.

This short video features a DBCA research scientist, a fish ecologist from Curtin University and a research consultant giving an overview of the science and knowledge that assists in the development of marine parks.



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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











Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

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