



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Marine Parks Pilot

WHY IS A NEW MANAGEMENT PLAN NEEDED?

Management plans are a requirement of the *Marine Estate Management Act 2014*, which requires that a management plan be prepared and adopted for each marine park. A management plan may be prepared for one or more marine parks. As management plans have not been developed under this Act before, it is proposed to pilot the approach in the Batemans Marine Park before development of management plans in other marine parks.

WHAT DOES A MANAGEMENT PLAN NEED TO ADDRESS?

Section 48 of the *Marine Estate Management Act 2014* requires that a management plan must state the environmental, economic and social values to be

conserved by the marine park or aquatic reserve, and identify threats to those values. It is also required to state the management objectives of the marine park in relation to those values and threats, and specify actions to achieve those management objectives, based on a consideration of risks. Lastly it must set out the programs required for managing the marine park and include any other matters that the relevant Ministers consider necessary to be included in the management plan or that the regulations require to be included.

HOW DOES THE STATEWIDE THREAT & RISK ASSESSMENT INFORM MARINE PARK MANAGEMENT?

A [statewide threat and risk assessment \(TARA\)](#), including northern, central and southern regional



assessments, has been undertaken to identify and prioritise threats and risks impacting environmental values (water quality, habitats, wildlife) and community values/benefits derived from the marine estate. The *Marine Estate Management Act 2014* requires that marine park management plans consider the results from the TARA.

The first stage of the pilot is to review the statewide TARA to determine if the values and threats identified for the southern region are relevant to the Batemans Marine Park and if any additional local values and threats need to be included. The amalgamated list of values and threats will then be used to develop draft management objectives for the marine park.

The second stage of the project will assess the adequacy of existing and potential management actions to attain the draft management objectives, considering any costs, benefits and trade-offs that may be required. Zoning will be assessed as one of the management actions.

NSW Department of Primary Industries is leading the pilot project. NSW DPI will engage key stakeholders and the community, including the Batemans Marine Park Advisory Committee, in identifying local values and threats and in developing draft management objectives and actions.

The information derived from stages 1 and 2 will be incorporated into a draft management plan to be released for public exhibition for two months. The community will be able to consider and comment on the draft plan.

HOW DOES THE MARINE PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN LINK WITH THE MARINE ESTATE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY & OTHER GOVERNMENT REFORMS?

Marine park management plans must consider and complement the management initiatives of the Marine Estate Management Strategy.

Management plans will also acknowledge and link with key government reforms and programs in the marine estate in the area of the marine park, for example Coastal Zone Management Plans and Regional Boating Strategies.



HOW WILL THE MARINE PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN BE IMPLEMENTED?

The management plan will identify the actions required to address the threats to the values/benefits of the marine park and identify who is responsible for implementing each of these actions. The plan must be reviewed after 10 years to determine whether the plan remains appropriate for securing the objects of the *Marine Estate Management Act 2014* and the purposes of marine parks.

A stronger emphasis on performance monitoring and assessment of management actions will also be a key feature of the new plan.

WHAT WILL CHANGE FROM THE EXISTING MARINE PARK ZONING & OPERATIONAL PLANS?

A single management plan will replace the separate zoning and operational plans and will be informed by the statewide threat and risk assessment, social, cultural and economic values, and improved stakeholder and community engagement processes.

A single statutory 'management plan' is a clearer, simpler tool to drive effective management of each marine park in the future. Management plans will clearly document park management objectives, and actions to address the objectives including zoning, compliance, and community engagement including communications and education. Each management plan will be supported by management rules setting

out the regulatory provisions applying within the marine park.

A stronger emphasis on performance monitoring and assessment of management activities will also be a key feature of the new plan.

WILL ZONING REMAIN THE SAME? WILL SANCTUARY ZONES BE RETAINED AS A MANAGEMENT TOOL?

Existing zoning will be reviewed against the management objectives identified in the management plan and will be modified if necessary to deliver on the objectives.

There is broad community support for marine parks and sanctuary zones. The NSW Government accepts that sanctuary zones, or areas where extractive activities including fishing are prohibited, have an important role in conserving a range of environmental, social, cultural and economic values. Their effectiveness will be reviewed to ensure they are protecting these values and achieving the management objectives for the park.

WILL THE NEEDS OF ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES BE CONSIDERED IN MARINE PARK ZONING?

Reviews of marine park management will consider if the existing management arrangements, including zoning of marine parks, are appropriate for the needs of Aboriginal communities. In addition, the NSW Policy on Aboriginal Engagement and Cultural Use of Fisheries Resources in Marine Parks remains in place. Engagement with Aboriginal communities will occur at all stages of the development of the plan to ensure their needs are considered and reflected in the plan.

HOW WILL RECENT CHANGES TO 10 OCEAN BEACHES & HEADLAND SITES BE CONSIDERED WHEN MANAGEMENT PLANS ARE REVIEWED FOR EACH PARK?

The NSW Government is implementing regulation changes to allow shore-based recreational line fishing at 10 ocean beach and headland sites in former sanctuary zones. As management plans are developed for each marine park, the effectiveness of zoning in achieving management objectives will be revisited as part of a whole of marine park review. As a pilot project, this will occur initially for the Batemans Marine Park.





HOW HAS THE INFORMATION I HAVE PROVIDED FOR OTHER MARINE ESTATE PROJECTS BEEN USED?

Community feedback from the Marine Estate Community Survey (2014), statewide Threat and Risk Assessment (2017) and Marine Estate Management Strategy (2017) has been considered in informing the southern region findings of the TARA and management initiatives in the Strategy.

These key pieces of information are being used to inform the values, threats, and draft objectives and management actions for the marine park. Additional community feedback collected during the current engagement process will refine this information at the local marine park scale.

HOW CAN I HAVE MY SAY & HOW WILL THAT INFORMATION BE USED?

Stages 1 and 2: The community will have an opportunity to provide feedback on:

- the values and threats they consider exist at the marine park scale that are not captured in the southern region findings of the TARA,

- draft management objectives for the marine park to conserve the values and manage the threats identified,
- management actions that will achieve the objectives for the marine park.

The information will be used to inform and refine the values, threats, objectives and management actions for the marine park and these will be included in a draft management plan.

Stage 3: The community will be able to provide submissions on the draft marine park management plan during a two month public exhibition period. The feedback will be used to finalise the plan.

FEEDBACK

We would appreciate feedback on these Frequently Asked Questions: Was it useful information? Was it easy to understand? What other questions would you like answered? Please email your comments to contact.us@marine.nsw.gov.au

MORE INFORMATION

More information on engagement opportunities will be available on the marine estate website www.marine.nsw.gov.au.