

**Summary of issues from public submissions to the indicative joint management plan for the proposed North Kimberley Marine Park**



Uunguu saltwater country in Prince Frederick Harbour. Photo – Anna Smith/Department of Parks and Wildlife

**November 2016**

**Planning Branch  
Department of Parks and Wildlife**

## **1. Introduction**

On 16 February 2016, the *Proposed North Kimberley Marine Park Indicative Joint Management Plan (IJMP) 2016* was released by the Minister for Environment for a three-month public submission period, which closed on 20 May 2016. A total of 15,535 submissions were received. This document summarises the key issues raised in the public submissions.

## **2. Plan distribution**

Coinciding with the release of the IJMP, a public notice about the proposal was published in the *Government Gazette* and *The West Australian* and *Broome Advertiser* newspapers, as required under s14(2) of the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (CALM Act). The plan was distributed to relevant Ministers, State Government departments and Local Government as per s14(3A) and s59(5) and (8) of the CALM Act. Notifications of the release and/or copies of the IJMP were also distributed to tertiary institutions, libraries, peak bodies, stakeholder groups and numerous individuals who expressed an interest during the planning process. Copies of the IJMP were made available at the Broome, Kununurra and Kensington offices of the Department of Parks and Wildlife (Parks and Wildlife), and the Broome office of the Department of Fisheries. Social media was used by Parks and Wildlife to further notify the public about the proposal and submission period. Digital copies of the IJMP and a Survey Monkey online submission form were made available on the Parks and Wildlife website, where interested parties were encouraged to lodge submissions.

## **3. Submission processing and analysis methodology**

A total of 15,535 submissions were received comprising: 57 submissions sent directly to Parks and Wildlife (25 online Survey Monkey form; 32 written submissions received via email or post) and 15,478 submitted through conservation non-government organisations (CNGOs). Several CNGOs ran campaigns that resulted in a large number of submissions.

Every submission was considered in the analysis. Information was recorded relating to the submitter's contact details and location, submitter type/interests (e.g. recreational fishing, tourism industry, Kimberley local) and key issues raised. Once the data entry was complete for all submissions, duplicate submissions were removed to generate statistics on submitter demographics and key issues raised.

This report includes an overview of submitter demographics, an explanation of the key issues raised in submissions, and a summary of key issues by sector (e.g. conservation, recreational and commercial fishing, tourism).

## **4. Who provided feedback**

Thirty-seven submissions were received from organisations or peak bodies representing conservation, commercial fishing, recreational fishing, tourism, industry and government sectors (see Appendix 2 for the list of organisations).

Submissions from the CNGOs came through: the Australian Marine Conservation Society (AMCS), Environs Kimberley (EK), Save our Marine Life (SOML), the Conservation Council of Western Australia (CCWA) and The Wilderness Society. Both hard copy and electronic submissions were generated through the Kimberley Like Nowhere Else campaign run jointly by Pew, EK, CCWA, AMCS and The Wilderness Society (TWS). Of the submissions received through the CNGOs, 2.7% included unique or individually written text (instead, or in addition to, suggested CNGO messages), while the remaining 97.3% contained only standard text suggested by the CNGO.

There were 720 submissions received from international postcodes, 8337 submissions received from Australian states or territories other than Western Australia (WA) and 5098 were received from WA. Of the 5098 WA submissions, 231 were from the Kimberley. Eighty-four of all the responders

reported that they had visited the Kimberley region. There were 1380 submissions which did not specify a location. Figure 1 shows the number and origin of the submissions.

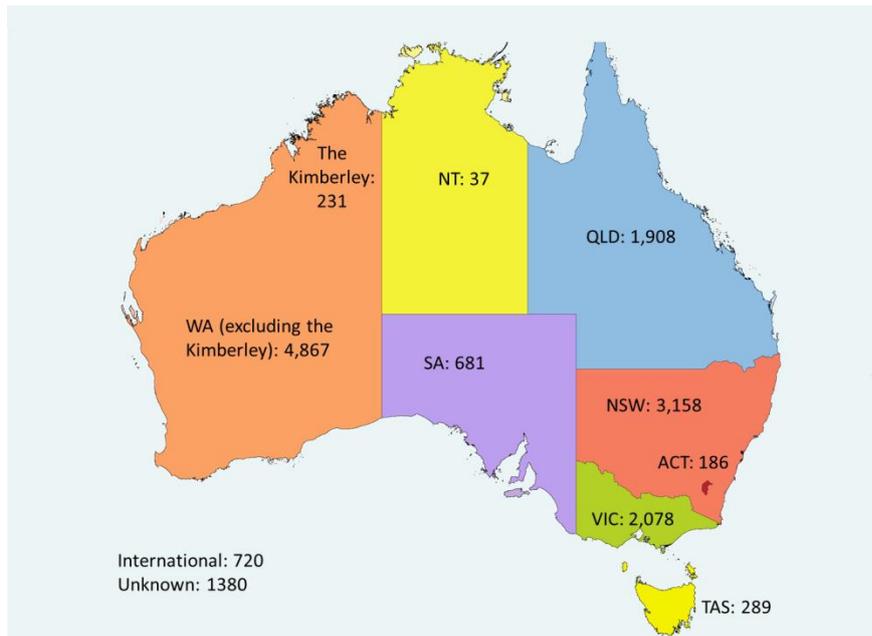


Figure 1: Numbers and origin of submissions (map source: Wikipedia).

## 5. Key issues raised

### 5.1 Establishment of the proposed marine park

The majority of submissions across all interests and sectors supported the establishment of the marine park, with only ten submissions specifically stating that they objected to the proposal. Those that did not support the marine park did not believe extra management was necessary in the area, with some submitters worried about the impacts the marine park may have on recreational fishing and tourism. Submissions made via CNGOs included recurring comments seeking protection for the wilderness value, uniqueness, aesthetic beauty or intrinsic value of the area in the proposed park and seeking long-term protection for the park so that future generations are able to visit the area in the same condition that it is currently.

#### Reserve boundary

The majority of submissions made no comment on the reserve boundary. One submission had reservations about the creation of the park across the opening of Cambridge Gulf for the potential impact on the operations of the Port of Wyndham.

### 5.2 Proposed marine park zoning scheme

The key issue across all submissions was the proposed sanctuary zones. Of the 15,535 submissions received, 15,145 supported and/or sought an increase in sanctuary zones generally, nine sought a decrease in sanctuary zones or did not support specific sanctuary zones and 381 submissions did not comment on the zoning scheme in general. Of the submissions that were supportive of, or sought an increase in the sanctuary zones, the majority were received via CNGOs, with eight received through Survey Monkey or written submissions.

Of the 231 submitters who indicated that they reside in the Kimberley or identified as Kimberley locals, most of which were received via CNGOs, 206 supported and/or sought an increase in sanctuary zones, five sought a decrease in sanctuary zones or did not support specific sanctuary zones and 20 did not comment on the zoning scheme.

Some submissions made comments on specific zones:

- Two submitters with conservation interests suggested the Coronation Island Sanctuary Zone should be extended to be connected to the North Lalang-garram Marine Park. Two submitters with an interest in the commercial prawn fisheries objected to the zone, advising it will impact on available grounds.
- 14,167 submissions received through CNGOs called for this zone to be enlarged to protect vital mangrove forests and coastal habitats. Four submitters with conservation interests suggested the zone should be extended to include more of the area identified in the document *A Representative Marine Reserve System for Western Australia* published by The Department of Conservation and Land Management in 1994. Two submissions with tourism and commercial fishing interests did not support the zone because it would impact on their activities and requested a change in zone type. One submitter with commercial fishing interests suggested reducing the size of the sanctuary zone in this location.
- Seven submitters with conservation and science interests requested the sanctuary zone at Bigge Island be extended to include Maret and Montalivet Islands to protect turtle nesting rookeries and diverse coral reefs. Five submitters, with tourism, recreational fishing and commercial fishing interests, suggested the zone should be reduced or removed because the current zone proposed would impact on their operations.
- Five submitters with conservation and science interests requested the Long Reef and East Holothuria Sanctuary Zone be extended to include parts of the Bougainville Peninsula, Institut Islands, Voltaire Peninsula and Cassini Island. One tourism operator advised this zone would impact on game fishing and called for the zone to be reduced in size.
- Four submitters with conservation interests suggested that the Drysdale River Sanctuary Zone should be extended to better represent the full range of the Drysdale River estuary habitats. Three submitters objected to this zone and advised it would impact on their commercial tourism operations and recreational and commercial fishing grounds.
- Three submitters with conservation interests suggested the Cape Londonderry Sanctuary Zone be extended. Three submitters with commercial and recreational interests who objected to this zone advised that it would impact on recreational and commercial fishing opportunities.
- 14,162 submissions submitted through CNGOs suggested that the King Shoals Sanctuary Zone should be extended to include critical flatback turtle nesting grounds at Cape Domett. One submitter with conservation interests asked for the King Shoals Sanctuary Zone to be extended to include Lacrosse Island, Thurburn Creek and the adjoining coastline. Two submitters with recreational and commercial fishing interests objected to the King Shoals Sanctuary Zone and advised it would impact on their fishing opportunities.
- Four submitters with conservation interests requested the WA border sanctuary zone be extended to include Cape Domett. Three submitters with an interest in mining advised the WA Border Sanctuary Zone was in an inappropriate location due to a proposed petroleum exploration program. The CNGOs suggested this zone should be extended to include Cape Domett.

**Table 1: Comments on individual sanctuary zones**

|  | Provided individual comment |                          |              |                               |                |                  |             |           |
|--|-----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|----------------|------------------|-------------|-----------|
|  | Coronation Island           | Prince Frederick Harbour | Bigge Island | Long Reef and East Holothuria | Drysdale River | Cape Londonderry | King Shoals | WA Border |
| Support for the sanctuary zone and / or would like sanctuary zone extended | 14,164                      | 14,171                   | 14,169       | 14,167                        | 14,166         | 14,165           | 14,163      | 14,166    |
| Would like sanctuary zone reduced in size                                  | 0                           | 1                        | 2            | 1                             | 0              | 0                | 0           | 0         |
| Does not support sanctuary zone  | 2                           | 2                        | 3            | 0                             | 3              | 3                | 2           | 3         |
| No comment on the specific zone  | 1369                        | 1361                     | 1361         | 1367                          | 1366           | 1367             | 1370        | 1366      |

**Additional or increased sanctuary zones**

In addition to comments on the proposed sanctuary zones, submitters also made requests for specific additional sanctuary zones.

- A high proportion of submissions submitted through CNGOs suggested a range of additional sanctuary zones in areas including the Institut Islands, the northern Voltaire Peninsula, Prudhoe Islands, Berthier Island, Cape Domett, Lacrosse Island, Lesueur Island, Pelican Island, Ningbing Creeks Estuary and Thurburn Creek.
- 14,161 submissions submitted through CNGOs suggested sanctuary zones should be extended to cover important coral and reef habitats such as the Bougainville Peninsula, Cassini Island and the Maret and Montalivet Islands.
- Three submissions with conservation interests suggested an additional zone should be included at the Anjo Peninsula.
- Four submissions with conservation interests suggested there should be an additional sanctuary zone between the proposed King George River and the Berkeley River Special Purpose Zone (recreation and conservation).
- One submission with Aboriginal cultural interests suggested applying a sanctuary zone in the Hunter River to protect high cultural values.

**Proposed special purpose zones (recreation and conservation)**

Only eight submissions made specific reference to the special purpose zones (recreation and conservation). Six submissions with tourism and recreational fishing interests indicated support for the proposed special purpose zones (recreation and conservation) and suggested they be extended to further minimise conflict between recreational and commercial fishers. Those that objected to the zone generally had commercial fishing interests.

**Table 2: Comments on individual special purpose zones (recreation and conservation)**

|                                       | Provided individual comment |                |                              |                  |                   |                |                  |             |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------|------------------|-------------|
|                                       | Careening Bay               | Port Warrender | Drysdale & Napier Broome Bay | Sir Graham Moore | King George River | Berkeley River | Institut Islands | Cape Domett |
| Would like SPZ zone increased in size | 0                           | 2              | 1                            | 1                | 0                 | 0              | 1                | 1           |
| Would like SPZ zone reduced in size   | 0                           | 1              | 0                            | 0                | 0                 | 0              | 0                | 1           |
| Does not support SPZ zone             | 0                           | 1              | 2                            | 0                | 1                 | 3              | 0                | 1           |

|                      |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
|----------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| No comment on zoning | 15,535 | 15,531 | 15,532 | 15,534 | 15,534 | 15,532 | 15,534 | 15,532 |
|----------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|

### Special purpose zones (cultural heritage)

Only two submissions made specific reference to the special purpose zones (cultural heritage). One submitter with commercial fishing interests suggested changing the Vansittart Bay Special Purpose Zone (cultural heritage) to a sanctuary zone while another submitter with recreational fishing interests suggested changing the Prince Frederick and Mitchell River Special Purpose Zone (cultural heritage) to special purpose zone (recreation and conservation).

### 5.3 Commercial fishing

Concerns about commercial prawn trawling and gillnetting were raised in submissions from the conservation, recreational fishing, tourism and scientific sectors; 15,119 raised concerns about prawn trawling and 15,121 submissions raised concern about gillnetting and sought the removal of these activities from the park. Specific comments from submissions with conservation and tourism interests included concerns about bycatch of fish, crocodiles and species of conservation concern, and others with recreational fishing interests expressed concern about the sustainability of targeted fish species due to pressure from commercial operations. Submissions from the commercial fishing sector expressed concern about the impact the sanctuary zones will have on the viability of their businesses.

### 5.4 Mining and development

Concern about ongoing mining activities in the park was expressed by 2,795 submissions received predominantly through the CNGOs. Other concerns were also raised in regard to activities relating to mining and development including dredging and dredge spoil dumping, and seismic exploration. Thirteen submissions suggested dredging should be removed from the park and 1,839 of the submissions suggested seismic exploration should be removed from the park.

### 5.5 Sustainable tourism activities

Support for sustainable tourism was raised in submissions from the conservation, recreational fishing, tourism and scientific sectors with sustainable tourism viewed as an important area for future growth in the Kimberley and a worthwhile long-term investment for the protection of the region and the economy at both a regional and State level. Sustainable tourism was supported by 14,174 submissions, most of which were received via CNGOs.

### 5.6 Support for joint management

The proposal to jointly manage the park with traditional owners was supported by 14,169 submissions, received across all key stakeholder groups but with the majority of submissions received through CNGOs. In addition, seven submissions expressed support for the protection of cultural heritage values, support for traditional management practices and/or support for cultural tourism. One submission stated that traditional owners should use traditional hunting methods for customary activities and three submissions stated that traditional owners should not be permitted to hunt/fish in sanctuary zones, or made a comment that it was divisive for traditional owners but not others to hunt/fish in sanctuary zones.

### 5.7 Other key issues

Other issues raised included:

- concerns about climate change impacts to the marine park values;
- concerns about the proposed management of sewage discharge from vessels in the marine park;
- concerns about fish feeding not being permitted in the marine park; and
- ensuring education and compliance of the zoning arrangements.

## **5.8 Summary of issues raised by industry and community organisations**

The following summary outlines issues raised by industry and community organisations across different sectors. It does not include submissions from individuals.

### **Commercial fishing and pearling interests**

- Partial support for the plan but concern about extent of some sanctuary zones and special purpose zones (recreation and conservation), with changes requested to Coronation Islands, Prince Frederick Harbour, Bigge Island, Cape Londonderry and WA Border sanctuary zones; access for mud crabbing requested in other zones; and changes to Port Warrender, Drysdale River/Napier Broome Bay and King George and Berkeley rivers special purpose zones (recreation and conservation).
- Current proposed zoning will financially impact commercial fishers.
- Pearling zones should be included; all facets of pearling should be allowed in the park and the industry should be represented in the park management framework.
- Local wild-caught barramundi is an important part of the Kimberley tourism experience.
- Prawn fishing industry is one of the most sustainable in the world.
- Need to consider cumulative effects of zoning in all the proposed Kimberley marine parks.

### **Recreational fishing**

- Need to know final zoning for all Kimberley marine parks before submitting comment on this plan.
- Disappointed that King Shoals and Londonderry are proposed to be closed for fishing.
- Support for 'wilderness conservation areas' to protect natural values while allowing low-impact fishing.
- Recreational fishing has a minimal impact over such a large area and should not be restricted.
- Recreational fishing places no greater pressure on coral reefs, turtles, dugongs etc. than other proposed activities in sanctuary zones.
- Need to recognise value of recreational fishing and current framework for its sustainable management.

### **Tourism operators**

- Support for the area's protection, but recommend more special purpose zones (recreation and conservation) rather than sanctuary zones, otherwise tourism operations will be financially impacted.
- Zoning could be reviewed every five years to see if impacts warrant changing areas to sanctuary zones.
- Tour operators have minimal environmental footprint and their fishing activities are highly sustainable.
- Two submissions expressed a lack of support for commercial gillnetting.
- One submission indicated that shark feeding as part of a tour is not harmful and should be allowed to continue.

### **Conservation non-government organisations (CNGOs)**

- Support for the park's creation and the proposed eight sanctuary zones.
- Support for the Government's commitment to the Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy and funding of joint management.
- Support the cohesion between proposed terrestrial and marine reservation/management.
- Recommend increasing sanctuary zones to world-class standards of 30-50% of the park, and expanding special purpose zones (recreation and conservation).
- One submission advocated changing all general use zones to special purpose zones (recreation and conservation) or if not feasible, reducing them to 25% of the park, and removing gillnetting and trawling from special purpose zones (cultural heritage).

- One submission called for exclusion of commercial gillnetting, trawling, mining and seismic testing.
- Another submission advocated not allowing seismic testing or large-scale dredging and dredge spoil dumping in the park, and called for an end to gillnet fishing with buy-out of licences.
- Another submission called for gillnetting to be removed from the park with the possible exception of key fishing areas in western Cambridge Gulf, and for trawling to be further contained by additional sanctuary zones.

### **Scientific/research**

- Strong support for the plan.
- One submission called for provision of world-class protection through extension of the Long Reef, East Holothuria Reef, Bigge Island, Prince Frederick Harbour, Cape Londonderry and WA/NT border sanctuary zones, and creation of a number of new sanctuary zones.
- One submission pointed out that Kimberley coastal waters are one of the least impacted ocean regions in the world, and called for at least 30% of the park to be in sanctuary zones.
- One submission supported inclusion of the Cassini, Maret and Montelivet island groups in sanctuary zones and suggested some amendments to the proposed performance indicators.
- Another submission regarded gillnetting and trawling as incompatible with marine parks, and thought geophysical surveys and mining should not be allowed, especially in sanctuary zones, and that petroleum activities should not be permitted.

### **Government organisations**

- General support for the plan.
- One submission recognised the potential for oil and gas development and did not support commercial activities being prohibited due to gazettal of the park.
- One submission pointed out impact/implications of the proposed zoning scheme on commercial fishing.
- One submission did not support the proposed WA/NT border sanctuary zone.
- Another submission supported dredging, dredge spoil dumping, ship-loading and other mining-related activities being allowed to occur under assessment in special purpose zones.

### **Mining, oil and gas industries**

- General support for the plan and for processes that harmonise regulatory controls/protocols between Commonwealth and State jurisdictions; petroleum activities can co-exist with the park.
- References in the plan to adjacent land uses being assessed and managed in recognition of marine park values were not supported as this infers 'buffer zones' outside of the park may be created.
- Ship-loading, mining-related infrastructure and dredging/dredge spoil dumping should be able to be assessed on a case-by-case basis in all but sanctuary zones, as proposed for general marine infrastructure.
- Shared use of the proposed WA/NT border sanctuary zone was advocated rather than banning petroleum exploration activities altogether.
- One submission pointed out that oil and gas industries already operate under stringent controls and any additional conditions/approvals resulting from marine parks should be based on robust scientific assessment of risk to defined conservation values.

### **Others**

- General support for the plan and joint management.
- Two submissions advocated creation of a marine Indigenous Protected Area that would complement the park and recognise Aboriginal customary management.

- Another submission questioned why fish feeding is not permitted, as living on boats can require small amounts of food/fish cleaning scraps to be disposed of overboard which could be construed as 'fish feeding'.

### **Summary of key issues raised by proforma submissions made via CNGOs**

The following key messages were promoted through the CNGO campaigns.

- Support for creation of the park and joint management.
- Support for creation of eight sanctuary zones but called for vulnerable areas including coral reefs and mangrove forests to receive further protection by creation of new or increased sanctuary zones over: Admiralty Gulf; Long Reef; Cape Londonderry; the north and west Bougainville Peninsula; the northern Voltaire Peninsula; Prince Frederick Harbour; the Cassini, Maret, Montelivet, Institut, Prudhoe, Berthier, Lacrosse, Lesueur, Bigge and Pelican islands: Cape Domett; Ningbing Creeks Estuary; and Thurburn Creek.
- Kimberley should be a world-class marine park and achieving this would require more sanctuary zones.
- Provision of information from a recent report stating that marine parks with world-class marine sanctuaries would double the value of tourism to the Kimberley.
- Trawling, gillnet fishing, mining and seismic testing should not be permitted in the marine park.

### **6. Summary of responses to key issues and modifications to the joint management plan**

All issues raised during the public submission period were considered. Additional contextual information has been included in a number of areas of the plan in response to questions and new information contained in a range of submissions. Responses to the key issues raised, and any resulting modification to the joint management plan, are summarised below.

#### **Zoning scheme**

The zoning scheme for the marine park has been amended in response to public submissions and further consultation with key stakeholders and traditional owners to better reflect the values and objectives of the marine park and the existing and potential pressures on the values. The key changes to the zoning scheme are outlined below:

- the addition of a sanctuary zone in the Hunter River, Prince Frederick Harbour to protect an ecologically and culturally significant area, and a subsequent reduction in the size of the Prince Frederick Harbour Sanctuary Zone on the southern side of Prince Frederick Harbour to allow for continued commercial gillnet fishing in the area;
- an extension to the Institut Islands Special Purpose Zone (recreation and conservation) to provide increased protection to fringing corals reefs;
- a modification to Bigge Island Sanctuary Zone to allow for commercial gillnet fishing to continue in the mainland river system while still protecting important dugong habitat and culturally significant fringing reef;
- minor modifications to the Long Reef and East Holothuria Reef Sanctuary Zone on the south-western corner and in the area around Troughton Island;
- an extension and change of the special purpose zone (cultural heritage) in Vansittart Bay to become a special purpose zone (recreation and conservation);
- a reduction of the Napier Broome Bay Special Purpose Zone (recreation and conservation) to allow for prawn trawl fishing in Deep Bay;
- a reduction of the Berkeley River Special Purpose Zone (recreation and conservation) to allow for commercial gillnet fishing in the creek system west of Buckle Head;
- an extension of the Cape Domett Special Purpose Zone (recreation and conservation) to protect

intertidal habitat and creek systems that are culturally and ecologically significant;

- the removal of the WA/NT border sanctuary zone due to existing overlapping petroleum exploration interests.

The zoning scheme is based on a comprehensive, adequate and representative design and aims to protect ecologically and culturally important values such as mangroves and coral reefs while also considering the needs of other park users such as commercial and recreational fishers.

In addition to the zoning scheme, a range of complementary management strategies, such as seasonal and temporal closures, speed restrictions and restrictions to foot access on intertidal coral reefs are included in the plan to provide additional protection to marine fauna, habitats and communities.

The joint management plan commits the Commission and the Joint Management Body to undertake a five-year review of the adequacy of the zoning arrangements for the marine park. The plan recognises that the values of the area are still being discovered, particularly through research by the Western Australian Marine Science Institute, and promotes an adaptive management approach. Research and monitoring programs will improve knowledge of the habitats, biological communities and patterns of human use and provide better information to assess the health of the environment over time.

### **Commercial fishing and aquaculture**

The concerns expressed regarding commercial prawn trawling and fishing were noted, however the marine park joint management plan recognises that commercial fishing is important to the economy of the Kimberley region and the prohibition of these activities from the entirety of the marine park was not deemed necessary to protect the values of the marine park. The marine park has been designed for multiple uses, including commercial fishing, to provide a balance between sustainable use and conservation. Commercial fishing has been listed for a number of values as a 'potential and current pressure' and the monitoring program will allow any pressures to be tracked. Commercial gillnetting and prawn trawling are not permitted in some areas of the marine park zoned as sanctuary or special purposes zone (recreation and conservation) to protect the particular values of those areas.

Minimising the potential impacts of commercial fishing and pearling activities has been included in the plan as 'key management challenges' for a number of values. Management strategies are also included to research and monitor any ecosystem effects, as well as to investigate the extent and significance of any commercial fishing interactions with marine mammals and other protected species.

Management of the park will provide a balanced approach to providing for sustainable uses, including commercial fishing, while achieving conservation outcomes.

### **Non-ground disturbing mineral and petroleum exploration**

Marine parks are created for multiple uses and mineral and petroleum exploration and development can be permitted in appropriate zones. 'Non-ground-disturbing mineral and petroleum exploration and development' remains unchanged as 'assess' in the permitted activities table for all zone types. 'Ground-disturbing' activities associated with mineral, petroleum and geothermal exploration is 'assess' for special purpose zones (recreation and conservation) and general use zones, to allow for potential extractive use in these areas. It is considered appropriate that any potential environmental impacts that may occur as a result of this activity will be considered as part of assessments under State and Commonwealth legislation (i.e. the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* and *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* respectively). The management plan includes mineral exploration and developments as a 'key management challenge' and states that assessments will need to be managed in recognition of the marine park values.

### **Dredging and dredge spoil dumping**

Dredging and dredge spoil dumping has been changed to 'assess' in the permitted activities table for both the special purpose zone types. Additional text has been included to provide clearer direction on the dredging that will be permitted, stating: "Only small scale dredging for the purpose of public access and safety will be considered."

### **Joint management**

The support for joint management of the marine park is noted. Parks and Wildlife acknowledges and respects the traditional owners of the areas within the marine park and recognises their strong and ongoing cultural connections over land and saltwater country. Parks and Wildlife has worked in consultation with Wunambal Gaambera, Balanggarra, Ngarinyin and Miriuwung Gajerrong to develop zoning and management arrangements which will protect important cultural, ecological and social values and will provide for ongoing customary activities and uses within the jointly-managed marine park.

### **Customary fishing**

No changes were required in response to the issues raised on customary fishing in the public submissions. The plan recognises the importance of ongoing cultural activities and includes strategies to work with Wunambal Gaambera, Balanggarra, Ngarinyin and Miriuwung Gajerrong traditional owners to develop sustainable management arrangements for the customary take of finfish, as well as for vulnerable species such as dugong and turtles. It is noted that customary fishing refers to the customary right to access a resource and carries no implicit requirement for traditional methods to be used.

### **Sustainable tourism activities**

The support for sustainable tourism activities in the marine park is noted. The marine park aims to protect some of the most significant tourist attractions on the Kimberley coast. Sustainable tourism is important to the Kimberley regional economy and will be actively promoted and supported by Parks and Wildlife in the creation of the marine park. The majority of comments supported the approach to managing tourism in the marine park as such; no changes were required.

### **Other modifications of significance**

The management plan was amended to include a restricted mixed species daily bag limit in Drysdale River of one fish per person to provide for sustainable recreational fishing opportunities.

In response to submissions made on the management of sewage discharge from vessels, amendments have been made to the permitted uses table for special purpose and general use zones to indicate that impacts will be monitored and managed in accordance with applicable legislation.

## **Appendix 1**

### **Aboriginal Organisation**

Kimberley Land Council  
Wunambal Gaambera Aboriginal Corporation

### **Commercial fishing and aquaculture**

Ainsworth Fishing  
Western Australian Fishing Industry Council Inc.  
Odon Fisheries  
Northern Prawn Fishery  
Paspaley  
Pearl Producers Association

### **Conservation groups**

Centre for Conservation Geography  
Environs Kimberley  
The Pew Charitable Trusts  
WWF - Australia  
Wilderness Society

### **Government**

Department of Aboriginal Affairs  
Department of Fisheries  
Department of Mines and Petroleum  
Department of Planning  
Department of Water  
Department of Agriculture  
Department of State Development  
Department of Transport  
State Heritage Office  
Tourism Western Australia  
Western Australian Museum  
Shire of Wyndham

### **Recreational fishing**

Recfishwest

### **Sailing Club**

Kimberley Coast Cruising Yacht Club

### **Scientific/Research**

Australian Marine Sciences Association WA

### **Mining/ industry**

APPEA  
Canning Petroleum Ltd  
Ek Marine

### **Tourism operators**

Kimberley Quest  
The Great Escape Charter Company  
Sealife Charters/ Karma IV Charters

Drysdale River Station  
One Tree Beach

**Other**

Masika Design & Consulting Services