

Understanding the effectiveness of marine parks

KEY EVALUATION QUESTIONS

The purpose of setting key evaluation questions (KEQ) is to provide direction to monitoring and evaluation activities.

The primary purpose of the following KEQs is the comprehensive evaluation of the Marine Park Plans to inform the statutory review required to be undertaken within 10 years of proclamation (i.e. before 2022). Each question addresses specific outcomes and strategies in the context of effectiveness, impact, appropriateness and efficiency.

Key Evaluation Question 1

To what extent has the legislated comprehensive, adequate, representative (CAR) system protected and conserved marine biological diversity and marine habitats?

Outcome 1: Increased understanding of which components or elements of the existing legislated comprehensive, adequate and representative (CAR) marine park system are successfully contributing to the protection and conservation of marine environments.

Strategies include:

- Develop and implement a monitoring, evaluation and reporting (MER) program that measures the effectiveness of each marine park management plan and its contribution to South Australia's marine parks network (2011 baseline); that sets out targets and indicators linked to strategies and outcomes for monitoring, which include ecological, socio-economic, environmental and management elements; and that assesses the effectiveness of compliance activities.
- Ensure outcomes of the MER Program and research outcomes are made publicly available and inform decision making and periodic review of management plans.
- Conduct priority research and foster research partnerships to assess the integrity of knowledge frameworks that underpin the predicted outcomes.

Key Evaluation Questions 2 and 3

To what extent have marine parks strategies contributed to the maintenance of ecological processes?

And to what extent have marine parks strategies contributed to enabling marine environments to adapt to impacts of climate change?

Outcome 2: Threats to the marine biodiversity and marine habitats are reduced.

Outcome 3: Protection and conservation of marine biodiversity and habitats are increased.

Outcome 4: Ecosystem status, functions and resilience are enhanced or maintained.

Strategies include:

- Manage activities and uses in marine parks in accordance with zoning and special purpose area provisions.
- Actively influence activities and uses within and adjacent to marine parks to help mitigate threats to marine biodiversity and marine habitats.
- Consider additional protections and/or temporary restrictions where necessary in circumstances of urgency— (a) to protect a listed species¹ of plant or animal, or threatened ecological community.
- Develop and implement a compliance strategy that:
 - is cost-efficient
 - is focussed on sanctuary zones and other conservation priorities
 - complements existing compliance efforts
 - maximises voluntary compliance
 - includes measures to address serious or repeat non-compliance.

Key Evaluation Question 4

To what extent have the marine parks strategies contributed to the ecologically sustainable development and use of the marine environment?

Outcome 5: Ecological sustainable development and management of shipping, mining, aquaculture and fishing industries are appropriately accommodated within marine parks.

Outcome 6: Increased opportunities for research and sustainable nature-based tourism within marine parks



Strategies include:

- Manage activities and uses in marine parks in accordance with zoning and special purpose area provisions.
- Introduce a permitting system to provide for the following activities (where not otherwise authorised):
 - scientific research in a sanctuary or restricted access zone
 - tourism operations in a sanctuary zone
 - competitions and organised events in a sanctuary zone
 - commercial film-making (including sound recording and photography) in a sanctuary zone
 - Installation of vessel moorings in a sanctuary zone.
- Create and promote opportunities for sustainable nature-based tourism in marine parks.

Key Evaluation Question 5

To what extent have the marine parks strategies contributed to providing opportunities for public appreciation, education, understanding and enjoyment of marine environments?

Outcome 7: Increased stewardship of marine parks and marine environments

Outcome 8: Marine Parks valued by more people

Strategies include:

- Provide for public appreciation, understanding and enjoyment of marine parks.
- Provide education to support the implementation of marine parks.
- Seek to involve local communities and stakeholders in the day-to-day management and monitoring of marine parks.
- Foster partnerships to support the implementation of the MER Program incorporating opportunities for community and stakeholder involvement.

Key Evaluation Question 6

To what extent have the marine park strategies contributed to the protection and conservation of features of natural and cultural heritage significance?

Outcome 9: Traditional Aboriginal knowledge is preserved and shared when appropriate

Outcome 10: Impacts on the significant features of natural and cultural heritage are reduced

Strategies include:

- Consider additional protections and/or temporary restrictions where necessary in circumstances of urgency— to protect a feature of natural or cultural heritage significance;
- Work cooperatively with Aboriginal communities to conserve country, plants, animals and culture.
- Encourage Aboriginal people, local communities and stakeholders to preserve traditional and historic knowledge and, where appropriate, share this knowledge with others.
- The next step is to customise these evaluation questions for each of the 19 marine parks, based on the characteristics of each park, the pressures and threats on the biodiversity and the social and economic values of each park.

