

**Upper Spencer Gulf**  
**MARINE PARK LOCAL ADVISORY GROUP**

## MINUTES

The fifth meeting of the Upper Spencer Gulf Marine Park Local Advisory Group (MPLAG) was held at 5pm, on Tuesday, 3 May 2011, in the Lea Memorial Theatre, Port Augusta.

*We acknowledge and respect the traditional custodians whose lands we are meeting upon today. We acknowledge the deep feelings of attachment and relationship of Aboriginal peoples to country. We also pay respect to the cultural authority of Aboriginal people visiting/attending from other areas of South Australia/Australia present here.*

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**Members Present:** Robin Sharp (Chair), Angie Stokes, Michael Slattery, Alan Hall, Peter Huxtable, Gary Barnes, Leon Stephens, Rod Hayles, Lindon Giles and Tim Breuer (proxy for Tony Bramley).

**DENR Staff:** David Pearce, Sheralee Cox, Simon Bryars, Amanda Gaetjens.

**Gallery:** 3 people present in the gallery.

**1. Welcome**

Robin Sharp welcomed MPLAG and gallery members to the meeting.

**2. Apologies/absent, correspondence and other business**

Apologies: Doug Reilly, Tony Bramley, Colin Simms and Brett Munns.

Absent: Lavene Ngatokorua and Greg Cowin.

**Correspondence:**

The following correspondence was tabled for member's information:

- Conservation Council SA letter dated 29 April 2011 – *Open letter to all Marine Park Local Advisory Group Members*. The MPLAG chair summarised the letter to the members. In response, a MPLAG member indicated that the letter was received too late in the process to be very helpful.
- *Blanche Harbour Reserve Shack-Owners Petition*. Members discussed this proposal which would allow fishing (hand lines or rods) from the beach in front of the shacks. Recommendation: allow for shore based fishing (rod and line only) in front of Blanche Harbor coastal shacks only.
- Members were provided a copy of the 'A review by the Scientific Working Group on Professor Robert Kearney's document 'Comments on the document "Science shows marine park benefits' (*Marine Parks, Government of South Australia, undated as requested by David Hall*".
- Port Augusta City Council – wrote a letter which rejected Zone E as proposed by DENR and supported alternative zoning. It was suggested that the issues raised in this letter were dealt with by the Miranda community submission that was accepted at MPLAG meeting 4.
- David Pearce reminded the MPLAG members of the contents of the Minister's letter to MPLAG chairs, where the Minister requested that members not debate the process or the science behind the marine parks but to focus on providing zoning advice which is balanced and competent.

- Another MPLAG member indicated that marine parks won't stop development, desalination plants, or pontoons, and major projects can still go ahead regardless of marine parks. David Pearce clarified that the management of other activities (under other Acts) must have regard to the objects of the *Marine Parks Act 2007*. Sanctuary zones will deter disruptive activities. Reference was made to the draft Activities and Use matrix which outlines the likely range of activities allowed within each zone, to be formalised in the marine parks zoning regulations which are currently in development.

#### Other Business

- None discussed.

#### 3. Minutes and actions arising from Meeting 4

- Minutes of the meeting held on 16 February 2011 were accepted by the membership with one amendment, moved Leon Stephens, and seconded Peter Huxtable.

Amendment from the previous meeting's minutes:  
Zone I ~ change from "7 x 1.5km" to "7km x 1km".

#### 4. Today's meeting and Minister's advice to MPLAG members

David Pearce gave a short presentation which included:

- Advice that this is the last formal meeting of the MPLAG, and their last opportunity to finalise their advice before government produces draft management plans. The Minister for Environment and Conservation suggested the MPLAG provide zoning advice which is based on a 'competent and balanced design'.
- No peak stakeholders have provided zoning advice thus far.
- A review of the zoning options, based on the zoning advice received from the MPLAG at meeting 4 was provided.

MPLAG members asked the following questions and shared the following information:

- MPLAG member (Angie Stokes) indicated that industry bodies (such as OneSteel) had received a letter from Greg Leaman (DENR) with the preliminary zoning scenarios maps included, not the MPLAG advice developed at MPLAG meeting 4. There was no reference made to the new MPLAG maps in the letter. Gary Barnes indicated that DENR was specifically asked to share the MPLAG advice with peak stakeholders groups but the letter they received had the preliminary maps. Peak stakeholders should not have to look on the web for copies of the MPLAG maps.
  - (External advice was sought during the break regarding the information that peak stakeholders had received – this was then relayed to the membership). Peak stakeholders were those identified in the *Marine Parks Act 2007*. DENR met with all peak bodies, such as Wildcatch Fisheries SA, following MPLAG meeting 4 and provided copies of the MPLAG 4 zoning advice and the preliminary sanctuary zone scenarios from meeting 3. These peak stakeholders were asked to disseminate this information to the individual sectors they represent.
  - Angie was still concerned that some stakeholders eg Onesteel, had only received a copy of the preliminary sanctuary zones and not the MPLAG advice developed at meeting 4 (the letter was received from DENR/Greg Leaman on March 18<sup>th</sup> 2011).
  - Later in the meeting it was clarified by David Pearce that the letter referred to by Angie Stokes was part of a different communication package and was not the same as the maps given to peak stakeholder which did include the MPLAG zoning advice.

The following questions and discussion occurred between David Pearce and MPLAG members:

- What sort of weight do peak stakeholders have compared to other groups? In response, David Pearce stated that all advice is valuable to the Minister and any guidance from stakeholders and MPLAG members that can be used to improve the

marine park design will be considered when developing the draft marine park management plans.

- Alan Hall was contacted by the President of the Local Government Association, who indicated he had not heard what was going on with the process. Alan provided an update to the President. In response, David Pearce indicated that presentations had been recently been provided to the Local Government Association by DENR staff and the Minister.
- A MPLAG member questioned the adequacy size of 7-10km, suggesting that this was not possible in the Upper Spencer Gulf Marine Park. In response, this is a linear dimension only and that smaller dimensions are likely to have a value but not for all organisms.
- MPLAG members indicated the seagrass (-10 to -30m) mapping surrounding Zone B1 is incorrect. It was suggested that this area is actually a spoil ground. This advice was noted by DENR staff.
- There was discussion regarding the amount of cobble beach located in E2, as indicated by the Rapid Assessment document that the MPLAG members had received. It was determined that this was a mapping inaccuracy.
- OneSteel would like the indenture area zoned as a Special Purpose Area, this would allow for anchorage between the transshipment points. In response, it was reaffirmed that the whole of this park is identified as a special purpose area. Another question was received regarding whether a sanctuary zone can still exist with a special purpose area overlay? In response, yes, sanctuary zones and special purpose areas can coexist where necessary and appropriate.

**Action** –David Pearce to confirm with Angie Stokes that the OneSteel indenture area has been zoned a special purpose area, which would allow shipping activities to continue.

- Questions were also received regarding the location of the proposed transshipment points adjacent to Port Pirie. These transshipment points are also identified on a map previously received by the MPLAG members.

#### 5. MPLAG Member's final zoning advice

Members discussed the sanctuary zones at each of the locations and the Group's final advice is located in the table below. Recommendations for names of sanctuary zones are also included.

Zone	Comment/s received
A	Proposed name: <i>Cowleds Landing Sanctuary Zone</i> . Unanimous support for this proposed zone.
B	Proposed name: <i>Fairway Bank Sanctuary zone</i> . Supported with the advice that this zone will not have a habitat protection zone located on the eastern side.
C	Proposed name: <i>Cuttlefish Coast Sanctuary Zone</i> . Majority support for this zone was received but one member indicated that Santos and Flinders Ports (under peak stakeholder body of SACOME) may have further advice for this area. <b>Action:</b> Angie will follow up with SACOME.
D	This zone is to be removed and it was recommended that a request be made to PIRSA to make the area a permanent <i>Cephalopod</i> only closure, as a back up breeding ground for the cuttlefish. Unanimous support was received from the membership.
E	Maintain names of existing Aquatic Reserves. Zone E3 & E2 were not supported. Support Zone E1 (as proposed by the Miranda Community at MPLAG meeting 4). It

	was proposed by Leon, seconded by Gary and it received unanimous support. Based on the request from the shack holders located at Blanche Harbor, the membership requested that shore based fishing (rod and line only) be allowed in the zone in front of Blanche Harbor Coastal shacks only.
F	Proposed name: <i>Curlew Sanctuary Zone</i> . Unanimous support.
G	Proposed name: <i>Old Saltworks Sanctuary Zone</i> . Unanimous support.
H	Proposed name: <i>Chinaman's Creek Sanctuary Zone</i> . Unanimous support.
I	Proposed name: <i>Mambray Creek Sanctuary Zone</i> . Zone 7km x 1km (not 1.3km as currently shown). Trim from western side. Majority support.
J	J3 includes a range of habitats including heavy shellgrit and estuarine tidal creeks, supporting shorebirds. J2 is located outside of the park but the MPLAG request to include this area if it is available. Proposed names: " <i>Jarrod Point Sanctuary Zone and Fisherman's Creek Sanctuary Zone</i> ". Unanimous support.

The MPLAG supported the zoning options identified above with the inclusion of the following explanatory note to the Minister for Environment and Conservation:

This proposal is to be considered with regard to the fact that the Upper Spencer Gulf Marine Park has the following restrictions already in place:

- o Four defined shipping channels;
- o Four ports with no anchoring allowed;
- o Eight transshipment points located within the park which are potentially non-anchoring when ships are present;
- o Aquaculture leases and zones;
- o Oyster leases in One Shack Bay;
- o Cultana Defence Area which is restricted access;
- o Total netting bans north of Douglas Bank, Cowleds Landing, Germain Bay;
- o Razorfish collection ban in front of shacks October to March;
- o Shellfish closure in Germain Bay for health reasons;
- o Minimal shore access points throughout the park due to a mangrove coastline and lack of tracks;
- o The intertidal zone in Upper Spencer Gulf covers a huge area. The distance from high water to low water mark can be up to 4km and in many areas 2km plus. The majority of fishing activity occurs in the deeper waters hence there already is a significant natural restriction due to the intertidal zone being so large.

The following questions were also asked by the membership:

- What percentage of area of shipping channel surrounds Port Pirie? In response, this area is not included within the marine parks and therefore can not be included towards the final percentage of area.
- The MPLAG members and gallery discussed misinformation about marine parks in the community. There had been lots of negative media, which the community has believed. This had a negative impact on the work the MPLAG members had done in the community.
- Will Marine Park 10 be the first park to have its zoning plan released in the state? In response, no, all 19 marine parks will be released at the same time.
- MPLAG members expressed concern that the Scientific Working Group will change the zoning plan once they see the MPLAG proposal. In response, today's advice from the MPLAG will be presented without amendment on the DENR website.

- Will dredging be allowed in habitat protection zones? No, not unless it is a special purpose area as well.
- When will the other zones be shown to people? In response, the draft management plans with zoning will be released for community consultation later this year.
- The MPLAG discussed the Port Augusta City Council's letter regarding the Miranda shack owners' proposal for the proposed zone adjacent to the Miranda area. The Miranda proposal had also been previously discussed at meeting 4 and shared at the Council meeting. The MPLAG again reiterated their support for the Miranda shack owners' proposal for this area.

**6. Comments from the gallery**

Members of the gallery were provided with the opportunity to ask questions throughout the meeting.

**7. Record of Meeting**

A brief summary of key meeting points was displayed, discussed and agreed upon by the group.

The Record of the Meeting is available on the Marine Parks website.

**8. Next steps**

David Pearce thanked the MPLAG members for their extensive contributions of time as volunteers to provide advice to Government.

**Meeting Closed at 8.30pm.**

Chair .....

Date .....