

**WEST COAST**  
**MARINE PARK LOCAL ADVISORY GROUP**

## **MINUTES**

The fifth meeting of the West Coast Marine Park Local Advisory Group (MPLAG) was held at 2:00pm on Tuesday, 3 May 2011, in the Port Kenny Golf Club, Port Kenny.

*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:** Jonas Woolford (Chair), Noel Box, Tony Custance, George Gill, Trevor Gilmore, David Letch, Sherron MacKenzie, Nick Paleologoudias, Gregor Schreiber, Kristy Newton, Steve Woolley (proxy for Rob Gregor) and Lorelee Wright

**DENR Staff:** Dirk Holman, Jon Emmett, Claire Charlton and Louise Smith.

**Gallery:** 12 people present in the gallery.

### **1. Welcome**

Jonas Woolford welcomed MPLAG and gallery members to the meeting. Lorelee Wright conducted the Welcome to Country.

### **2. Apologies**

- Christine Taylor, Christian Gerlach, Rob Gregor.

### **3. Other business**

- Jonas Woolford (Chair) discussed the key points from the letter to MPLAG Chairs from the Minister for Environment & Conservation (MEC). He emphasised that this meeting was not a debate about process issues but rather to use the design principles checklist to produce competent and balanced zoning advice.
- Lorelee Wright expressed concern that Traditional Owners had not been adequately consulted in the MPLAG process. Dirk responded that leading figures of 3 Native Title Groups, Bargala, Wirangu and Far West Native Title, would be further consulted in a separate process once MPLAG advice had been finalised.
- Members expressed considerable concern that peak stakeholders had not provided zoning advice to the MPLAG. Jon Emmett & Dirk Holman explained that all peak stakeholders were contacted in November 2010, provided with timelines and advised of the opportunity to offer zoning advice. Following MPLAG meeting 4 DENR met with all peak stakeholder groups to encourage their advice. More recently, DENR Chief Executive Allan Holmes also wrote to industry re-stating the timelines for providing input. At this point in time no peak stakeholder had chosen to provide any zoning advice.

- Jonas Woolford explained that industry had recently received a letter from the Minister in relation to displaced effort arrangements, which he felt had achieved a level of support among industry members.
- There was concern that option 2 in the Rapid Assessment Tool did not represent the majority of MPLAG member's opinions. Dirk explained that option 2 was regarded as MPLAG advice and that any individual MPLAG member was entitled to table an alternative view. Option 2 was an alternative suggestion (from a conservation perspective) to the product developed at the workshop between meetings 4 & 5, which had majority MPLAG and community support.

#### 4. Minutes and actions arising from previous meeting

There were points of clarification sought:

- Sherron raised concerns regarding errors relating to the Rapid Assessment Tool and asked that the change of wording in comments relating to alternative zones from MPLAG 4 be updated.
- Trevor asked that each comment be numbered to reflect the zone number on the MPLAG alternative zone map.
- Lorelee raised issues about the inclusion of Aboriginal Heritage sites on marine park maps.

With these changes, the minutes were ratified.

#### Action Item summary as at 22/02/2011

Meeting No	Responsibility	Action	Status	Date
4	Executive Officer	Scan the maps provided by Sherron MacKenzie and distribute to all MPLAG members ASAP.	Completed	3 May 2011
4	Executive Officer	DENR to advise what percent of state waters is within Marine Park 3 and Marine Park 4.	Completed	3 May 2011
4	Executive Officer	What percentage of sanctuary zone was included in the MPLAG scenarios provided today?	Completed	3 May 2011
4	All MPLAG members	To share the revised maps with their local communities and networks.	Completed	3 May 2011
4	Lorelee Wright	Provide DENR with the rationale she has written to accompany the map presented at meeting 4.	Completed	3 May 2011

#### 5. Correspondence

- A letter from the Conservation Council of SA, offering MPLAGs advice in relation to core MPA design principles of comprehensiveness, adequacy and representativeness (CAR), was tabled.
- A letter from the Minister for Environment and Conservation to MPLAG Chairs offering advice was copied to all MPLAG members.

## **6. Today's meeting**

- Dirk thanked MPLAG members for their ongoing contributions, and explained today's meeting was the final opportunity for MPLAG members to offer zoning advice via the MPLAG process. The formal public consultation phase, expected later in 2011, was also explained.
- Guidelines and messages from the Minister for Environment and Conservation (MEC) to MPLAG members were communicated, stating he is seeking a competent and balanced outcome which addresses the design principles and guidelines, including having minimal displacement.
- The purpose of today's meeting was to use the Rapid Assessment Tool and MPLAG members' local knowledge to design a robust proposal which addressed the design principles.
- There was general concern about the value of the rapid assessment in incorporating environmental values because so much of both parks is unmapped and that DENR's habitat maps are inaccurate in many areas.

## **7. Review zoning suggestions made since 4<sup>th</sup> meeting**

- There was majority agreement that the zoning advice generated at the informal MPLAG workshop was very close to the final product.
- David Letch also tabled zoning advice for consideration.

## **8. DENR analysis of MPLAG zoning suggestions**

- Dirk presented the DENR rapid assessment and how the MPLAG suggestion measured quantitatively against the design principles. Benthic and shoreline habitats as well as important environmental values within the marine park were discussed at length.
- The group was asked to consider incorporating more of the habitats into sanctuary zones which had been identified as being represented at less than 10% by the DENR rapid assessment. It was emphasised that the group should try to achieve this with minimum displacement.
- The majority of MPLAG members were of the opinion that they had already represented all habitats and environmental features in their zoning proposal, and that the under-representation was a product of inadequacies in DENR's mapping, not their zoning. However, one member (David Letch) disagreed and tabled a submission at the meeting, detailing the changes made to his zoning proposal (minority MPLAG advice) based on the DENR rapid assessment.
- Sherron wanted it recorded that she felt sections of David Letch's Friends of Sceale Bay Option 2 submission was incorrect and was especially disappointed in the unfounded and damaging comments concerning rock lobster fisherman.

## **9. MPLAG member workshop**

- Members conveyed that they had received community endorsement for the zoning advice developed at the informal MPLAG workshop held between meetings 4 & 5, and as such were reluctant to make many changes.

- Noel Box put forward a proposal around Nicolas Baudin Island, which incorporated a restricted access zone (RAZ) embedded in a sanctuary zone which were both surrounded by a habitat protection zone. Noel explained he was attempting to establish a holistic design, incorporating existing restricted access areas, and encompassing high value environmental features whilst also improving adequacy. Noel also recognised the potential for some commercial displacement, but was aiming for a compromise between the commercial and conservation sectors. There was minority support for this proposal, so the proposal was withdrawn.
- The MPLAG group, after in depth discussion decided to reshape the sanctuary zone east of Tyringa by moving it off shore and widening it. This was done to avoid displacement of abalone fishers close to the coast and to allow continued snapper fishing along the contour drop off.
- There were many suggestions around the zoning within Venus Bay, however the MPLAG ultimately decided to stay with the original design which had been endorsed at a Council-held community meeting.
- Further examples of environmental values identified in the rapid assessment as represented at less than 10% were identified by members within proposed sanctuary zones. These included;
  - **Park 3**
    - Rocky reef (0-10m) → Sceale Bay zone
    - Unmapped (30-50m) → in the new zone off Tyringa
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    - Cliff (exposed and moderate) → suggest representation in Park 4, due to close proximity within the same bioregion and high commercial abalone value in Park 3
    - Australian Sea-lion haulout → Point Labatt & Nicolas Baudin Island
    - Rocky reef (30 – 50m) → Point Labatt
    - Bedrock platform (exposed) → Point Labatt & Nicolas Baudin Island
    - Coarse sandy beach (exposed & moderate) → Point Labatt
    - Fine to medium sandy beach → Sceale Bay
    - Seagrass (sheltered) → Baird bay and Venus Bay zones
    - Emergent Land → Point Labatt, Zone G Venus Bay
    - Surveyed reef fish sites → Point Labatt
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  - **Park 4**
    - Rocky Reef (10 – 30m) → Dorothee Island and mainland zones
    - Rocky Reef (30 – 50m) → Dorothee Island
    - Seagrass (0 – 10m & 10 – 30m) → Dorothee Island, Locks Well and Cap Island zones
    - Soft bottom habitat (0- 10m, 10 – 30m & 30 – 50m) → Dorothee Island, Locks Well and Cap Island zones
    - Bedrock platform (exposed and moderate) → Dorothee Island, Locks Well and Cap Island zones
    - Coarse sandy beach (exposed & moderate) → Locks Well zone
    - Cliff (sheltered) → None of this habitat exists in the park

Sherron requested that Slade Point be removed from the DENR map as an Australian Sealion haulout site, with this point being placed back at Point Labatt where it belongs. She also wanted to see the maps indicate that Nicolas Baudin Island was not an Australian Sealion haulout site, only a breeding site.

After in depth discussion using both the DENR habitat mapping and MPLAG members local knowledge, most MPLAG members were in agreement that all environmental values have been represented in the proposed sanctuary zones.

#### **10. Questions from the gallery**

- None

#### **11. Record of meeting**

**Members advise that the following outcomes were achieved at the meeting:**

- MPLAG vented for the first half of the meeting.
- Reconsidered zoning advice from the workshop and provided information on environmental values that are already present within sanctuary zones.
- Amended and finalised MPLAG zoning advice.
- MPLAG thanked staff for their efforts.
- The Chair (Jonas Woolford) thanked the MPLAG for their efforts.
- Dirk Holman (Executive Officer) also thanked the MPLAG for their efforts and recognised the significant amount of work that had been put in.
- MPLAG requested that traditional owners are consulted.

**Meeting closed at 6:30pm**