

# FLEURIEU PENINSULA

## MARINE PARK LOCAL ADVISORY GROUP

### MINUTES

The fifth meeting of the Fleurieu Peninsula Marine Park Local Advisory Group (MPLAG) was held in the Institute Building, Aldinga at 1pm on Thursday, May 5, 2011.

*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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1. **WELCOME:** The Chair, John Crompton welcomed all members of the Group and the Gallery. He outlined the purpose of this meeting is to:
    - consider community, peak stakeholder and DENR feedback on MPLAG zoning suggestions thus far, and
    - develop final advice to Government on preferred zoning scenarios.
  2. **PRESENT:** John Crompton (Chair), Keith Parkes, Tracy Hill (proxy for Roger Strother), Ross Manthorpe (proxy for John Humphrys), Randall Lawton, Scott Weaver, Linda Mullan, David Hall, Julieanne Rilstone, Mary Beckett, Chris Royans, Richard Owen and Robert Edmeades.

**DENR Staff :** Phil Hollow, Dr Simon Bryars, Shane Holland, Robyn Morcom, Chris Thomas and Joanne Flavel (minutes).

**Gallery:** There were approximately 18 people in the gallery.
  3. **APOLOGIES:** Roger Strother, Rex Manson, Brenton Robins and John Humphrys.
  4. **CORRESPONDENCE**
    - 4.1 From Warwick Moyse, revised submission from the Aldinga/Sellicks MPLAG Steering Committee.
    - 4.2 From Graham Philp, Mayor, City of Victor Harbor regarding submission on the DENR Marine Parks process and starting point sanctuary zone proposal.
    - 4.3 From David Hall regarding deputation from Victor Harbor/Encounter Bay residents to keep shore fishing open along the stretch of beach from the Kent Reserve boat ramp to the mouth of the Inman River.
    - 4.4 From Graham Keegan, submission regarding Zone E adjacent to Rapid Head.
    - 4.5 From David Hall, circulating a submission from Colin and Sally Grundy regarding the sanctuary zones proposed for the Coorong.
    - 4.6 From Warwick Moyse, revised submission regarding Zone C, Encounter Marine Park.
    - 4.7 From the Marine Park Consultation Group of Cape Jervis and Districts regarding the proposed scenario for Marine Park 15.
    - 4.8 From Tim Kelly, CE, Conservation Council of South Australia, an open letter to all MPLAG members.
    - 4.9 A review by the Scientific Working Group on Professor Bob Kearney's document, *Comments on the document, Science Shows Marine Park Benefits* (Marine Parks, Government of South Australia).

- 4.10 From Mary Beckett (verbal) regarding general marine park issues. In the ensuing discussion, Ross Manthorpe asked that he not be included in her comments. David Hall was named in her letter he was offered the opportunity to respond. He stated that he was very offended by the comments in the letter and that he had dedicated a lifetime to the protection of our marine resources.

## **5. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE FOURTH MEETING**

It was noted that the minutes of meeting held on February 15, 2011 at Victor Harbor. were received by members of the MPLAG and there was no formal acceptance of the minutes recorded at this meeting.

## **6. PURPOSE OF THE MEETING**

After a request from the Gallery, Phil Hollow outlined the process followed in determining the proposed sanctuary zones.

This meeting final advice will be sought from the MPLAG on their preferred zoning scenarios. There may still be some persons/groups contacted after this meeting to determine the exact points referred to in some sanctuary zones.

Suggestions made in the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting will be reviewed and the DENR analysis and feedback discussed.

It was requested that members avoid any further debate about the process and minimise the number of options recommended. The Minister is seeking a competent and balanced outcome whilst achieving minimum displacement both commercially and recreationally. Priority will be given to community led zoning proposals that meet the 14 design principles.

Ross Manthorpe stated that the Minister is ultimately accountable for the outcomes.

## **7. SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK**

- 7.1 Linda Mullen – discussion has been held with the Southern Fishermens and Pipi Harvesting Associations concerning the Coorong area and they will both make a submission to DENR in the near future.
- 7.2 Julieanne Rilstone – nothing further to add to their proposal.
- 7.3 Mary Beckett – there is confusion regarding the zones which affect the Murray Mouth and Coorong area.
- 7.4 Randall Lawton – no further comments.
- 7.5 Tracy Hill – has held discussions with Roger Strother and local community members, there has been a lot of focus on the lakes and the bund at the Narrung Narrows. Any effect on the local commercial fishing industry will impact greatly on Meningie and the Coorong District Council area.
- 7.6 David Hall – has been in contact with the stakeholder group who made the zoning proposal in 2009, as well as many local constituents. All areas between Newland Head and the Murray Mouth have been considered. They put forth a proposal that the zone affecting the eastern end of Newland Head be brought in 1km. Also that shore fishing be allowed in Zone L from the Kent Reserve Boat ramp to the mouth of the Inman River (as per 4.3 Correspondence) to allow access for disabled people. There is contention regarding the inshore area of Zone M and options have been discussed. There is complete opposition to Zone N.
- 7.7 Scott Weaver – no further comments to add to their proposal.
- 7.8 Chris Royans – the Cape Jervis Group feels that they have been under a lot of duress, but they are happier now the Minister is talking to them.

- 7.9 Richard Owen – it is clear that the self interest of the commercial fishers is driving this process.
- 7.10 Robert Edmeades – has continued to consult in the Aldinga area. He proposed a compromise for Zone C, but did not receive a lot of feedback.
- 7.11 Ross Manthorpe – their submission has been tabled and they have spent some time with Phil Hollow on site. An issue that needs to be considered is that the other zones either side of Zone D will have impact and influence on that area. Shore based fishing is a high priority consideration for discussion.
- 7.12 Keith Parkes – locals are generally supportive of the position as submitted by the Alexandrina Council.

Phil Hollow advised that peak stakeholder groups have also been advised of the MPLAG zoning proposals and they have been invited to provide advice to either MPLAGs or to DENR. The cut-off point for these groups to provide advice will be at the completion of the final MPLAG meetings (May 16). They will have further opportunity, as everyone will, to comment on the Draft Management Plans when they are released later this year.

Ross Manthorpe suggested that representatives from the Finance Industry should be included as stakeholders.

## **8. REVIEW DENR ANALYSIS ON MPLAG ZONING SUGGESTIONS**

Robyn Morcom summarised the DENR analysis of the rapid assessment (core design principles, comprehensiveness, representativeness and adequacy) as per the advice provided at the last meeting.

- 8.1 Zoning option 1 – includes 11% of the Fleurieu Marine Park as sanctuary zones.
- 8.2 Zoning option 2 – includes 21% of the Fleurieu Marine Park as sanctuary zones.
- 8.3 Zoning option 3 – includes 12% of the Fleurieu Marine Park as sanctuary zones.
- 8.4 Zoning option 4 – includes 21% of the Fleurieu Marine Park as sanctuary zones.

When considering comprehensiveness, soft bottom habitat invertebrate communities, mixed beach type and deep sea sponge habitat were missing from the options. It was noted that Sanctuary F would have included these, but this zone was opposed at the last meeting and has not been included in the options.

When considering representativeness, it was concluded that all habitats have been represented at different depths. Adequacy has been covered as per the guidelines.

The zone dimensions include their overall size, the distance from the coast to offshore (length), and the distance of the coastline along the shore (width).

It was noted that the breeding sites of the New Zealand Fur seals had not been included.

It was queried if duplications in other marine parks should be taken in to consideration and advised that all parks within the bio-region will be checked for representativeness. However, each park must represent all of the environmental values.

Discussion followed on the issue of the absence of representative macro algae habitat in the zones.

## **9. MPLAG ZONING DISCUSSION AND SUGGESTIONS**

Zone A – the original zone proposed by DENR was not supported.

Although not supported, the only option that may be considered and which would have least impact, includes an area off the end of the jetty at Port Noarlunga which runs out to the same length as the DENR zone and then comes back to Onkaparinga Head, excluding the beach.

As the MPLAG representative for this area is not able to be at this meeting, any objections from members present were invited.

**Zone A the members advised they would accept this option as it is supported by local knowledge.**

Zone B – the DENR proposed zone was not supported at the last meeting and found to be unacceptable during further discussions with locals.

They suggested a more inaccessible area closer to the mouth of the River that does not impact as much on fishing.

There was a suggestion that there may be greater support for the entire area being declared a habitat zone to provide broader protection, rather than trying to declare a section of it as a sanctuary zone. After further discussion, a divided view was evident amongst members regarding this suggestion. There was concern that members may not have sufficient knowledge on how habitat protection zones may work to provide this advice.

David Hall moved, in the first instance, that the entire estuarine system be declared a habitat protection zone (and then deal with the sanctuary zone). Seconded: Robert Edmeades. Majority support was given from members present

**Zone B1 majority indicated their support.**

Zone C – the zone proposed by DENR was rejected.

An MPLAG Steering Committee was established by MPLAG member Randall Lawton. Phil met with this committee a number of times and they held a public meeting last weekend. A proposal for a sanctuary zone over the existing aquatic reserve was supported by 52% people present at that meeting and varying support was given to other options.

Option 2 was put forth by this community that also extended over the Aquatic Reserve but continued westward to the marine park boundary. It was suggested that the rest of the Willunga bay would then become a habitat protection zone.

David Hall moved that we support Option 2. Seconded: Scott Weaver.

**Zone C1 majority support received.**

Robert Edmeades submitted an alternative proposal to include such additions as the estuary of the Washpool.

**Zone C2 this proposal received minority support.**

Zone D – the existing DENR proposal was rejected by this MPLAG at the last meeting.

Phil Hollow has received advice today from the Sardine Industry that they have an interest in the deep water section in Option D1 and D3.

Taking into account the significant impost on Myponga beach fishers, David Hall questioned that there should be a sanctuary zone in this area at all.

Ross Manthorpe voiced his objection to policies being received 'on the run'. It was noted that this is a democratic process and members are encouraged to put up new ideas at this meeting.

**Option D1 (MPLAG proposal) received majority support from this meeting.**

**Option D2 (MPLAG modification to D3) received minority support from this meeting.**

**Option D3 (community proposal) received minority support from this meeting.**

Zones M, N, O and P – the original DENR proposals were rejected.

There was a suggestion to include sanctuary zones in Boundary Creek, but these areas are outside the boundary of the marine park. Phil advised that the Minister will not consider altering the boundary of the marine parks unless there is a compelling reason to do so.

The Professional Fishermen stated they were not aware that the boundary of the marine park came inside the mouth into the Coorong. It was advised that the outer boundaries were released for public consultation on 29.1.09 and declared later that year. Members felt that they were not clearly identified.

It was suggested that the area inside the Murray Mouth is a highly degraded and modified environment and should not be considered. In response, it was pointed out that the marine parks seek synergies with existing parks and with other practices that will impact on the environment.

As this area is already a national park and is listed under the Ramsar convention as a wetland of international significance, legislation exists to protect the fishways and the Professional Cockle Industry self regulates to protect their industry, it was felt that sanctuary zones would not add anything to the protection of the area.

Keith Parkes stated he is opposed to sanctuary zones, but he does support the existing legislation to protect areas.

Richard Owen questioned what scientific evidence exists to support the 150m no fishing zone either side of the barrages to allow fish passage to benefit the fish. It was noted that the 150m zone has existed for many years to provide security for the barrages.

David Hall questioned the existence of scientific evidence to support that a small sanctuary zone will benefit the ecosystem. A habitat protection zone would put pressure on the authorities to provide fresh water for the area.

Any area where a sanctuary zone is in the human consumption area for cockling will have a large impact on that industry.

Boundary Creek is fished commercially and recreational fishers fish from its shoreline. Cattle are moved back and forth across the creek. It was queried if the MPLAG would support fishing off the bank of the creek (similar to allowing fishing off an ocean beach).

**MPLAG majority support for fishing off the bank.**

It was noted that the western side of the Murray Mouth was never included in the process of 2008/09. David Hall stated there was a blanket view that sanctuary zones would not benefit this area. Richard Owen pointed out that the decline in bird numbers indicates there is something wrong with the way the area is currently managed.

Option O2 was put forth to replace zones N and P. As an impasse was reached, support was questioned for the Coorong zones.

**David Hall moved: that there is no support for sanctuary zones in the Coorong.**

**This motion received majority support from this meeting.**

**Minority support was received for sanctuary zones in this area.**

Zones K & L

A request was made that the area between the mouth of the Inman River and the Kent Reserve remain open for shore fishing and an alternative put forth to allow for this.

The rationale behind these zones was based on the existence of the sea grass habitat which is extremely vulnerable to pollution from the Inman River.

In Option K1, there was concern about the off shore extension of this the zone. It was suggested the southern boundary of Option K1 should be above the boat ramp and channel so they would be excluded from the zone.

#### **MPLAG unanimous support for K and L**

##### Zone M

The inshore section of this zone is contentious as it includes a sheltered area where boats can be launched. The zone allows people to walk from the caravan park to go fishing and to fish from the boardwalk area near Bashams Beach car park. MPLAG advice was to follow exactly the advice from the local working group chaired by David Hall

#### **MPLAG unanimous support for M.**

##### Zone J

It was noted that some ground-truthing needs to be done to determine the exact boundary of this zone. A suggestion was put forth that the boundary be brought in so that it lines up with the road and the Flat Irons area is not included.

#### **MPLAG unanimous support was given, subject to any minor changes to the boundary to verify the location of the Flat Irons.**

##### Zone E, G, H and I

These zones would impact on recreational fishermen, crayfish fishermen, abalone divers, commercial fishing and charter fishing.

A submission has been received from the Marine Park Consultation Group of Cape Jervis and Districts. It includes a proposal for an area off Deep Creek CP; one off Rapid Head

Zone G an area near Kangaroo Island which goes out to the deep water to incorporate deep sponge habitat. The Marine Park Consultation Group of Cape Jervis and Districts has been attempting to work with stakeholders from Kangaroo Island.

#### **Zone G – majority support was received from this meeting for the minimum position submitted by the community.**

Zone I The North Pages Island including a 50m wide area around the Island

#### **Zone I majority support from the MPLAG.**

Zone H Links to the Deep Creek Conservation Park and follows the design principal that it connects with the Conservation Park.

Chris Royans moved: the boundary be moved 200ms offshore. Seconded: Scott Weaver. The Marine Park Consultation Group of Cape Jervis and Districts advised they will take this proposal back to the community.

#### **MPLAG unanimous support for H**

##### Zone E Rapid Head

It was noted that the Rapid Bay shoreline has historically been used for dumping and that the boulder beach is inaccessible. It was noted that this is an important commercial fishing area.

Option E1 The zone as proposed by Mr Graham Keegan was presented as a community proposal through a written submission that was tabled at the meeting.

#### **Zone E1 no MPLAG support**

Option E2 The Zone was proposed by MPLAG members at the meeting. It included some shoreline plus some sections of the boundary to be 200ms off the shoreline  
This zone reflects the 2005 Encounter Marine Park Draft Zoning plan.

**Option E2 received majority support.**

Option E3 The Zone was proposed by the Marine Park Consultation Group of Cape Jervis and Districts in their submission and overlays the Hobart reef. It is further off shore than the other options and has less impact on commercial fishing.

**Option E 3 received majority support.**

Zone F

Zone F was not supported by the Marine Park Consultation Group of Cape Jervis and Districts. It was also not supported by this MPLAG at the last meeting.

**Zone F minority support was received from this meeting for this zone.**

**Zone F majority support was received for its removal.**

**10. NEXT STEPS**

This is the final meeting of this MPLAG. Members will be invited to participate in community information days and to provide a submission to the draft management plan.

It was felt that a threat basis has not been used to determine the sanctuary zones.

Members queried if the proposed zones will be cross referenced by the Scientific Working Group. They would be interested to know what percentages of habitats are included.

The comparable significance of this Group's proposals in relation to those to be submitted by industry and peak stakeholders was questioned. Members were reminded that the Minister has stated he will give priority to a competent and balanced community led zoning proposals which achieve minimum displacement.

Chris Thomas thanked members for the effort they have put into this process and the support given to DENR staff. He encouraged them to continue to be involved in the management planning process.

The Chair, John Crompton thanked everyone for their support and input. He felt that DENR could have provided more resources to the process, but thanked staff for their support and work.

**11. MEETING CLOSED: 6:10pm**

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Chair Date