

SCIENTIFIC WORKING GROUP

COMMUNIQUÉ – MEETING No. 15 June 2008

Meeting 15: Tuesday 10 June 2008

Members of the Scientific Working Group would like to advise the Minister for Environment and Conservation that the following outcomes were achieved at its fifteenth meeting held on Tuesday 10 June 2008.

- ❖ SWG members present included Anthony Cheshire (Chair), Peter Fairweather, Bronwyn Gillanders, Cath Kemper, Scoresby Shepherd and Matthias Tomczak; apologies from Sean Connell and Hugh Kirkman.
- ❖ An update was presented by David Miller from Coast and Marine Conservation Branch on DEH's marine habitat mapping program. The SWG noted that the mapping underpins the proposed marine parks system and that it will also be used within their performance assessment along with other indicators that will need to be developed.
- ❖ Anthony Cheshire presented an environmental risk assessment methodology, based on the Northern and Yorke and Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges NRM Boards' coast and marine risk assessments, to feed into the DEH risk assessment workshop in July. It involved developing risk ratings to determine activities and uses permissible or not in different marine park zones.
- ❖ The SWG was briefed on the consultation plan for the boundaries release and then asked how it could contribute. Support was offered for: technical issues on written submissions, strategic placements at public meetings, briefings to key stakeholder groups, and to inform other science-based people. The possibility of holding a SWG meeting elsewhere followed by a general information session was also tabled.
- ❖ The need to prioritise spatial modelling was acknowledged with Peter Fairweather presenting a June to September timeline for its carriage. A presentation on the modelling was requested for the July meeting, noting that Jonathon Phillips has been contracted to assist with time-intensive modelling runs.
- ❖ The SWG noted the first meeting of the MPCSA scheduled for Monday 23rd June and recognised that its business needs to be ready in time for these meetings; it also noted it has its own agenda to work through.
- ❖ SWG membership was again discussed in anticipation of hearing back from the Minister about changes to its terms of reference. Several names were put forward including Dr Hazel Lindsay who has been appointed as one of the scientific experts on the MPCSA together with Anthony Cheshire, the Vice Presiding member. The SWG was eager to extend its membership and hence expert base in recognition of the upcoming public release of the marine parks boundaries and future zoning needs.

The SWG commends the work undertaken by DEH to date and supports ongoing development of the outer boundaries and zoning via appropriate application of the design principles and robust methods.

