

SCIENTIFIC WORKING GROUP

COMMUNIQUÉ – MEETING No. 35 13 September 2010

The following members were present at the Scientific Working Group (SWG) meeting held 13 September 2010: Anthony Cheshire (chair), Bronwyn Gillanders, Martine Kinloch, Peter Fairweather, Luciano Beheregaray, Luciana Moller and Scoresby Shepherd. Apologies were received from Sean Connell, Hugh Kirkman, Hazel Vandeleur, Charlie Huveneers and Cath Kemper.

Members of the SWG would like to thank the Minister for Environment and Conservation for the opportunity to meet and discuss the marine parks program and the role of the SWG in supporting the Minister. Key points discussed included:

- The need to establish a performance assessment system for marine parks, acknowledging that the SWG would provide advice on the development of such a system including identifying the most effective way to measure performance of the marine parks network.
- The SWG noted the need to establish a solid research base to underpin the development of a performance assessment system. Potential funding sources were considered; these included accessing support from the Federal Government through programs such as the NRSMPA and Caring for our Country. The SWG offered support to the Minister in working with the Federal Government to develop a strategy for funding the necessary research. This could include the establishment of a body that funds biodiversity research which, ideally, would also work with the FRDC.
- The whole of government marine park policy commitments and the need to balance existing seafood industries and future marine industry developments with marine biodiversity conservation.
- The potential for the SWG to be set up as a legislative advisory body under the Marine Parks Act, or as group working with the Premiers Science and Research Council.
- The need for closer collaboration between fisheries and marine parks scientists.

The SWG would like to advise that at the remainder of their meeting held 13 September 2010 the SWG:

- Held a short joint meeting with the Marine Parks Council (MPCSA) to receive an update on the Coast and Marine Conservation Branch's activities and a presentation on the tool-kit being developed for MPLAG members for their third meeting. The members of both groups also discussed the process for the SWG's involvement in assessing candidate areas for sanctuary zones. This concluded with a request from the MPC for the SWG to provide an assessment of the candidate areas prior to them being released to the MPLAG's.
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- Had a detailed discussion on the preliminary zoning scenarios presented to both the SWG and the MPCSA on Thursday 2 September. The SWG discussed the application of their advice, particularly in relation to the Adequacy design principle in developing the zoning scenarios.
- In order to better understand DENR's zoning process, the SWG agreed to hold an out of session workshop to work through the process for zoning the Nuyts Archipelago Marine Park. The SWG also agreed to review their scorecard for assessing the zoning scenarios.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Anthony Cheshire". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Prof. Anthony Cheshire

Chair, Scientific Working Group for Marine Protected Areas and Marine Planning.