



**SCIENTIFIC WORKING GROUP  
COMMUNIQUÉ – MEETING No. 59  
12 March 2013**

The following members were present at the Scientific Working Group (SWG) meeting held on 12 February 2013: Peter Fairweather (chair), Luciano Beheregaray, Anthony Cheshire, Bronwyn Gillanders Martine Kinloch, Hugh Kirkman, Luciana Moller, Scoresby Shepherd and Hazel Vandeleur. Apologies were received from Sean Connell, Milena Fernandes and Charlie Huveneers. .

The SWG wishes to advise the Minister of the following key outcomes:

- SWG was updated regarding changes due at the end of the month to how permits for scientific research are being handled with the advent of the declared marine parks. Most of the uncertainty seems to entail how DEWNR shall work with PIRSA to streamline the permitting process. SWG was very concerned that this has not been sorted out earlier because it is a potential impediment to research occurring within marine parks (especially in terms of continuity) and a major risk to maintaining a good working relationship with the marine scientists community within South Australia and elsewhere.
- SWG received a presentation from one of its members, Prof. Beheregaray, which confirmed the focus upon connectivity as a key performance aspect of a park network.
- SWG was updated about recent progress in developing the Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (MER) program and considerable discussion ensued about the best way to ensure that subtidal reefs are monitored effectively and efficiently. Extensive advice was given to the Department about this issue. SWG was also updated about progress with determining a MER for other aspects of parks such as soft-sediment habitats.
- SWG began to consider whether changes were needed in how we elect the Chair or to any other aspects of the Terms of Reference for this Group
- SWG would like to invite the new Minister to meet with us at a future SWG meeting, with a view to discussing your views about the required role of SWG until roll-out is complete in October 2014 so that we can be sure of your priorities for advice from the SWG.

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to be "P. Fairweather", is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Prof. Peter Fairweather  
Chair, Scientific Working Group