

**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
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27 November 2013

**MARINE PARKS COUNCIL
OF
SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013



**Government
of South Australia**

Marine Parks Council of South Australia
Annual Report 2012-13

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

Hon Ian Hunter MLC
Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation
Parliament House
North Terrace
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Dear Minister

In accordance with the requirements of the *Public Sector Act 2009*, I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report of the Marine Parks Council of South Australia for the financial year ended 30 June 2013.

In doing so I wish to express my appreciation to the Marine Parks Council members and the Council support team for their valuable contributions and assistance during the reporting period.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'R Lewis'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

Professor Robert Lewis PSM FTSE
Presiding Member
Marine Parks Council of South Australia

PLANS AND OBJECTIVES

The Marine Parks Council of South Australia (the Council) determined that its strategy for 2012-2013 should focus on the formulation of advice in four key areas:

- Strategy 1: Marine park zonation and management plans;
- Strategy 2: Community engagement;
- Strategy 3: Monitoring, evaluation, reporting and compliance;
- Strategy 4: Resourcing and budget

The Council, supported by the Council secretariat and working in association with the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) Marine Parks Project team, contributed to the achievements of the following objectives and targets of South Australia's Strategic Plan (2011):

- **Target 71: Marine Biodiversity.** Maintain the health and diversity of South Australia's unique marine environments
- **Target 72: Nature Conservation.** Increase participation in nature conservation activities
- **Target 69: Lose No Species.** Lose no species as a result of human impacts

HIGHLIGHTS, OPERATIONS AND INITIATIVES

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

During the reporting period the Council provided advice to the Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation (the Minister) on matters directly relevant to its functions under sections 29(1)(d), (e) and (f) of the *Marine Parks Act 2007* (the Act), as well as a range of matters associated with the marine parks project.

An extraordinary meeting of the Council was held in November 2012 to consider public submissions received in relation to draft Marine Parks Management plans and zonation. From this meeting Council provided advice to the Minister on a range of matters related to Marine Parks.

The former Minister, Hon Paul Caica MP, met with Council in December 2012 to acknowledge Council's contributions.

The Minister, Hon Ian Hunter MLC, met with Council in April 2013 and advised that he would welcome future advice from Council. The Minister highlighted the need for basic science and good baseline data to enable effective measurement of changes and achievements.

During the year Council consulted with a number of sources including the DEWNR Marine Parks Project team, the Department of Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA), the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI), the Minister's Scientific Working Group (SWG) and private consulting firm, EconSearch Pty Ltd (EconSearch).

Presiding member Professor R Lewis and member P Riseley represented Council in November at the Environmental Advisory Bodies Forum, hosted by the Natural Resources Management Council to explore opportunities for collaboration by other statutory bodies to support the goals of the *State Natural Resources Management Plan South Australia 2012-2017*.

With the finalisation of Marine Park Management Plans in November 2012, Council reviewed its directions to focus on ongoing management and community engagement. The annual work plan was aligned to the functions under the Act, South Australia's Strategic Plan, the State Natural Resources Management Plan and South Australia's Seven Strategic Priorities.

The activities during the year are summarised against the strategic priorities below.

STRATEGY 1: MARINE PARK ZONATION AND MANAGEMENT PLANS

Key activities supporting this strategy included:

- Review of public submissions to draft management plans
- Review of key issues identified with implementation of marine parks
- Review of specific issues identified for each of the 19 marine parks
- Provision of advice to the Minister on proposed zoning and draft management plans.

Council reviewed a summary of the public submissions to the draft Marine Parks Management Plans, considered key issues and specific comments on each of the 19 parks. Advice was sought from a number of sources including SARDI, PIRSA, the SWG and EconSearch. Council also considered Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network design principles and Commonwealth activities in relation to Commonwealth marine protected areas.

Provision of advice

Council provided a summary of its deliberations and agreed outcomes from its meetings to the Minister. Council also provided advice to DEWNR Marine Parks Project staff on draft marine park management plans and related supplementary material during the reporting period.

STRATEGY 2: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Key activities supporting the strategy included:

- Review of key stakeholder engagement on draft marine park management plans
- Review Aboriginal engagement strategy
- Review of public communication information material
- Consideration of a community consultation and engagement program
- Provided feedback to DEWNR and Minister on community engagement.

A priority of Council was to ensure that issues relating to community consultation and engagement were adequately addressed. This included consideration of the influencers on the public, citizen science, and community stewardship. Council considered that the engagement process should promote community awareness of the benefits of the marine parks, promote community stewardship and ownership and target future generations. Council noted the opportunities for regional economies from marine parks, including tourism.

Council considered a proposed communications strategy including the use of multi-media and suggested that a range of communication/engagement strategies be implemented to provide the appropriate messages to the various stakeholder groups. Council reiterated the imperative of ensuring that Aboriginal communities are appropriately engaged.

Council developed guidelines for community consultation and engagement and provided advice on the requirements for effective communication and community engagement to promote acceptance for marine parks, similar to the acceptance and stewardship involvement of communities with terrestrial national parks.

STRATEGY 3: MONITORING, EVALUATION, REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE

Key activities focussed on development of an adequate monitoring, evaluation and reporting (MER) framework including:

- Review of the ecological/biological MER framework undertaken by SWG
- Development of the socio and economic MER framework
- Consideration of a compliance program

Council agreed that its role in the MER process, in accordance with the Act, is at the high-level strategic position, taking into account the health of the whole system. Council agreed that there were four main target themes:

1. Ecological/biological systems (to be considered by SWG);
2. Regional economies/industries;
3. Stewardship and support for marine parks (ie community values asset);
4. Indigenous communities (social and cultural).

Council maintained close liaison with and received valuable input from the SWG on the development of the ecological/biological aspects of a MER program. Council also received advice from DEWNR on the socio and economic aspects of a MER program.

Council agreed that the MER program should measure impacts on communities and changes over time and that such measurements must be evidence based. DEWNR provided an overview of the proposed assessment process framework.

Council noted the need for a combination of traditional science, citizen science and knowledge of traditional owners. Council raised the need to identify the linkages between these areas and involvement of local communities.

The Council explored linkages to the Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network under the National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas and noted the benefits that would result from improved synergies between the Commonwealth and South Australian systems.

Council considered and supported a proposed compliance strategy incorporating four tiers; awareness, education, compliance and enforcement.

STRATEGY 4: RESOURCING AND BUDGET

Council noted that availability of resourcing will be a significant issue, especially the level of funding available post-implementation of marine park management plans for compliance and monitoring, evaluation and reporting purposes.

Council identified the need for, and encouraged opportunities for, collaborative research (including national and international) including the use of citizen science and local community groups. Council noted the need for a joint State and Commonwealth approach to marine parks.

Council received advice on resource and budgets for other jurisdictions and noted that while the funding amounts vary across states, the types of activities for management of marine parks are generally consistent across the states.

ROLE, LEGISLATION AND STRUCTURE

The Marine Parks Council is established under section 24 of the *Marine Parks Act 2007*.

OBJECT OF THE MARINE PARKS ACT 2007

The objects of the Act are to provide for a system of marine parks for the State; and for other purposes as contained in section 8(1) as follows:

- (a) to protect and conserve marine biological diversity and marine habitats by declaring and providing for the management of a comprehensive, adequate and representative system of marine parks; and
- (b) to assist in—
 - (i) the maintenance of ecological processes in the marine environment; and
 - (ii) the adaptation to the impacts of climate change in the marine environment; and
 - (iii) protecting and conserving features of natural or cultural heritage significance; and
 - (iv) allowing ecologically sustainable development and use of marine environments; and
 - (v) providing opportunities for public appreciation, education, understanding and enjoyment of marine environments.

ROLE OF THE COUNCIL

The Council provides advice to the Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation on matters associated with the establishment and management of South Australia's marine parks.

FUNCTIONS OF THE COUNCIL

The Act describes the functions of the Council as defined in section 29 as follows:

- (a) To provide advice to the Minister on the establishment of marine parks, including:
 - (i) advice on any community nominations for marine parks; and
 - (ii) advice on the areas to be specified as marine parks;
- (b) To provide advice to the Minister in relation to the introduction, variation or revocation of interim protection orders;

- (c) To provide advice to the Minister in relation to a proposal to alter the boundaries of a marine park;
- (d) To provide advice to the Minister in relation to a proposal to establish or alter a zone within a marine park;
- (e) To provide advice to the Minister in relation to the management of marine parks, the formulation and operation of management plans under this Act and the extent to which the objects of the Act are being achieved through the implementation of management plans under this Act;
- (f) To provide advice to the Minister on ways to promote community participation in the management of marine parks and the conservation of relevant marine environments;
- (g) To carry out such other functions as may be assigned to the Council by or under this Act or by the Minister.

MEMBERSHIP

The Council consists of eleven members. Ten members are appointed by the Governor on the nomination of the Minister and one member (*ex officio*) is a person nominated by the Chief Executive, DEWNR. The requirements of members appointed by the Governor are in accordance with section 24(3) of the Act and shown in the following table:

As at 30 June 2013 Council membership was as follows:

Member	Appointed pursuant to the following section of the Act
Prof. Rob Lewis (Presiding Member)	24(3) (e): persons who have qualifications or experience in a field of science that is relevant to the marine environment
Ms Samara Miller	24(3) (a): a person who has knowledge of, or experience in, the field of commercial fishing
Mr David Ellis	24(3) (b): a person who has knowledge of, or experience in, the field of aquaculture;
Mr Greg James	24(3) (c): a person who has knowledge of, or experience in, the field of recreational fishing
Ms Michelle Grady	24(3) (d): persons who have knowledge of, or experience in, the field of marine conservation
A/Prof. Sabine Dittmann	24(3) (e): persons who have qualifications or experience in a field of science that is relevant to the marine environment
Mr Timothy Kelly	24(3) (d): knowledge of, or experience in, the field of marine conservation
Mr Peter Riseley	24(3) (f): extensive involvement in community affairs
Ms Kathryn Warhurst	24(3) (d): knowledge of, or experience in, the field marine conservation
Ms Lorelee Wright	24(3) (g): extensive knowledge of indigenous culture, especially in connection with the marine environment
Ms Leanne Burch (DEWNR)	24(2) (b): nominated by the Chief Executive, DEWNR (<i>ex officio</i>)

MEETINGS: GENERAL AND SPECIAL

A total of seven general Council meetings were held during the 2012-13 financial year. One special workshop meeting was held during the 2012-13 financial year.

Attendance by appointed members at meetings:

Member	Meeting attendance
Rob Lewis	8
Michelle Grady	6
Sabine Dittmann	7
Greg James	8
Samara Miller	7
David Ellis	6
Kathryn Warhurst	7
Loralee Wright	7
Peter Riseley	7
Tim Kelly	8
Leanne Burch	6

The Marine Parks Council maintains a Register of Interests of members' affiliations to inform the Council of any potential for conflict. It also maintains a standing agenda item seeking Members to declare any potential interest or conflict arising from the meeting agenda. Council has agreed its procedures to identify and respond to any declaration that arises.

GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

DEWNR provides support to the Council by providing an Executive Officer and Executive Assistant for administration and governance. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEWNR Annual Report 2012-13.

MANAGEMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Marine Parks Council members (other than government employees) received the following sitting fee remuneration as determined by the Minister:

- Presiding Member: \$221.12 per four hour session
- Member: \$176.90 per four hour session

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS, GENDER AND STATUS

The Marine Parks Council has no staff of its own and utilises the services of DEWNR. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEWNR Annual Report 2012-13.

Executive, administrative and project support were provided to the Marine Parks Council from existing DEWNR resources.

The gender balance of the Marine Parks Council is taken into consideration when members are appointed. During this reporting period, membership of Marine Parks Council was made up of 5 males and 6 females.

The following relevant matters are contained in the DEWNR annual report 2012-2013:

- Superannuation contribution by the Marine Parks Council
- Executives
- Leave Management
- Workforce Diversity
- Voluntary Flexible Working Arrangements
- Performance Development
- Leadership and Management Development
- Accredited Training Packages
- Employment Opportunity Programs
- Occupational Health and Safety and Injury Management
- Financial Performance
- Account Payment Performance
- *Carers Recognition Act 1993*
- Disability Action Plan
- Energy Efficiency Action Plan Report
- Greening of Government Operations Framework.

CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS

The Marine Parks Council did not enter into any contractual arrangements during this reporting period.

FRAUD

It is declared that there were no instances of fraud detected in the activities undertaken by the Marine Parks Council in this reporting period. Financial services are provided to the Council by DEWNR. Strategies to detect instances of fraud are reported in the DEWNR Annual Report 2012-13.

CONSULTANTS

The Marine Parks Council did not engage any consultants in this reporting period.

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

It is declared that no member of the Marine Parks Council has travelled overseas on Council business during this reporting period.

URBAN DESIGN CHARTER

No events occurred in 2012-13 that required the Marine Parks Council to consider the principles of urban design contained in the South Australian Urban Design Charter.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – INFORMATION STATEMENTS

As a DEWNR administered entity, the Marine Parks Council participates and abides by the arrangements outlined in the DEWNR Freedom of Information regime. Reporting on this matter is available on the DEWNR internet site. Please visit <http://www.environment.sa.gov.au> to view the FOI statement.

WHISTLEBLOWERS PROTECTION ACT 1993

Reporting requirements against the *Whistleblowers Protection Act 1993* require the Marine Parks Council to report on the number of occasions on which public interest information has been disclosed to a Responsible Officer of the agency. There were no disclosures made during the 2012-13 financial year.

REGIONAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT STATEMENTS

The Council did not undertake any Regional Impact Assessment Statements in 2012-13.

RECONCILIATION STATEMENT

The Council acknowledges and respects the traditional custodians on whose ancestral lands we meet and the land that it considers and protects. The Council acknowledges the Aboriginal people's deep feelings of attachment and relationship to country. In fulfilling its functions, the Council is aware of the cultural heritage of the traditional owners and strives to achieve mutually satisfying outcomes wherever these matters are concerned.

Council recommendations on community engagement have incorporated specific advice in response to the Aboriginal communities' cultural and social values and structures.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Council would like to thank the previous and current Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation, Ministerial staff and the staff of DEWNR for the support and encouragement offered to the Council during the year.

The Council would like to acknowledge the significant contribution during the year from Mr Chris Thomas and his staff from the DEWNR Marine Parks Project team. The Council would also like to thank Professor Mehdi Doroudi, PIRSA, Fisheries and Aquaculture, and Professor Peter Fairweather, Chair of the Marine Parks Scientific Working Group for their attendance and contribution to the Marine Parks Council. Council thanked Ms Leonie Shearing, Executive Assistant, for support provided at Council meetings over the past 15 months.