

**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
LAID ON THE TABLE**

16 Oct 2014

**MARINE PARKS COUNCIL
OF
SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014



**Government
of South Australia**

Marine Parks Council of South Australia
Annual Report 2013-14

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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*, we have pleasure in presenting the annual report of the Marine Parks Council of South Australia for the year ended 30 June 2014.

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

Yours sincerely

Handwritten signature of Kathryn Warhurst in blue ink.

Handwritten signature of Sabine Dittmann in black ink.

Handwritten signature of David Ellis in black ink.

Ms Kathryn Warhurst, Ms Sabine Dittmann and Mr David Ellis

MEMBERS

MARINE PARKS COUNCIL OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

PLANS AND OBJECTIVES

The Marine Parks Council of South Australia (the Council) provides expert advice to the Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation (the Minister) to help 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. The Council set the following strategic priorities for 2013-14:

Strategy 1: Community engagement

Strategy 2: Monitoring, evaluation, reporting and compliance

Strategy 3: Resourcing and budget.

To help support these strategic outcomes, the Council provided advice to the Minister and to the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) on the following:

1. implementation of the marine parks compliance program
2. allocation of available resources
3. development of community partnerships and alliances in the management of parks and conservation of marine environments
4. development of the monitoring, evaluation and reporting programme
5. implementation of community engagement activities including indigenous, special interest groups and industry
6. promotion of public appreciation and enjoyment.

The following targets from South Australia's Strategic Plan relate to marine parks:

- **Target 71: Marine Biodiversity.** Maintain the health and diversity of South Australia's unique marine environments. This target is measured by: effectiveness of management of South Australia's marine park network (2011 baseline); and, results from the marine parks network monitoring, evaluation and reporting program
- **Target 72: Nature Conservation.** Increase participation in nature conservation activities
- **Target 69: Lose No Species.** Lose no species as a result of human impacts.

Relationship of strategic plans with the State Natural Resources Management plan 2012-2017:

- **T10.** Improve condition of coastal and marine ecosystems
- **T12.** Improve the conservation status of species and ecological communities
- **T1.** Ensure people are better informed and improve capacity in NRM decision making
- **T6.** Maintain the productive capacity of our natural resources
- **T2.** Involve more people in the sustainable management of natural resources

HIGHLIGHTS, OPERATIONS AND INITIATIVES

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

During the reporting period the Council provided advice to 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.

The Council consulted with a number of groups including DEWNR Marine Parks Project team, the Department of Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA), the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) and the Minister's Scientific Working Group (SWG).

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

Community engagement

Professor Rob Lewis, Presiding Member of the Council, appeared before the Select Committee on Marine Parks in South Australia on 22 October 2013.

The Council was provided with an update on DEWNR's communication and community engagement program with particular regard to stewardship. The Council considered the opportunities for regional economies from marine parks, including tourism.

Monitoring, evaluation, reporting and compliance

Council reviewed the draft "*Marine Parks Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Framework*" providing feedback to management; paying particular attention to the "*Guiding Principles*" emphasising the need to ensure future evaluation and decisions are evidence based. Council reiterated its support for citizen science complementing traditional science inputs to the Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (MER) program and encouragement for the development of regional stewardship programs as part of both the MER program and future management. Council noted the benefit from the MER program collaborating with wider state and national marine science programs to leverage the available funding. Council reviewed the status of the current inventory phase of the MER program.

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 advised of the need for a combination of traditional science, citizen science and knowledge of traditional owners.

Council has contributed strategically to the implementation of the South Australian marine park network. An End of Term report titled "Legacy" is in preparation which details the advice by Council to help protect and conserve the marine biological diversity and marine habitats of South Australia.

Resourcing and budget

Council was pleased with the ongoing commitment by the government for marine parks, including the additional funds committed to both marine park management and recreational fishing within the State.

ROLE, LEGISLATION AND STRUCTURE

The Council is established under section 24 of the Act.

OBJECTS 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 is responsible for providing advice to the Minister 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 in Section 29.

The functions of the Council are:

- (a) To provide advice to the Minister on the establishment of marine parks, including:
 - (i) advice on any community nominations for marine parks
 - (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

In accordance with section 24 of the Act, the Council consists of ten members appointed by the Governor and the Chief Executive of DEWNR (or nominee) as an *ex officio* member.

During 2013- 14 the following people were members of the Council:

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
Mr Brenton Gear (DEWNR)	24(2) (b): nominated by the Chief Executive, DEWNR (<i>ex officio</i>)

During the reporting period Mr Tim Kelly resigned. The Marine Parks Council of South Australia wish to thank him for his passion and expertise in his time on the Council.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The Act does not provide for the establishment of advisory committees.

MEETINGS: GENERAL AND SPECIAL

A total of four general meetings were held during the 2013-14 financial year.

There were no special meetings held during the 2013-14 financial year.

Attendance by appointed members at meetings:

Member	Meeting attendance	Comments
Rob Lewis	4	
Michelle Grady	4	
Sabine Dittmann	4	
Greg James	3	
Samara Miller	3	
David Ellis	4	
Kathryn Warhurst	3	
Loralee Wright	1	
Peter Riseley	4	
Tim Kelly	0	Resigned effective from 23 July 2013
Brenton Gear	3	

GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

DEWNR provides support to the Council by providing an Executive Officer and Secretary for administration and governance. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEWNR Annual Report 2013-14.

MANAGEMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Marine Parks Council members (other than government employees) were eligible to receive the following remuneration as determined by the Governor:

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

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS, GENDER AND STATUS

The Council has no staff of its own and utilises the services of DEWNR. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEWNR Annual Report 2013-14.

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

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

The following matters are contained in the DEWNR annual report 2013-14:

- 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
- Work Health and Safety and Injury Management
- Financial Performance
- Account Payment Performance
- *Carers Recognition Act 1993*
- Disability Access and Inclusion Plans
- Energy Efficiency Action Plan Report
- Greening of Government Operations Framework.

CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS

The 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 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 2013-14.

CONSULTANTS

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

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

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

ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT IN GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS

The Council does not own any buildings and is therefore not required to develop an asbestos risk reduction program.

URBAN DESIGN CHARTER

No events occurred in 2013-14 that required the 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 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 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 2013-14 financial year.

REGIONAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT STATEMENTS

The Council did not undertake any regional Impact Assessment Statements during the 2013-14 financial year.

RECONCILIATION STATEMENT

The Council would like to acknowledge the land on which it meets is the traditional lands for the Kurna Aboriginal people and that it respects their spiritual relationship with their country. The Council also acknowledges the Kurna Aboriginal people as the custodians of the Adelaide Plains regions and that their cultural and heritage beliefs are still as important to the living Aboriginal people today.

In fulfilling its functions, the Council is cognisant of the cultural and natural heritage of traditional owners and strives to achieve positive outcomes wherever these matters are concerned.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Council would like to thank the Minister and staff of DEWNR for the support and encouragement that it has received over the year. 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.