

SCIENTIFIC WORKING GROUP

COMMUNIQUÉ – MEETING No. 34 10 August 2010

The following members were present at the Scientific Working Group (SWG) meeting held 10 August 2010: Anthony Cheshire (chair), Bronwyn Gillanders, Martine Kinloch, Hazel Vandeleur, Peter Fairweather and Scoresby Shepherd. Apologies were received from Sean Connell, Hugh Kirkman, Luciano Beheregaray, Luciana Moller, Charlie Huveneers and Cath Kemper.

Members of the SWG would like to advise the Minister for Environment and Conservation that at its meeting held 10 August 2010 the SWG:

- Received a presentation from Simon Bryars (DENR) on Blue Groper and Harlequin fish research on Kangaroo Island. This work provided an exemplar for the application of sanctuary areas to protection of critical habitats for icon species.
- Received an update on the Marine Parks Program and discussed the likely budget cuts to the public sector in September. The SWG acknowledged the economic challenges faced by Government, but highlighted the importance of retaining scientific capability within DENR. A key element underpinning the work of the SWG has been through the close working relationship between technical staff in the Department and the members of the working group.
- Had a detailed discussion on the draft paper we are developing which outlines how the Biophysical Design Principles can best be used to support the development of zoning plans for Marine Parks. Members made extensive comments on the document and we are confident that we can progress the development in a timeframe that will support the ongoing work with the MPLAG's.
- Discussed the Impact Statements that Government is required to deliver to the public in conjunction with draft management plans. The SWG outlined the importance of quantifying the value of the full suite of environmental services resulting from the implementation of the marine parks network. The SWG is keen to see the Department adopt a strategy that values environmental services and conservation outcomes and thereby provides a strong basis for the Government to continue investing into the development of SA's Marine Parks program.



Prof. Anthony Cheshire
Chair, Scientific Working Group
