

SCIENTIFIC WORKING GROUP

COMMUNIQUÉ – MEETING No. 12 February 2008

Meeting: 12 Tuesday 12 February 2008

Members of the Scientific Working Group would like to advise the Minister for Environment and Conservation that the following outcomes were achieved at its twelfth meeting held on Tuesday 12 February 2008.

- ❖ SWG members present included Anthony Cheshire (Chair), Sean Connell, Peter Fairweather, Bronwyn Gillanders, Hugh Kirkman and Scoresby Shepherd; apologies from Cath Kemper and Matthias Tomczak (Executive Officer position conferred to Liz Barnett).
- ❖ Input to the *Draft Outer Boundaries Proposal for South Australia's Representative System of Marine Protected Areas* continued. Rather than review the document page by page, material from sections 3 to 5 onward was dealt with by exception. Comments related to formatting of the document, consideration of additional data layers, clarification of why some areas were selected and others not, the need for adaptive management to climate change impacts, and better referencing in the appendices of how some data were obtained.
- ❖ The SWG moved to endorse the document on the basis that it be edited consistent with its recommendations as summarised in the working notes. It noted that the inland boundaries would be presented at a later meeting and that final endorsement of the boundaries would need to occur in line with MPCSA timeframes.
- ❖ Discussions commenced on the type of spatial modelling necessary to verify selection of the boundaries and later zoning. The two models to be run are:
 - 1) Marxan, developed by Hugh Possingham and others, and
 - 2) OSS (Optimisation Support System), developed by the University of Adelaide.Expected outcomes will include which model is most suitable under different circumstances (eg outer boundaries or zoning), recommended probable areas for inclusion, solving for areas that should not be included, and identifying ambiguities that will require further work.
- ❖ The SWG reviewed its terms of reference so that its membership could include at least one of the scientific experts on the MPCSA and comprise an even number of representatives. It was also suggested its sunset clause move to 2010 in line with the target to establish 19 new marine parks by 2010. These recommendations were conveyed to the Minister through correspondence from the Chair.