



## SCIENTIFIC WORKING GROUP COMMUNIQUÉ – MEETING No. 44 - 12 July 2011

The following members were present at the Scientific Working Group (SWG) meeting held 12 July 2011: Anthony Cheshire (Chair), Peter Fairweather, Hugh Kirkman and Scoresby Shepherd. Apologies were received from Luciano Moller, Bronwyn Gillanders, Hazel Vandeleur and Luciano Beheregary. Martine Kinloch, Sean Connell and Charlie Huveneers are on a leave of absence as they are away for several months.

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

1. The SWG received an update on the EPA's monitoring program. As part of these discussions the SWG identified the need for consistency when reporting on environmental status based on the results from different monitoring programs conducted across Government. The SWG also recommended that Government agencies should be clear about the difference between reporting on environmental 'condition' versus environmental 'status'. For example, the EPA's monitoring program might show that the current 'condition' of the water quality around the Adelaide metropolitan coastline is currently good, whilst the 'status' of the habitat (seagrass beds) is in a degraded state. The SWG agreed they would like to maintain engagement with the EPA in the development of the marine parks monitoring, evaluation and reporting (MER) program.
2. The SWG continued discussions on the development of a MER program for the marine parks network. The SWG reviewed a template for assessing threats to marine assets based on how activities are managed within the marine parks under the proposed regulations. The SWG endorsed the template and have advised that a prioritised list of assets be used to complete the asset/threat matrix. The SWG advise that marine park monitoring will need to compare differences across zones, as well as differences inside and outside of the marine parks for certain assets.
3. The SWG received an update from Econsearch on the proposed methodology for developing the environmental component of the Impact Statements. The SWG advised Econsearch that they were supportive of the general approach. The SWG have committed to reviewing the environmental section of the Impact Statements later this year.
4. The SWG discussed the Marine Parks Parliamentary Inquiry and would like to advise that they are preparing a submission for the Select Committee.

Prof. Anthony Cheshire  
Chair, Scientific Working Group for Marine Protected Areas and Marine Planning

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**NOTED**

Hon Paul Caica MP  
**Minister for Environment and Conservation**

Date:

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