



## SCIENTIFIC WORKING GROUP COMMUNIQUÉ – MEETING No. 38 14 December 2010

The following members were present at the Scientific Working Group (SWG) meeting held 14 December, 2010: Anthony Cheshire (chair), Martine Kinloch, Peter Fairweather, Hugh Kirkman and Hazel Vandeleur. Apologies were received from Luciano Beheregaray, Bronwyn Gillanders, Sean Connell, Charlie Huveneers, Scoresby Shepherd, Luciana Moller, and Cath Kemper.

At the meeting:

- The SWG finalised the development of assessment criteria for report carding Marine Park Sanctuary Zone proposals and has planned a similar analysis to support assessment of Restricted Access Zone proposals for early next year.
- Following an update from Chris Thomas on the activities of the Coast and Marine Conservation Branch the SWG discussed the effect of policy commitments in constraining the optimal selection of areas for inclusion in Sanctuary Zones. From this discussion the SWG advises that Sanctuary zones will need to be more extensive as more policy commitments are realised. While previous advice from the SWG indicated that the area allocated to Sanctuary zones would need to be around 25-30% of the area within the outer boundaries, this advice was based on the presumption that the choice of areas for inclusion could be optimised around the selection of areas that would maximise biodiversity conservation outcomes. The SWG notes however that, because policy commitments necessarily reduce the degrees of freedom in the selection of Sanctuary zone locations, then this will inevitably constrain optimal choices and means that larger areas will need to be included in Sanctuary Zones if we are to achieve adequate levels of biodiversity conservation.
- The SWG noted advice from the Department that the default zoning for all other areas within marine parks will be as Habitat Protection Zones (in areas not placed under higher protection) and that General Managed Use Zones will only be implemented as an exception where policy commitments relating to other prior use inhibits the achievement of Habitat Protection Zone objectives.
- The SWG undertook an initial review of habitat vulnerability for a full range of habitat types as a basis for considering whether more vulnerable habitats require a higher level of protection and representation within the Marine Parks System.



Prof. Anthony Cheshire

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

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