

## SCIENTIFIC WORKING GROUP

### COMMUNIQUÉ – MEETING No. 37 16 November 2010

The following members were present at the Scientific Working Group (SWG) meeting held 16 November 2010: Anthony Cheshire (chair), Bronwyn Gillanders, Martine Kinloch, Peter Fairweather, Charlie Huveneers, Scoresby Shepherd and Hazel Vandeleur (via phone link). Apologies were received from Luciano Beheregaray, Sean Connell, Hugh Kirkman, Luciana Moller, and Cath Kemper.

The SWG would like to advise on the following outcomes from its meeting held 16 November 2010.

1. The SWG received a presentation from and provided feedback to Dr Darla Hatton MacDonald (CSIRO) on methods for assessing non-market values to support the development of marine park Impact Statements. SWG members expressed a desire to participate in a further workshop to consider how best to frame the scenarios that Dr Hatton-McDonald uses in her analysis of non-market values and agreed to work with DENR officers to plan and run an out of session workshop.
2. Following an update on progress in developing zoning scenarios the SWG had a discussion about the implications of existing marine park policy commitments. The SWG noted advice from the Department that existing policy commitments cover approximately 70% of the area within park outer boundaries. SWG members expressed concern that this severely limits the choice of areas that can be included in sanctuary zones and concluded that, assuming the policy commitments remain unchanged, it will be necessary to extend the technical assessment of candidate sanctuary zones to include areas currently outside the outer boundaries in order to ensure that we are able to meet the design principles.
3. The SWG noted that the allocation of technical resources to supporting the MPLAGs has substantially reduced the capacity for the Department to support the SWG in providing analyses of alternative zoning scenarios. The SWG is currently heavily constrained in its capacity to rigorously assess sanctuary zone proposals in terms of all design principles, particularly adequacy.

The SWG recommends therefore that additional technical resources be made available to the SWG to enable it to better frame advice in relation to the necessary size of sanctuary zones (in order to achieve adequacy) thus and to fully evaluate alternative scenarios that will come from the MPLAGs.

The SWG is aware that existing staff are fully committed in an operational context in support of the MPLAGs and understands that this recommendation will present resourcing challenges to the Department.

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4. The SWG is also concerned that there needs to be a broader discussion about how best to incorporate Habitat Protection Zones into zoning plans and agreed to discuss this further at the December meeting.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony Cheshire". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke underneath.

Prof. Anthony Cheshire

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