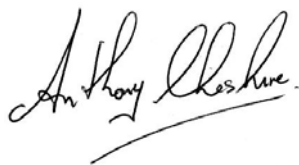


SCIENTIFIC WORKING GROUP COMMUNIQUÉ – MEETING No. 39 8 February 2011

The following members were present at the Scientific Working Group (SWG) meeting held 8 February 2011: Anthony Cheshire (chair), Martine Kinloch, Peter Fairweather, Hugh Kirkman, Hazel Vandeleur, Luciano Beheregaray, Bronwyn Gillanders, Scoresby Shepherd and Luciana Moller. Apologies were received from Sean Connell and Charlie Huveneers. Cath Kemper has advised that she would like to resign from the SWG.

At the meeting the SWG:

- Undertook a review of its forward work plan to ensure that we are able to address issues in a timely manner particularly with respect to the timetable for MPLAG meetings.
- Discussed and agreed on assessment criteria for evaluating the Design Principles against Habitat Protection Zoning (HPZ). The assessment criteria will be used in the zoning report card to assess the contribution of HPZs in meeting the Biophysical Design Principles.
- The SWG also reviewed and provided advice on the template for the draft zoning bioregional report cards. The report cards will enable the SWG to evaluate DENR's draft zoning plan (following the MPLAG process) against the Biophysical Design Principles.
- Reviewed and supported DENR's paper on the use of Restricted Access Zones in marine park zoning design. This allows DENR to move forward in identifying appropriate areas for zoning as Restricted Access.
- Received an update from Chris Thomas on the activities of the Coast and Marine Conservation Branch, including an update on the MPLAG process.
- Reviewed membership and nominated suggestions for possible new members to replace Cath Kemper, who resigned from the SWG in December 2010.
- Received an introductory presentation on the development of a monitoring, evaluation and reporting (MER) program for the marine parks network. The SWG committed to discuss the MER program as the main item on the agenda for their March meeting.



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

NOTED

Hon Paul Caica MP
Minister for Environment and Conservation

Date: