

SCIENTIFIC WORKING GROUP

COMMUNIQUÉ – MEETING No. 18 September 2008

Meeting 18: Tuesday 9 September 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 eighteenth meeting held on Tuesday 9 September 2008.

- ❖ A presentation was given before the meeting by Brian Caton, Coastal Management Consultant and member of the Coast Protection Board, on coastal conservation assessment, climate change and local assessment. The SWG noted that more buffer zones (inclusive of reserved areas) need to be identified and synergies exist between marine parks inland boundaries and NRM coastal conservation assessment priority areas.
- ❖ SWG members present included Anthony Cheshire (Chair), Sean Connell, Peter Fairweather, Cath Kemper, Martine Kinloch, Hazel Lindsay, Scoresby Shepherd and Matthias Tomczak; apologies from Hugh Kirkman, Bronwyn Gillanders and John Middleton.
- ❖ This was the first meeting for new SWG members Martine Kinloch, Hazel Lindsay and John Middleton (John unable to attend). Each new member was given an induction folder including the SWG's terms of reference, previous communiqués, information on government boards and committees and information regarding the DEH marine parks program.
- ❖ This was also the last meeting for Matt Tomczak whose significant contribution to the SWG since its inception in June 2005 was acknowledged.
- ❖ Peter Fairweather gave a PowerPoint presentation on assessing the marine parks boundaries (versions 5a and 5b) against the design principles. The week before, option 5a (48% of State waters) was presented to PIRSA but concerns were raised that the system encompassed too much area. Even so, the extent of system is valid based on design principles considerations so a series of trade-offs were negotiated rather than a significant reduction in size. The outcome was option 5b (43% of State waters) that included more deepwater habitat but less island and reef habitats; more of the Eucla and Coorong bioregions were included but less of Spencer and Murat bioregions. The SWG congratulated Bryan McDonald, Chris Thomas, Leanne Burch and CMCB staff for achieving solid outcomes during negotiations with PIRSA.
- ❖ Liz Barnett, CMCB Senior Projects Coordinator, gave a PowerPoint presentation on establishing a SARSMPA monitoring and evaluation framework to coordinate with State of Environment Reporting and NRM monitoring and evaluation. The SWG suggested that the framework should be based on risk assessment and consider management objectives and environmental and socio-economic trends.
- ❖ Other business was deferred in order to have lunch and meet with the new Environment and Conservation Minister Jay Weatherill. Anthony Cheshire introduced SWG members to the Minister and spoke to him about what the SWG does. Anthony will meet separately with Minister Weatherill to discuss key issues the SWG advises on.