

Friday, 17 April 2009

FAR WEST COAST MARINE PARKS WORKING GROUP ESTABLISHED

Environment and Conservation Minister Jay Weatherill today announced the establishment of the Far West Coast Marine Parks Working Group, which will review the outer boundaries for marine parks one and two and provide feedback within two months.

Mr Weatherill said that this is one of three pilot working groups that have been established to advise on possible outer boundary changes to five of the 19 marine parks.

The others are the South East Marine Parks Working Group, which will review the outer boundaries for marine parks 18 and 19, and a working group for marine park six in the Spencer Gulf.

Each working group will include representatives of key sectors, including the seafood industry, conservation sector, recreational fishing sector, local government, and State Government. Direct consultation will also occur with Aboriginal representatives during the working group process.

“These working groups will assist me in considering any alteration to the outer boundaries of these marine parks and provide some preliminary advice for development of zones within the parks,” Mr Weatherill said.

“This advice can then be used as a starting point for the statutory zoning and consultation process outlined in the *Marine Parks Act 2007*, which is due to commence later this year.

“Once the groups complete their work, I intend to establish similar groups for the remaining marine parks.

“Bringing the seafood industry, recreational fishers, local government and conservation sector together on these working groups will help create a great marine parks system.”

The working groups include local representatives Mayor Allan Suter of the District Council of Ceduna, representing local government, and Perry Will, representing recreational fishers.

“I am delighted to be involved with such a constructive process. The Working Group has the potential to deliver significant benefits for all parties concerned,” Mayor Suter said.