

20.1 Late Agenda Item – Marine Park Sanctuary Zones

REPORT TITLE:	Marine Park Sanctuary Zones
DATE OF MEETING:	11 January 2011
AUTHOR:	Bill Hender
AUTHOR'S TITLE:	Chief Executive Officer
REPRESENTORS:	Nil
ATTACHMENTS:	Map showing proposed Sanctuary Zones

PURPOSE

To consider the implications of proposed Sanctuary Zones in the Upper South East Marine Park.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council writes to the Minister for Environment and Conservation, The Hon Paul Caica MP, requesting that the Marine Park boundaries be amended to include all the State's waters as a Marine Park, thereby allowing more flexibility in redesigning the sanctuary zones within the Marine Park.

BACKGROUND

The South Australian Government declared a network of 19 marine parks in 2009 to help protect and conserve areas of natural value in the State's waters and Marine Park Local Advisory Groups (MPLAG) have been established to assist with the development of the zoning and management plans for these parks. I am currently the Chairman of the Upper South East Marine Park Local Advisory Group and Mayor Peter Riseley is also a member of this group.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has developed a preliminary sanctuary zone scenario as a starting point and is now calling for input from MPLAGs and key stakeholders.

DENR has have prepared some indicative zoning guidelines to assist MPLAGs, key stakeholders and other community members to prepare their preferred zoning scenarios. One of these guidelines is that sanctuary zones should cover about 20-25% of each marine park – this would translate to about 10% of the State's waters.

The Upper South East Marine Park has five proposed sanctuary zones an three of these are likely to have an impact on Robe.

DISCUSSION

The Minister for Environment and Conservation, The Hon Paul Caica MP, has stated that he is anticipating changes to the initial sanctuary zones proposed, as a result of the public consultation process. It is therefore expected that changes to the size and location of the initial sanctuary zones will be suggested by MPLAGs and key stakeholders. In the case of Robe, the current boundaries of the Upper South East Marine Park mean that there are serious limitations on the ability to redesign the sanctuary zones.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Nil

STRATEGIC PLAN

Nil

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

None required.

Map attached separately.