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11th September 2017

Australian Marine Parks Management Planning Comments
Department of the Environment and Energy
Canberra ACT 2601

Feedback – Australian Marine Parks

We are opposed to the inclusion of Norfolk Island coastal waters in the Norfolk Marine Park.

It is inappropriate that a working, commercial port be situated inside a Marine Park.

Adding yet another layer of regulatory compliance, and the need to get permits to unload cargo & cruise ships to the already complex situation of rules & regulations associated with Australian Border Force, Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Norfolk Island Regional Council and the Norfolk Island Lighterage Act 1960 will have an extremely high potential to increase the cost of sea-freight into Norfolk Island. Freight costs to Norfolk Island are already among the highest in Australia. This proposal does not sit well with the Australian Government efforts to stimulate economic development on Norfolk Island.

No other working, commercial port in Australia is situated in a Commonwealth Marine Park. Nor are the ports associated with Christmas Island & Cocos (Keeling) Islands included in a Commonwealth Marine Park. Including the Norfolk Island port within a Marine Park is inconsistent with other Marine Parks.

At the very least the Norfolk Marine Park should exclude the gazetted port limits for the anchorages at Norfolk Island.

<https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2016G00840>

<https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2016G00839>

<https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2016G00838>

The ideal situation would be to exclude all that area contained in the Norfolk Island Inshore Fishery box. This is consistent with other Marine Park boundaries that exclude coastal waters.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Duncan Evans", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Duncan Evans
Director