

dragons@bremerbaydive.com

0427 374 440

13 September 2017

Dear Director of National Parks (CC Minister Frydenberg and Rick Wilson MP),

Re: Submission from 18 Bremer businesses regarding the draft zoning of Bremer Marine Park

As local Bremer Bay businesses whose livelihoods depend on tourism, we are pleased to see significant improvements in the draft plans for Bremer Marine Parks, although we remain deeply concerned that part of the inner sanctuary in the Bay is still proposed to be opened to scallop trawling.

The health of Bremer's marine life is central to the Bremer Bay community, our local economy, the viability of our businesses and Bremer's reputation as pristine holiday destination.

We WELCOME the proposal to ban mining, oil and gas in the whole of Bremer Marine Park.

The local community does not want the Bremer region to become an oil field, and this would help ensure our iconic area is protected from the risk of a devastating oil spill along hundreds of kilometres of pristine coastline – including the magnificent Fitzgerald River National Park (a UNESCO biosphere).

We WELCOME the new National Park 'sanctuary' zones (IUCNII) in Bremer Marine Park and over the globally significant Bremer Canyon - a globally recognised hotspot for marine life, most famous for its orcas.

We WELCOME the proposal to restore much of the inner National Park 'sanctuary' zone, protecting that part of our much-loved Bay from damaging scallop trawling.

However, we REJECT the proposal for part of the inner National Park 'sanctuary' zone in the Bay to be opened to scallop trawling.

We would like to see the inner National Park 'sanctuary' zone in the Bay fully restored. The Bay is an important breeding area for southern right whales, and is crucial for the Bremer community and economy, and the region's pristine and iconic reputation.

Our region is famous for its sea dragons – we even have a sea dragon newly discovered to science and the world that was found in the area last year.

The Bremer community has been extremely vocal in the development of these plans. More than 600 members of the local community and our 18 Bremer businesses have already contributed to the development of these draft plans, asking for our Canyon to be protected and our inner National Park 'sanctuary' in the Bay to be fully restored.

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We urge you to listen to the unanimous voice of the Bremer community – to RETAIN the new National Park IUCNII ‘sanctuary’ zones that are within these new draft plans, and RESTORE the National Park IUCNII ‘sanctuary’ zone in the inner Bay that is still open to scallop trawling. And we would like Bremer Marine Park to be finalised so protection can begin on the water as soon as possible.

Please count this as our submission into the consultation on the draft plans for Australia’s Marine Parks.

Yours sincerely,

Craig Lebens (Bremer Bay Dive)
Narelle Duckworth (Bremer Community Resource Centre)
Owen Roberts (Bremer Bay Resort)
Harry Louw (Xpedition Out there)
Jeni Dawson (Bremer Bay B&B)
Danae Witherow (Bremer Bay General Store)
Lina Thompson (Bremer Bay Beaches Resort & Tourist Park)
Joye Smith (Bremer Bay Caravan Park)
Cheryl Webb (Bremer Bay Roadhouse)

Max Wellstead (Wellstead Heritage Museum, and Gnornbup Wines)
Sophie Gray (Bremer Bay Rural & Hardware)
Sarah Hall & Dan Hill (Heritage Museum Cafe)
Deirdrie Louw (Old Telegraph Station Restaurant, and Hakea House B&B)
Jason Willcocks (Bremer Bay Tyres and Mechanical)
Colin Hobbs (Bremer Bay Earthmoving)
Stacy Francis (Bremer Bay Landscape)

Please contact Craig Lebens, Bremer Bay Dive, on dragons@bremerbaydive.com or 0427 374 440.