

John Foss  
58 Alleyne Ave  
Torquay, VIC, 3228  
M – 0408 386 812

16<sup>th</sup> September, 2017

Australian Marine Parks Management Planning Comments  
Department of the Environment and Energy  
Reply Paid 787  
Canberra ACT 2601

**Submission to Australian Marine Parks  
– Draft Management Plan**

I submit my following comments regarding the Australian Marine Parks Draft Management Plan.

Australia's Marine Parks play a unique and important role in providing significant habitat for many fish and sea animals.

I have been a strong advocate for the Point Addis Marine National Park near Bells Beach in Victoria. This MNP is 100% 'no-take' and has been a huge success for tourism, fisherman and the community in our region.

During the last ten years Parks Victoria have recorded a significant increase in the number and size of fish that live within the park within the park. This has led to a significant increase in marine biomass as the local fish become bigger and healthier in a No Take environment (*see photo below – Point Addis Marine National Park, May 2015*).



In 2014 I produced an educational video titled BLUE BELLS for Parks Victoria. This video has had over 3,000 views and showcases the science and research that support No Take Zones in MNP's.

The video also highlights the important role that MNP's have in relation to eco-tourism and community support. MNP's are very important places for people of all generations to enjoy.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NQbi\\_xjApAg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NQbi_xjApAg)

### **Proposed reduction of No Take Zones in Australian Marine Parks.**

I am personally opposed to any management plans which reduce the current No Take Zones within Australian Marine Parks.

We fully support 100% No Take Zones within all Australian Marine Parks. The evidence both locally and overseas is overwhelming that this is the best way to manage the parks from a scientific and environmental perspective.

100% No Take Zones provide important spawning, feeding grounds and habitat for fish and other marine life.

Commercial and recreational fisherman currently have access to over 90% of Australia's waterways. The recommendation that 97% of Australian waters within 5 kms of the coast be opened up to fishing operations is environmentally reckless and will have a significant negative impact on fish spawning areas, feeding grounds and important habitat areas.

The negative impact of fishing (damage to reefs from anchors, pollution from boats, litter, marine debris, etc) is reduced to zero when all fishing and commercial activities are banned from marine parks.

### **Mining**

I am opposed to any exploration and or mining within Australian Marine Parks. Mining within sensitive marine environment has the potential to create significant risks and potential negative impacts. We have seen in recent years the negative impacts on spills from mining sites across Australia that have polluted wetlands, rivers and other waterways.

Any mining accident within Australia's Marine Parks will destroy and pollute important and rare marine habitat. Toxic chemicals from mining operations will pollute the ocean and potentially impact on important fish stocks with pollutants entering the food chain.

Mining has never been 100% safe. To allow mining operations within Australian Marine Parks is environmentally reckless. The risks are too great.

In conclusion I reject any management recommendations that support the increase of fishing and mining operations with Australian Marine Parks.

I firmly believe any re-introduction of fishing to No Take Zones will have significant negative impacts on fish numbers and put at risk our unique marine biodiversity.

It is critical that we continue to protect important marine areas with high natural values.

I thank the Department of the Environment<sup>6</sup> and Energy for the opportunity to respond to the Australian Marine Parks Draft Management Plan.

Kind Regards

John Foss  
Torquay, Victoria, Australia  
*Torquay Ward Councillor, Surf Coast Shire 2001-2004*