



Australian Government

Geoscience Australia

Cnr Jerrabomberra Avenue  
and Hindmarsh Drive,  
Symonston ACT 2609

GPO Box 378,  
Canberra ACT 2601  
Australia

+61 2 6249 9111  
www.ga.gov.au

ABN 80 091 799 039

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

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**RE: Australian Marine Parks – Draft Management Plans**

As a Commonwealth Government agency that undertakes on-the-water research within the Commonwealth marine area, Geoscience Australia (GA) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the draft management plans for the marine parks in the North, North-west, South-west, Temperate East and Coral Sea marine regions.

The agency has reviewed the draft management plans and provides the following submission regarding Part 4.2.10 *Rules for Activities: Research and monitoring*.

Under the prescriptions set out in Section 4.2.10, GA acknowledges the following requirements when seeking to undertake research and monitoring activities within a marine park:

- Authorisation be obtained from the Director of National Parks through an application for a permit in accordance with Part 17 of the EPBC Regulations, or under a class approval as specified in Section 4.4.2 of the plans;
- A permit to access biological resources is obtained under Part 8A of the EPBC Regulations, and;
- Results from research and monitoring activities will be made available to the Director of National Parks and in a specified format, where relevant.

The agency also seeks confirmation on the matter of class approvals. Specifically, whether activities for research and monitoring approved through an EPBC Act referral would also be considered authorised through a class approval, and therefore do not require additional permitting.

Geoscience Australia looks forward to continued collaboration with the Department of the Environment and Energy in marine geoscience research that helps build the scientific knowledge base of Australia's extensive Commonwealth Marine Area, and informs the management of Australia's Marine Parks.

Sincerely,

Dr James Johnson  
Chief Executive Officer