

INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT FRAMEWORK
COMMONWEALTH MARINE RESERVES
SOUTH-WEST NETWORK

ESPERANCE TJALTJRAAK NATIVE TITLE ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

Esperance Tjaltjraak Native Title Aboriginal Corporation is the recognised Native Title holding body for the Esperance Nyungars, along the south coast of Western Australia. Senior Elders and Members of ETNTAC have been actively involved in Marine Based research works, including Australian Sea Lions, New Zealand Fur seals, Great Whites, Shearwaters, Botanical, island Marsupials, Maritime - Marine Archaeology, Maritime - Marine History and our own Cultural Values on the islands of the Recherche Archipelago.

We commend Parks Australia for taking this initiative and engaging with Aboriginal people to include and hopefully implement whilst respecting and protecting of the cultural values of Aboriginal people along our coast line. Also we thank you for giving 2 of Senior Members of our organisation to attend sponsored marine workshops/conferences. Whilst it is early days, ETNTAC looks forward to working with Parks Australia in the implementation of this Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network Management Plan for the South-West, especially the marine environment along the Esperance coastline.

WE offer the following comments in regards to our cultural values. Whilst we have not addressed all the identified Sections, we've made comments on what we see as important. Whilst this has been made, it has been done with the intent of ensuring our rights and obligations are imbedded in the final Plan.

1.8 Partnerships.

Traditional Owners

Fully support

Table 1.2

Principal 1 – Totally agree

Principle 2 - Totally agree

Principle 3 – Totally agree

Principle 4 – Totally agree

Principle 5 – Totally agree – We recommend that this includes also the UN Declaration of Indigenous Rights. We say that as this also recognises our international commitment to the international waters adjacent to us.

Principle 6 – Totally agree

Principle 7 – Totally agree.

Principle 8 – Totally agree, we also must stress 3rd parties “must” not should include support for Our interests etc.

1.9 Management Programs and Actions – Fully support

2.3 Values of the South-West Network – Fully support

Table 2.1 Cultural Values. ET members have done some preliminary research that dates back approx. 15,000 years ago

2.5 Management Programs and Actions in the South-West Network.

Fully Support

Tourism and visitor experience program.

As well as the Abrolhos and Bremer, should also include the eastern Recherche as will continue to become a highly visited area, especially new tourism operators, possible cruise ship visits.

Indigenous Engagement Program

Outcomes – Totally agree with the 2 Outcomes – just 1 comment, should be Cultural, social and economic, not the other way around. Culture been around long before the others!!

Marine Science program

There is no recognition of Scientific Cultural values. We must remember there were Aboriginal Scientists long before today as we were able to protect land and marine species to sustain our cultural for 1,000's of years. All the problems today are only been around for a few years. Hopefully Parks Australia will include our scientific values.

Assessments and authorisations program.

There needs to protection mechanisms for cultural values. It must also include Aboriginal approvals, if not what was mentioned before in regards to Aboriginal people having rights over the Marine Park, is thrown out the door.

Marine Park protection and management program

Remove "explore opportunities to collaborate", too "ensure full collaboration".

Compliance program

Is there opportunities to undertake the appropriate training for our rangers to partner the other recognised agencies for patrols.

SOUTH-WEST CORNER MARINE PARK

Cultural values

It appears that little research has happened in this part of the State. We fully recognise what is happening in the Kimberlies and fully support that. ETNTAC members have been actively engaged in marine based programs with little or no funds since the early 1990's. The cultural values segment seems purely generic and does not fully capture what our values are. This must be addressed to ensure that Parks Australia fully want to engage our members. This is something we believe cannot be addressed with these comments.

Heritage values

I don't know if Parks Australia knows, we had Australia's only known "pirate who operated in these waters in the 1830's, Black Jack Anderson, not a well-liked person from our people"

IN SUMMARY

This Comment Paper we believe is an excellent step in the right direction, ETNTAC and its Members look forward to working with Parks Australia in the

implementation of this South-West Marine Park to ensure our continued protection of our cultural values that we have been obligated to uphold. ETNTAC must stress that we want to be seen as an integral partner in this Marine Park implementation, and not seen as a recipient to the implementation.

If you have any queries or need further information in regards to our response, please contact our Senior Cultural Advisor, Mr Doc Reynolds on 0418 913 414 or doc@kepakurl.com.au