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Submission for Commonwealth Draft Temperate East Network Management Plan 2017: Lord Howe Marine Park

Concerns with the draft Lord Howe Marine Park (LHMP) are as follows:

Discharge of ballast water/industrial discharge

I do not support the allowance of ballast/industrial discharge in any NPZ within the proposed Marine Parks. I have concerns about discharge within the Lord Howe HPZ (LHHPZ) and feel that there needs to be a Biosecurity Zone around Lord Howe Island and its associated islands and islets (Balls Pyramid and Elizabeth and Middleton reefs) of at least 3 or 12nm from all reef and/or land habitats.

- Discharge should not be allowed within any NPZ's or within 3nm of any of the reefs or islands within the LHMP.
- I am aware that discharge is currently allowed in all zones following MARPOL regulations but I do not support the proposed arrangements due to the significant biosecurity risk to the unique ecological communities within the LHMP.
- LHMP is currently free of marine pests and the introduction of marine pests, waste, pollution or disease through vessel ballast water, discharge and/or hull fouling is one of the Parks biggest threats.
- I am very concerned about the potential impacts to the Park's WHA values, biodiversity conservation and world's southern-most coral reef.

Mining Operations, including construction of pipelines

I do not support the allowance of mining operations and construction of pipelines within the HPZ, HPZ Lord Howe (LHHPZ), RUZ and NPZ's. This activity should be prohibited in all zones.

- Mining activities and the construction of pipelines should be prohibited, due to large potential impacts to benthos and the ecology and ecological processes within the World Heritage listed LHIMP.
- These activities should not be allowed within any zone of the LHMP due to the negative impact on ecological processes and habitats – specifically the interconnectedness of the unique Lord Howe and Tasman seamount chain.
- These operations will be detrimental to the interconnectedness of both seamount chains and compromise habitats for endemic and threatened/vulnerable species that are found within the LHMP.
- These activities could put World Heritage status (and values) at risk – as has occurred within other marine parks around Australia.

Aquaculture

I do not support the allowance of aquaculture operations within the LHHPZ and HPZ zones

- Aquaculture should be prohibited in the LHHPZ and HPZ as this commercial activity is currently prohibited within LHIMP (state waters).
- I support the current prohibition of aquaculture within NPZ's and RUZ's
- This is due to the large potential negative impacts of these industries on benthos, organisms in the water column and ecological habitats and processes within and surrounding the LHMP and the World Heritage values of LHIMP.

Commercial Fishing

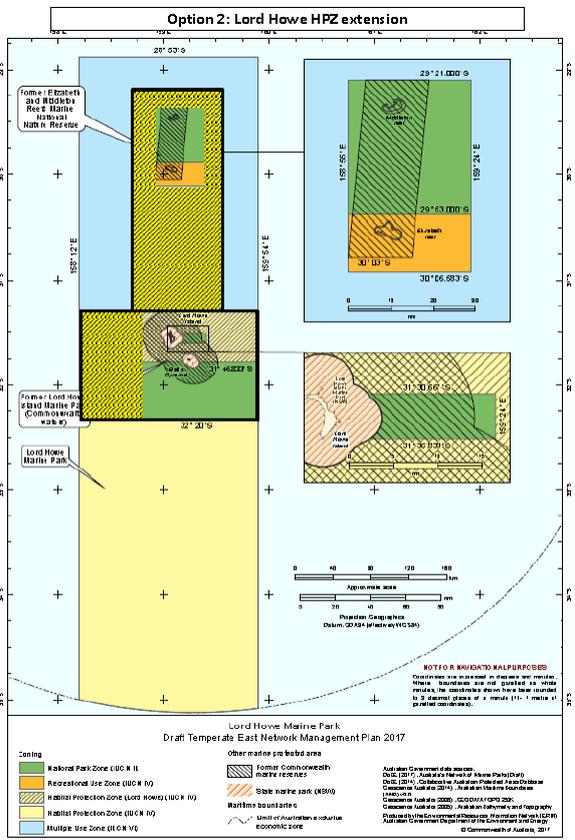
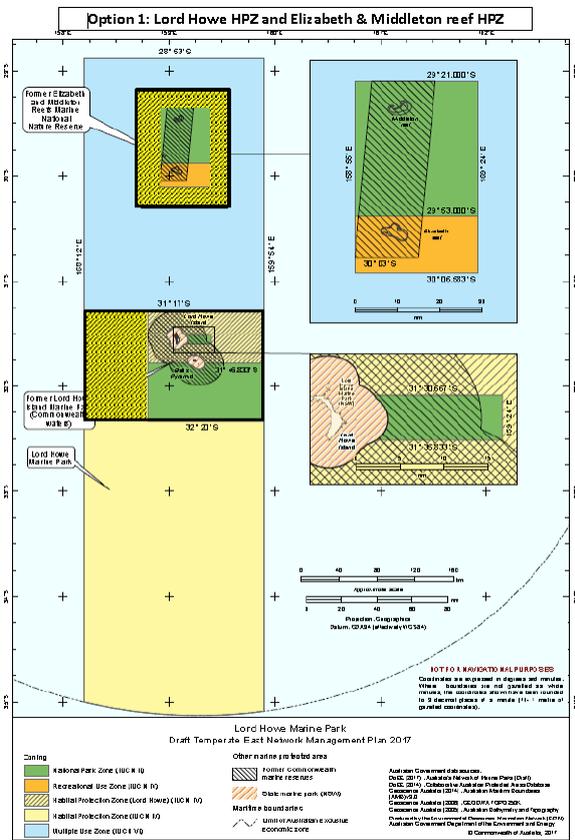
I support the prohibition of the following commercial activities within the LHHPZ - hand collecting, hand netting, pelagic long lining, per seine fishing and mid water trawl. All which are currently allowed in the HPZ.

- These commercial fishing activities are prohibited within the LHIMP (state waters) to minimise potential over-harvesting of the local artisanal fishery, to minimise potential impacts from gear loss/entanglement and to reduce the impact of the local fishery and shark populations.
- The zone activities surrounding the existing state LHIMP needs to complement these management arrangements.
- A proposed extension of the LHPZ will ensure adequate protection of the LHIMP values and local artisanal fishery.
- I support the prohibition of all forms of commercial fishing within the NPZ and RUZ

I propose an extension of LHPZ in waters surrounding LHI and Elizabeth & Middleton reefs, to increase adequate protection of ecological values, while allowing for sustainable use.

An extension of the LHPZ would ensure the above listed commercial activities are prohibited from waters surrounding LHI and E&M reefs.

- This will ensure an adequate ecologically sound 'buffer zone' around LHI state MP and proposed NPZ and ensure destructive commercial fishing activities such as trawling are prohibited and not allowed around this World Heritage listed marine site.
- The extension of the LHPZ to surround Elizabeth and Middleton Reefs will be an ecological buffer and should be extended to include the seamount to the north of Middleton Reef, while still allowing for commercial minor handlining and the existing Blue Fin Tuna Fishery that operates north of Middleton Reef.
- The extension of LHPZ will ensure an adequate buffer zone for marine biosecurity protection and prohibition of mining operations
- I propose 2 options – Option 1 has a slight extension of the LHPZ and Option 2 has a larger extension of the LHPZ. These options will ensure adequate ecological buffer zones around the WHA LHMP.



Middleton Reef NPZ

The seamount north of Middleton Reef needs adequate protection.

- The proposed NPZ should be extended to the north of Middleton Reef to include the seamount as per original 2012 draft management plan
- Alternatively, an extension of LHPZ, as above, would ensure adequate protection while allowing certain small scale commercial fisheries that currently exist in the area. I note that the Independent Review Report suggested to include the northern seamount in NPZ so there is a strong case for increasing the NPZ to the north of Middleton reef or to implement the proposed LHPZ around Elizabeth and Middleton Reefs.

Prohibition of spearfishing

I support the prohibition of spearfishing in the LHPZ

- This supports the prohibition of the existing NSW state Marine Estate Management (Management Rules) Regulation 1999 that prohibit the use of spears, spear guns and spearfishing related activities within all areas of the current LHIMP. This regulation was established, due to the fact that a large number of fish species within LHIMP are vulnerable to spearfishing and this activity is not compatible with many of the aquatic activities that are significant to the tourism based economy of the Island
- Allowing spearfishing at Elizabeth Reef would make compliance challenging due to its remote location and, as it is prohibited within LHIMP state waters and most / all vessels stop at LHIMP on their way to/from Elizabeth and Middleton Reefs, the conflict of use with these activities would be a risk.

I hope my viewpoints and suggestion are taken into consideration before final management arrangements are made.

Kind regards,

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