

The following comments are submitted on behalf of Dambimangari Aboriginal Corporation (DAC). DAC represents the Worrorra people of the Dambimangari Native Title Claim. Dambimangari people are Saltwater People, the health of the marine ecosystem is vital to the health of Dambimangari people. Our islands and coastal sites are special places – some have burial sites, rock art, stone arrangements and strong story lines. These areas hold significant cultural value for Dambimangari people and are also recognised for their National Heritage value. Ownership and management of our land and sea country is vital to our peoples future. We also have current and future interests in a range of commercial activities. For these reasons, the management of surrounding waters is of specific interest to us. To help us achieve our aspirations, DAC recently entered a joint management arrangement with the West Australian state over the Lalang-garram and Camden Sound Marine Park.

It is noted that within the North-west Marine Reserves Network Management Plan, Indigenous people are considered more than stakeholders and would have some form of representation on a Network Advisory Committee. While we strongly support this representation, we would like to highlight some of the practical challenges when representing such a large area in this context. The North-west Marine Network incorporates a diverse range of cultural values, understandings and aspirations. This network alone is adjacent to six separate saltwater Indigenous groups. Each Indigenous group has its own governance structure and membership. There are varied levels of communication both within individual groups and between the broader Kimberley Indigenous saltwater network. For effective Indigenous representation on the Network Advisory Committee we recommend further support for discussion between the general Kimberley saltwater peoples network. This could take place in the form of workshops such as those held in Broome early 2017.

We believe the commercial activity that takes place in Commonwealth waters has the potential to directly impact on the life and health of waters closer to shore. In relation to Zoning, we observe the Recreational Use and National Park Zones that buffer our waters. We would like to express concerns over the allowance of the ‘construction and operation of pipelines’ within these areas. We view these activities as high risk, regarding potential impacts to the marine ecosystem. We would also like to see National Park and Sanctuary Zones extend across a greater expanse of the North-west Marine Reserve. Specifically along areas adjacent to Native Title determinations.

Dambimangari would also like to express interest in creating employment and development opportunities for its people. We are hoping to be involved in any training, skill development and employment opportunities that may arise from the implementation and management of the Australian Marine Reserves. We strongly believe the management of commonwealth waters directly impacts the health and opportunities of our people’s future. We would also like to express a notion of support for comments submitted by our neighbouring Indigenous Saltwater groups across the North West Marine Reserve Network.

James Mansfield
Healthy Country / IPA Coordinator
M: +61 0 459 139 779
T: +61 8 9191 2393
F: +61 8 9191 2502
E: j.mansfield@dambi.org.au
<http://www.dambimangari.com.au/>



dambimangari
Aboriginal Corporation



IMPORTANT NOTICE: This e-mail message is intended to be received only by persons entitled to receive the confidential information it may contain. E-mail messages to clients of

Dambimangari Aboriginal Corporation may contain information that is confidential and legally privileged. Please do not read, copy, forward, or store this message unless you are an intended recipient of it. If you have received this message in error, please forward it to the sender and delete it completely from your computer system.