

Bianca

Please accept the Submission below for the Commonwealth Marine Parks Management Planning.

### **Commonwealth Marine Parks FWCAC Submission**

The Far West Coast Aboriginal Corporation are the Native Title Holders of the Far West Coast region, with the corresponding coastline and land adjacent the Commonwealth Marine Reserves under Native Title and or co-management. They are also Native Title Claimants for the Sea (NT Claim) for 3 nautical miles along that coastline including the islands.

As a Ministerially appointed Aboriginal Regional Authority, the FWCAC has Sea Management as a priority. This includes having involvement in planning , management and monitoring of any and all of the measurements being employed by Government and other parties relating to the Sea.

The FWCAC represents over 1600 Aboriginal Common Law holders in both the Native Title determined land and the Native Title claimed Sea as Agent for Native Title. 6 Cultural Groups are represented. The Kokatha, Mirning , Wirangu, Roberts, Yalata and Maralinga Tjarutja (Oak Valley). Of these 2 groups, the Mirning and Wirangu are known to be, and are formally recognised under Native Title as being coastal Aboriginal tribes.

The Mirning People who have a recognised strong attachment and responsibilities to the land and sea country of the Nullarbor (adjacent the Great Australian Bight Commonwealth Marine Reserve) and the Wirangu People who have a recognised strong attachment and responsibilities to the land and sea country across the remainder of the FWCAC region facing several zones are represented as common law holders of Native Title both in the determined land areas and in the current Sea Claim. Both groups are currently involved in Co-management of land with the Nullarbor Advisory Committee and the Yumberra Co-management Board respectively.

The FWCAC have plans to implement a Sea and Land Rangers program for sea country and coastal protection, maintenance, collaborative management and cultural heritage projects. The FWCAC has established our own Centre of Excellence in Ceduna, and as part of this process of examination and focus are working towards having a comprehensive and meaningful impact through Aboriginal management and care of the sea and land.

Cultural values held by the Common Law holders relative to the Sea, are respected, valued and upheld by the Corporation. The care and protection of the waters, coastline, marine creatures, marine environments and sea resources correspond directly with cultural stories and important cultural sites and knowledge.

The FWCAC seek to have these values respected and validated through their own planning and action and through participation in the Commonwealth Marine Reserves Management Program itself.

The FWAC Board of elected Directors has reviewed the material presented. The FWAC is very keen to participate under the Management Program, the FWCAC wish to be involved, consulted and communicated with regarding all aspects of the development, implementation,

monitoring and review of the Management Program. The FWCAC recognise the zones other than the Commonwealth Marine Reserves themselves which also have bearing on the FWC Sea Country.

As the FWCAC are more than just a stakeholder group, engaging with the FWCAC should include adequate representation on management or planning boards or committees that arise under this plan or are existing, regular communication, involvement in research, relevant findings and all collaborative management opportunities, access to other information relevant to independent Aboriginal management of Sea Country throughout this plans practical application.

Please find contact details for any queries on this submission in the signature lines below.

Regards

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I acknowledge the Far West Coast Aboriginal Peoples as the Native Title holders of this Land and Sea that I live and work on. I recognise their authority, knowledge and history. I value their contemporary vision for success and independence as a Nation.

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