

## Template 9

Number of submissions using this template: 398

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Dear Director of National Parks,

The offshore waters of the Kimberley remain one of the most pristine ocean environments left on the planet. When you consider the final management plans for the Commonwealth Marine Parks, I urge you to adjust the plans to protect the following special places:

- The spectacular Rowley Shoals are a major tourism and recreation asset for Western Australia. The draft plan allows for damaging trawling alongside the shoals, yet no protection for the tourism and recreation sector has been offered. The waters surrounding the Rowley Shoals should be placed in habitat protection zones to permanently protect the area from risky oil and gas mining. Your government has recently rejected petroleum acreage releases in the area so please follow through and protect this place by law. The marine national park zone in the deep water of the Argo-Rowley Terrace Park should be returned to its original size as recommended by the Expert Scientific Panel.

- The 80 Mile and Roebuck marine parks are areas critical to the Pearling industry and are both adjacent to RAMSAR-listed wetlands. New evidence suggests that seismic testing can kill pearl oyster larvae and any decline in water quality will be devastating to the economically important Kimberley Pearling industry. This area is the pathway of the world's largest whale migration, which is becoming increasingly important to Broome tourism. Please place these two reserves in special purpose (mining exclusion) zones and end seismic testing and mining in these areas.

- The Kimberley Commonwealth marine park is also poorly protected. I urge you to create a marine national park zone in the North Kimberley to reflect the zoning in the state marine park. The Lacepede Islands are one of the most important seabird and turtle breeding colonies in Australia, yet they have received no protection from mining development in this plan. Seabirds forage over a large area around the islands and any mining accidents would be particularly devastating to this important colony. Please protect the waters surrounding the Lacepede Islands in a habitat protection zone.

Please accept this letter as my submission for the development of the final management plans for the North West marine parks.