



[L] ParksWildlife
System
ParksWildlifeConcept Plan 2015-015

[R] ParksWildlifeScience Directorate Information

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Printed Jan. 19, 2016, 9:59 a.m. [R]
Page 1 of ??

Concept Plan 2015-015

Project title

Establishing long-term monitoring in the proposed Dampier Archipelago marine reserves

Science and Conservation Division Program

Marine Science

Parks and Wildlife Service

Service 2: Conserving Habitats, Species and Ecological Communities

Background and Aims

The Dampier Archipelago is situated adjacent to Karratha, 1,650 km north of Perth in the Pilbara Nearshore marine bioregion. The marine and coastal environment of the Dampier Archipelago/Cape Preston Region has a complex structure of islands and supports diverse intertidal and subtidal habitats that include rocky reefs, corals, mangroves, macro-algae and soft sediments. The area is subject to increasing human pressures, including the development and expansion of several heavy industries that have required port infrastructure and dredging. The archipelago waters also support pearling and aquaculture and commercial and recreational fishing. High levels of private boat ownership in adjacent communities suggest that visitor use of this area is high. Part of the archipelago waters have been identified as a proposed marine conservation reserve and an Indicative Management Plan was released in 2005 outlining how the outstanding marine ecological assets and social values of the area can be managed and protected.

This project will implement long-term monitoring within the proposed Dampier Archipelago marine reserves in a manner consistent with the 2005 Indicative Management Plan.

Expected outcome

This project will ensure that a prioritised, long-term monitoring program focused on key ecological assets and selected social values will be in place when the proposed Dampier Archipelago marine reserves are gazetted. The monitoring program will record the condition of ecological assets and social values and the pressures acting on them.

This will:

- Provide an understanding of the baseline condition of key ecological assets and selected social values of the proposed Dampier Archipelago marine reserves and the pressures acting on them;
- Identify and trial new monitoring indicators, methods and operating procedures for ecological assets for which these are not currently in place;
- Develop collaborations with other Agencies, industry, academic institutions and traditional owners;
- Create awareness in the broader community of the ecological assets and social values of the proposed Dampier Archipelago marine reserves, the issues that affect these assets, and the role of conservation management in protecting them.

Strategic context

This project aligns with the following Departmental strategic priorities:
Department of Parks and Wildlife Strategic Directions 2014-2017.

- Focus conservation science on management priorities.
- Ensure conservation management is based on best practice science.

Science and Conservation Division Strategic Plan 2014-2017.

Expected collaborations

Collaborations will be developed with other State and Commonwealth Government agencies (such as AIMS, CSIRO and the Western Australian Museum), industry partners (such as Woodside and the Pilbara Ports Authority), WA universities, local stakeholder groups, regional Parks and Wildlife staff and Traditional Owners.

Proposed period of the project

July 15, 2014 – June 30, 2019

Staff time allocation

Role	Year 1	Year 2	Year 5
Scientist	1.25	1.25	1.25
Technical	0.25	0.25	0.25
Volunteer			
Collaborator			

Indicative operating budget

Source	Year 1	Year 2	Year 5
Consolidated Funds (DPaW)			
External Funding			

Endorsements

Endorsements and approvals as of Jan. 19, 2016, 9:59 a.m.:

Project Team	granted
Program Leader	granted
Directorate	granted