

Concept Plan SP 2012-007

**Review, assess and summarise historical data
relevant to the management of the proposed
Dampier Archipelago Marine Park and Regnard
Marine Management Area**

Marine Science

Project Core Team

Supervising Scientist

Kim Friedman

Data Custodian

Site Custodian

Project status as of July 26, 2017, 1:09 p.m.

Completed and closed

Document endorsements and approvals as of July 26, 2017, 1:09 p.m.

Project Team

granted

Program Leader

granted

Directorate

granted

Review, assess and summarise historical data relevant to the management of the proposed Dampier Archipelago Marine Park and Regnard Marine Management Area

Science and Conservation Division Program

Marine Science

Parks and Wildlife Service

Service 2: Conserving Habitats, Species and Ecological Communities

Aims

The focus of work for Pluto LNG Project Offset “d” is on implementing research and monitoring that is consistent with the State Government’s indicative management plan (IMP) for the Proposed Dampier Archipelago Marine Park and Regnard Marine Management Area (See Figure 1). As outlined in Section 7 of the IMP, while some aspects of the marine biodiversity in the proposed reserves is relatively well understood, knowledge about environmental processes and existing pressures on values of these reserves is limited. Management strategies for scientific activity within the proposed reserves include the implementation of programs to provide for monitoring and assessment of ecological processes and the levels of human impacts. Section 8.4 of the IMP outlines generic research objectives, strategies and targets, with the overarching objective of obtaining an appropriate understanding of the biodiversity and key ecological and social processes within the proposed reserves. This section also aims to promote research that improves knowledge of the reserve and the technical basis for management decisions. Similarly, section 8.5 addresses monitoring of the key ecological values at risk in, and the human usage of, the proposed reserves. It also aims to promote ecological and social monitoring that will detect changes to ecological values to inform management.

Pluto LNG Project Offset “d” involves a suite of four inter-related projects which are:

- (i) Review, assess and summarise historical data relevant to the management of the proposed Dampier Archipelago Marine Park and Regnard Marine Management Area;
- (ii) Determine distribution, patterns and key processes of major marine communities and large marine fauna of the proposed Dampier Archipelago Marine Park and Regnard Marine Management Area;
- (iii) Describe patterns and trends in human use in the proposed Dampier Archipelago Marine Park and Regnard Marine Management Area; and
- (iv) Establish long-term monitoring reference sites in the proposed Dampier Archipelago Marine Park and Regnard Marine Management Area.

Large amounts of marine environmental and social data have been collected by a range of agencies and industry in this area since the late 1970s. This data was collected as part of industry development approvals processes, post-approval compliance monitoring programs, State and Commonwealth Government marine research and monitoring programs, university research programs and community projects. This project concentrates on project (i) of the four projects listed above and will identify, assess and collate existing datasets in relation to the marine biodiversity and human use of the proposed Dampier Archipelago Marine Park and Regnard Marine Management Area. This information will be used to establish long-term monitoring sites, enabling assessment of trends in biodiversity asset condition, pressures acting on these assets, and the efficiency and effectiveness of management responses to these pressures. Data will be incorporated into a marine information management system to secure future access to all information (i.e. ‘one-stop shop’ approach).

Expected outcome

This project will provide an improved understanding for government, industry and the local community of historical trends in marine biodiversity asset condition and human use of this region, and the effectiveness of past management programs. It will also identify existing and potential issues and risks where future management action may be needed.

Consistent with the IMP, this project will provide the information, and a scientific platform, to drive future research and monitoring programs in the Dampier Archipelago area, and facilitate planning and implementation of

the remaining Pluto LNG Project Offset “d” projects. Outputs and information generated through this project will further benefit regional managers through the provision of both contextual and technical information to aid in the development of coastal and marine management programs. This project will also seek to formalise and refine the methodology to construct historical time-series datasets developed by the Marine Science Program, and link in with procedures established through the Department of Environment and Conservation Science Division, Marine Science Program Information Management Strategic Plan 2011-2014 (Mayer et al. in prep).

Given the nature of this project it is likely that some aspects will continue through the life of the Pluto LNG Project Offset ‘D’ program. Although historical time-series data will be prepared within the allotted time period of project (i), acquisition and/or further processing of some data may be required. The final project report will include details of the work that has been completed, as well as recommendations on any further data acquisition or processing that may be of benefit.

Strategic Outcomes:

The project addresses strategies in the following documents:

- DEC Corporate Plan (2007-2009): 1.2; 4.1; 7.6; 8.3; 8.4; 8.5; 8.8.
 - DEC Science Division Strategic Plan for Biodiversity Conservation Research (2008-2017): 1.2, 1.7, 1.12; 2.11; 3.1; 3.7; 3.8; 3.9; 4.2; 4.8; 4.10; 5.2; 5.5; 6.7
 - Indicative Management Plan for the Proposed Dampier Archipelago and Cape Preston Marine Management Area.

Strategic context

The project addresses or contributes to strategies in the following documents:

- Corporate Plan (2007-2009): 1.2; 4.1; 7.6; 8.3; 8.4; 8.5; 8.8.
- Science Division Strategic Plan for Biodiversity Conservation Research (2008-2017): 1.2, 1.7, 1.12; 2.11; 3.1; 3.7; 3.8; 3.9; 4.2; 4.8; 4.10; 5.2; 5.5; 6.7
- Management Plan for the proposed Dampier Archipelago and Regnard Marine Management Area

Expected collaborations

Collaborations will be developed, as appropriate, with other State and Commonwealth Government agencies and research institutions, the Dampier Port Authority, WA universities, locally-based resource companies and local stakeholder groups.

Proposed period of the project

None – None

Staff time allocation

Role	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Scientist			
Technical			
Volunteer			
Collaborator			

Indicative operating budget

Source	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Consolidated Funds (DPaW)			
External Funding			