

Summary and analysis of public submissions to the draft joint management plan for the proposed Lalang-garram / Horizontal Falls and North Lalang-garram marine parks, and proposed Oomeday National Park



Waterfall, West Talbot Bay, Photo by Kimberley Media

October 2016

**Planning Branch
Department of Parks and Wildlife**

1. Introduction

On 16 October 2015, the *Proposed Lalang-garram / Horizontal Falls and North Lalang-garram marine parks, and proposed Oomeday National Park draft joint management plan (DJMP) 2015* was released by the Minister for Environment and Dambimangari Traditional Owners for a three-month public submission period, which closed on 22 January 2016. A total of 18,466 submissions were received. This document summarises the key issues raised in the submissions.

2. Plan distribution

Coinciding with the release of the DJMP, a public notice about the proposal was published in the *Government Gazette* and *The West Australian* and *Broome Advertiser* newspapers, as required under s14 (2) of the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984 (CALM Act)*. The plan was distributed to relevant Ministers, State Government departments and Local Government as per s14 (3A) and s59 (5) and (8) of the CALM Act. Notifications of the release and/or DJMPs were also distributed to tertiary institutions, libraries, peak bodies, stakeholder groups and numerous individuals who expressed an interest during the planning process. Copies of the DJMP were made available at the Broome and Kensington offices of the Department of Parks and Wildlife (Parks and Wildlife), the Dambimangari Aboriginal Corporation office in Derby and the Department of Fisheries office in Broome. Social media was used by Parks and Wildlife to further notify the public about the proposal and submission period. Digital copies of the DJMP and a Survey Monkey online submission form were made available on the Parks and Wildlife website, where interested parties were encouraged to lodge submissions online.

3. Submission processing and analysis methods

A total of 18,466 submissions were received comprising: 66 submissions sent directly to Parks and Wildlife (43 online Survey Monkey forms; 23 written submissions via email or post); and 18,400 submitted through conservation non-government organisations (CNGOs). Several CNGOs ran campaigns that resulted in a large number of submissions. Most of the submissions received through CNGOs included suggested text provided by the CNGOs, though many also included additional individual comments.

Every submission was considered in the analysis. Information was recorded relating to the submitter's contact details and location, submitter type where provided (recreational fisher, diver, Kimberley local etc.) and key points raised.

This report includes an overview of submitter demographics, an explanation of the key issues raised in submissions, a summary of key issues by sector, and a summary of responses to key issues and modifications made to the final plan.

4. Who provided feedback?

Forty submissions were received from organisations or peak bodies representing conservation, commercial fishing, recreational fishing, tourism, industry, scientific, and government sectors (see Appendix 1 for the list of individual organisations).

Submissions from the CNGOs came through: The Pew Charitable Trusts (Pew), the Conservation Council of Western Australia (CCWA), Environs Kimberley (EK), Save our Marine Life (SOML), the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), Kimberley Like Nowhere Else, and the Australian Marine Conservation Society (AMCS). Both hard copy and electronic submissions were generated through the Kimberley Like Nowhere Else campaign run jointly by Pew, EK, CCWA, AMCS and The Wilderness Society (TWS).

Of the nine different CNGO mechanisms from which submissions were received, two were proforma or petition style submissions where submitters provided contact details and/or identified a user

type, while all other text was set as standard. For the other seven CNGO mechanisms, submitters were able to select the key messages they wanted to submit from the suggested text provided, resulting in a range of messages received. Of the submissions received through CNGOs, 16,059 contained only standard text suggested by the CNGO, while 2,341 included some unique or individually-written comment instead of, or in addition to, the suggested text.

Submissions were received from 46 different nations (see Appendix 2). There were 947 submissions received from international postcodes and all but two of these were received via CNGOs; 10,929 submissions were received from Australian states or territories other than Western Australia (WA); and 3,237 were received from WA. Of the 3,237 submissions from WA, 177 were from the Kimberley, with 143 submitters currently living in the Kimberley, and an additional 34 submitters currently residing elsewhere in Australia or internationally, but who identified themselves as Kimberley locals (e.g. they grew up in the Kimberley or have spent considerable time living in the Kimberley). Of the 177 submissions from the Kimberley, 147 were received via CNGOs. A small proportion of responders (386 or just over 2 per cent) indicated that they had visited the area. There were 3,352 submissions that did not specify a location. Figure 1 shows the number and origin of the submissions.

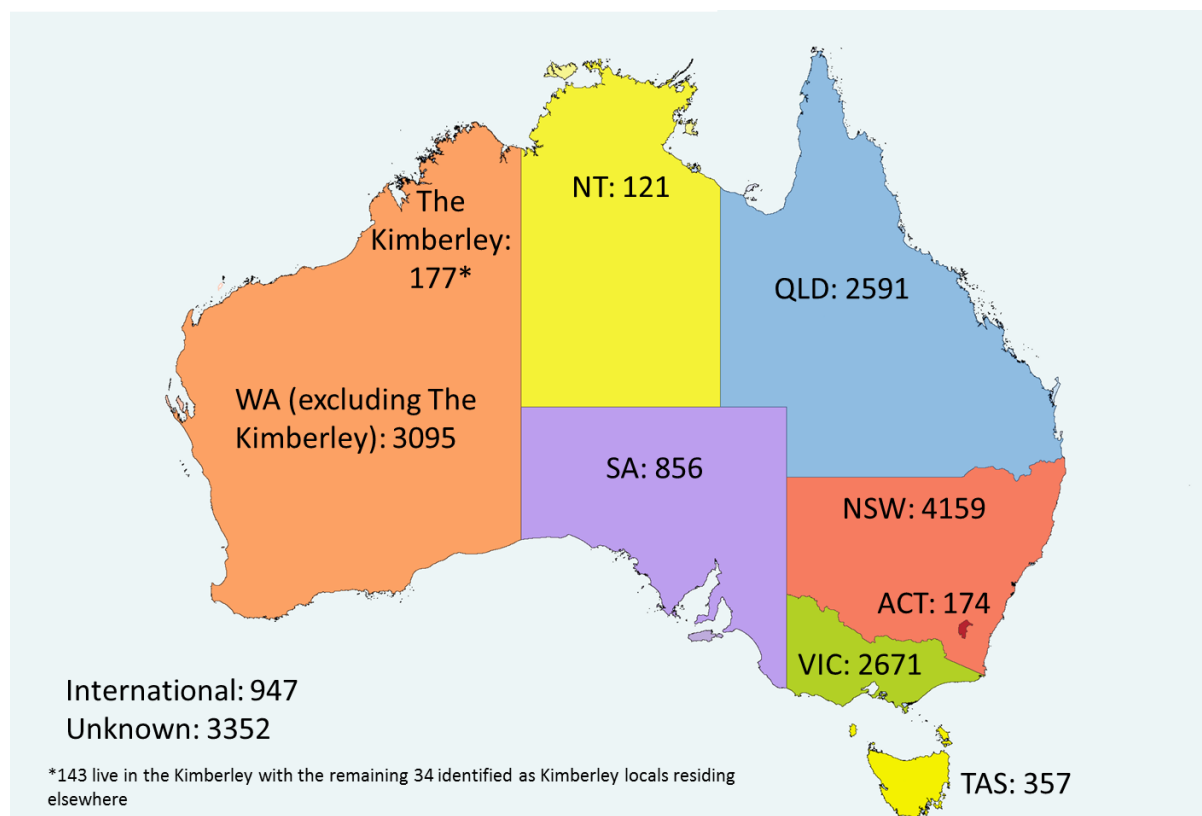


Figure 1: Numbers and origin of submissions (map source: Wikipedia).

5. Key issues

5.1 Establishment of the proposed marine park

The majority of submissions across all interests and sectors supported the establishment of the marine parks. Submissions made via CNGOs included recurring comments seeking protection for the wilderness value, uniqueness, aesthetic beauty or intrinsic value of the proposed parks for future generations, and commenting that the protection of the Kimberley and the parks is important at a global scale.

5.2 Proposed marine parks zoning scheme

Proposed sanctuary zones

The key issue across all submissions was the proposed sanctuary zones. Of the 18,466 submissions, 14,476 supported and/or sought an increase in sanctuary zones, eleven did not support the sanctuary zoning generally, 19 requested amendments to, or did not support specific sanctuary zones and 3,960 did not comment on the zoning scheme.

Of the 177 submitters who reside in the Kimberley or identified as Kimberley locals, 135 supported and/or sought an increase in sanctuary zones, eleven requested amendments to the sanctuary zones, ten did not support the sanctuary zones generally and twenty-one did not comment on the zoning scheme.

Of the submissions that were supportive of, or sought an increase in the sanctuary zones, the majority were received through via CNGOs, with twelve received through Survey Monkey or written submissions. Comments supporting the proposed sanctuary zones included:

- the zoning arrangements are well placed in significant areas for biodiversity, establishing the first ever protection of the Kimberley's significant estuary habitats while protecting some of the most unique coral reef habitats;
- the zones protect specific values of high ecological and cultural importance while representing most of the habitats in the parks; and
- the zones achieve a balance between sanctuary zones and recreational fishing access and amenity in higher use areas of the marine park.

Some submitters made specific comments proposing additional, or providing reasons for more, sanctuary zones. The majority of these came from submissions via CNGOs, but also included written submissions from the scientific community. Comments included requests to:

- establish a sanctuary zone in the proposed North Lalang-garram Marine Park at Booby Island to protect high biodiversity coral reefs and foraging grounds for breeding seabirds;
- the lack of sanctuary zoning in North Lalang-garram Marine Park was seen as a significant gap in the plan by some submitters.
- join the Mooloogoob (Kingfisher Island) and Ganbadba (Turtle Reef) sanctuary zones to protect key deep water habitats;
- extend lledda (Walcott Inlet) sanctuary zone to protect more habitats and provide linkages with deep water habitats;
- establish a sanctuary zone in Dugong Bay to protect important habitats;
- include a sanctuary zone in Collier Bay to protect the humpback whale nursery;
- protect all sawfish and dolphin habitats from gillnetting and prawn trawling in sanctuary zones and special conservation zones;
- create additional sanctuary zones to protect whales particularly from dredging, dredge spoil dumping and seismic testing; and
- apply world-class protection for the marine parks with many of the submissions received via CNGO's calling for an increase in the level of sanctuary zone protection to match that of Ningaloo Marine Park and many referencing the statement "Developing a Great Kimberley Marine Park" signed by over 100 marine scientists which called for the Great Kimberley Marine Park to exceed scientifically recommended international conservation targets (>30% of the region in sanctuary zone).

The submissions that did not support the zoning scheme generally or did not support specific sanctuary zones were received from the recreational, commercial fishing and tourism sectors. These

submitters sought continued access for fishing and tourism. The reasons cited for not supporting the sanctuary zones included:

- that there is a high level of natural protection and currently a low level of impact from recreational fishers and tourism operators, with not enough people visiting the Kimberley to warrant sanctuary zones;
- that existing fisheries management including bag and size limits should be used in lieu of sanctuary zones;
- that there was a lack of scientific justification for establishing the zones, and that monitoring should take place first before introducing zones;
- that sanctuary zones may impact local businesses;
- general concern about being ‘locked out’ of areas; and
- general concern that the introduction of sanctuary zones would cause displaced effort and an increase in pressure on other areas.

These submissions also included alternative management suggestions such as increasing limitations on anchoring and reef walking, increasing ranger presence, including artificial reefs, monitoring fish stocks, including more controls on or buying out commercial fishing and using alternate zoning such as benthic protection zones, wilderness fishing zones or special purpose zones (recreation and conservation).

In relation to comments on each proposed zone, Table 3 shows the number of submissions that supported, had no concerns with, or did not support particular sanctuary zones. Support for particular sanctuary zones generally reflected the submissions made via CNGOs.

Table 1: Comment on individual sanctuary zones

	Sanctuary Zone							
	Ganbadba (Turtle Reef)	Garaanngaddim (Horizontal Falls)	Mooloogoob (Kingfisher)	Iledda (Walcott)	Deewai (3 ways)	Ngumbree (Ruby Falls)	Gandooddalgal (Storr Is)	Dirindja (Glenelg)
Support for sanctuary zone	14365	14331	14364	14347	14329	14328	14329	14329
Had no concerns with sanctuary zone	0	1	0	2	2	0	2	2
Does not support sanctuary zone	3	1	5	11	5	17	1	8
No comment on sanctuary zone	4098	4133	4097	4106	4130	4121	4134	4127

The proposed Ngumbree, Iledda and Dirindja sanctuary zones had the highest number of responders that did not support them, and these submissions generally came from recreational and commercial fishing or tourism interests. In addition to the general comments listed above, the reasons submitters did not support individual zones included the following.

- Ganbadba (Turtle Reef) – This area is used for fishing, and would meet zoning objectives if it was zoned as special purpose zone (recreation and conservation).
- Garaanngaddim (Horizontal Falls) - One recreational fisher stated that the area is already effectively managed by current regulations and should be zoned as special purpose zone (recreation and conservation).
- Mooloogoob (Kingfisher Island) - One submitter was supportive of the sanctuary zone, however sought access for shore-based activities adjacent to a small lease area on Kingfisher Island. Two submitters were not supportive of the zone because of the close proximity to the sanctuary zone surrounding Montgomery Reef in Lalang-garram / Camden Sound Marine Park.

- Ngumbree (Ruby Falls) – The area is a destination for tourism operators and recreational and commercial fishers, is a popular site to catch mud crabs and is an important safe anchorage for overnight stays or during storms and bad wind conditions.
- Iledda (Walcott Inlet) – The area is a destination for tourism operators and commercial fishing and has a lot of scenic values. There were also concerns by one submitter that the sanctuary zone may cause safety issues if park users traversed the zone to access the eastern end of Walcott Inlet for fishing, and that the location of the zone would cause compliance issues due to limited boat access. It was suggested that the northern section of the zone could be amended to provide additional fishing access.
- Dirindja (Glenelg River) – The area is a destination for tourism operators and recreational and commercial fishers and is a focus for barramundi fishing in the late dry season. It was also suggested to shift the zone to protect crocodile breeding habitats in the Glenelg (rather than Gairdner) River system.
- Deewai (Three Ways) – This area is a destination for commercial fishers and tourism operators for fishing. One submitter suggested shifting this zone to the eastern river system of Three Ways.
- Gandoodalgal (Storr Is) – One submitter stated that this is a destination for their charter fishing business.

In addition to the zone amendments mentioned above, submitters also provided recommendations on a range of alternative sanctuary zone locations within Doubtful Bay, Collier Bay, Eagle Point or the Gairdner/Glenelg River areas to replace one or a combination of the Ngumbree, Iledda or Dirindja Sanctuary Zones.

Two submitters stated that they had no real concerns regarding the areas within Iledda, Deewai, Gandoodalgal and Dirindja becoming sanctuary, however they felt that the same outcomes could be achieved with special purpose (recreation and conservation) zoning. One submitter also stated that special purpose (recreation and conservation) zoning could achieve the same outcomes for the Garaangaddim Sanctuary Zone.

Special purpose zones (recreation and conservation)

Two submissions indicated full support for the proposed special purpose zones (recreation and conservation).

One submission representing the commercial fishing sector did not support the Traverse Island Special Purpose Zone due to impacts to commercial fishers being able to travel from the east to fish the western area of the proposed park.

Some submissions representing conservation interests suggested additional areas, currently proposed as general use, to be included as special purpose zone (recreation and conservation), including the remainder of Doubtful Bay (not already in sanctuary), Dugong Bay, Secure Bay, Three Ways, the western side of Talbot Bay and Collier Bay. In addition, one submission suggested amending all current general use zones to special purpose zones (recreation and conservation). The reasons cited for the inclusion of additional special purpose zones were to:

- provide increased protection from mining and commercial prawn trawling and gillnetting;
- increase complementarity with the Commonwealth Kimberley Marine Reserve;
- provide more effective protection for endangered sawfish, coastal dolphins and calving humpback whales, and to remove bycatch of protected dolphins, sea snakes, turtles and dugong;

- protect intertidal mudflat and mangrove habitats important as breeding and nursery areas;
- enhance wilderness tourism experiences; and
- enhance cultural values of Dambimangari people.

5.3 Commercial fishing

Concerns about commercial prawn trawling and gillnetting were raised in submissions from the conservation, recreational fishing, tourism and scientific sectors. The majority of submissions (in excess of 14,200, most of which were received via CNGOs) raised concerns about these activities and sought their removal from the parks. Specific comments included concerns about bycatch of fished species, crocodiles and species of conservation concern and the impact of lost or abandoned gear (e.g. ghost nets) on marine wildlife. Some submissions sought the extension of the buy-out of commercial gillnetting in Broome across the Lalang-garram / Horizontal Falls and North Lalang-garram marine parks.

5.4 Mining and development

The majority of submissions (over 14,500), received predominantly through the CNGOs, raised concerns about resources development, particularly copper mining in and around Horizontal Falls. Submissions that raised concerns about resources development included comments about the impacts of dredging and dredge spoil dumping, and seismic exploration.

A recurring comment from 9,268 submissions, received largely through the CNGOs, but also from across the conservation and scientific sectors, including one submitter from the oil and gas sector, called for changes to the permitted uses to remove the provision “assess” for mining and ship loading infrastructure in the Ganbadba Sanctuary Zone in the proposed Lalang-garram / Horizontal Falls Marine Park.

5.5 Sustainable tourism activities

Support for sustainable tourism was raised in submissions from the conservation, recreational fishing, tourism and scientific sectors with sustainable tourism viewed as an important area for future growth in the Kimberley and a long-term investment for the protection of the region and the economy at both a regional and State level. Sustainable tourism was supported by 14,963 submissions, most of which were received via CNGOs.

5.6 Joint management

The proposal to jointly manage the parks with Dambimangari People was supported by 12,728 submissions, received across all key stakeholder groups. In addition, 117 submissions expressed support for the protection of cultural heritage values, including important rock art sites, support for traditional management practices and/or support for cultural tourism.

Seven submissions, predominantly from the recreational fishing sector, stated that Traditional Owners should use traditional hunting methods for customary activities and five submissions stated that Traditional Owners should not be permitted to hunt/fish in sanctuary zones, or made a comment that it was divisive for Traditional Owners but not others to hunt/fish in sanctuary zones.

Two submissions, one from the social science sector and one representing Aboriginal interests expressed concern that the proposed parks would weaken Dambimangari native title rights, stating that the development of the parks was an unnecessary duplication given that an Indigenous Protected Area already exists in Dambimangari traditional country.

5.7 Other key issues

Other issues raised included:

- concerns about the proposed management of sewerage discharge from vessels in the marine parks;

- suggestions to include finfish and whales as high priority values;
- ensuring education and compliance of the zoning arrangements;
- maintaining access to Aboriginal rock art sites adjacent to the marine parks without being charged entry fees;
- concerns about water quality in the marine parks being impacted from run-off from adjacent terrestrial areas;
- concerns about climate change impacts to the marine park values;
- the suggestion to utilise tidal energy within the marine parks;
- the suggestion to ensure that management of the marine park ensures equitable access for people with disability; and
- the suggestion to include a reference to the adjacent Kimberley Commonwealth Marine Reserve.

5.8 Summary of issues raised by industry and community organisations

The following summary outlines issues raised by industry and community organisations across different sectors.

Commercial fishing and pearling interests

- General support for the park and appreciation of the consultative approach to the plan's development.
- Support for Talbot Bay and Kingfisher Island sanctuary zones; requested modification of other sanctuary zone boundaries due to impact on wild harvest of barramundi.
- Sought involvement of the fishing and pearling industries in park management framework.
- Comment that the plan needs more emphasis on resource use.
- Conditional support for zoning subject to compensation for impact on commercial fishing.

Recreational fishing

- General support for establishment of the parks.
- Recreational fishing values not adequately captured in the plan; objections raised to a range of sanctuary zones which are of high importance to the recreational and charter fishing sectors.
- Remoteness already affords protection and impact of recreational fishing would be negligible.
- Comments that there is no scientific evidence to support sanctuary zones and their creation would put pressure on other areas.
- The area is already managed effectively via existing fisheries, wildlife and charter boat regulations.
- Retain current access and use to these areas in following order of priority: Glenelg River, Walcott Inlet, Doubtful Bay/Ruby Falls, and Lower Three Ways.

Tourism operators

- General support for establishment of the parks and joint management.
- Mixed responses to sanctuary zones, with some commenting that they would have a negative impact on tourism operations, and others stating that a world-class level of sanctuary zones is imperative for long-term protection of the area and for the future of the tourism industry.
- Two submissions were opposed to sanctuary zones at Walcott Inlet and Doubtful Bay/Ruby Falls, which are safe, scenic locations where guests enjoy crabbing and fishing.
- Comments that current fisheries legislation ensures sustainable fishing so further protection in these areas is not required.
- Comments that if fish stocks need management, it should be via controls on professional fishing.
- Two submissions recommended that government buy out the commercial gillnetters to reduce bycatch and increase fish stocks for Traditional Owners, charter guests and recreational fishers.

- Several submissions expressed concerns about mining and gas exploration, with one submission stating that Australian and overseas travellers often comment on the increasing encroachment of mining in remote areas.
- One submission indicated that maintenance of current uses and access, particularly around Doubtful Bay, Sale River and Red Cone area, is of paramount importance to the tourism industry. Another submission outlined the outstanding natural values in Talbot Bay, including Turtle Reef, and stated that the area should be permanently protected in sanctuary zoning and free from extractive industries and fishing practices.
- Some submissions commented that the plan needs more emphasis on resource use; some felt the balance between conservation and resource use was about right; one submission thought the plan needed more emphasis on conservation.

Conservation non-government organisations

- Support for release of the plan and inclusion of the intertidal area and the eight sanctuary zones.
- General support for joint management.
- Support for the creation of further sanctuary zones as follows: between the proposed North Lalang-garram Marine Park and Lalang-garram / Camden Sound Marine Park; to connect the Kingfisher Bay and Turtle Islands sanctuary zones; and to extend the Walcott Inlet, Ruby Falls and Glenelg River sanctuary zones.
- Additional comments that new sanctuary zones are needed to protect the humpback whale nursery and other unique elements at South Collier Bay, Booby Island, Dugong Bay, Shoal Bay and Secure Bay, and that the current 24 per cent of the parks covered by sanctuary zones needs to be increased to reflect international benchmarks (at least 30 per cent).
- General opposition to large-scale dredging, dredge spoil dumping, seismic testing, gillnet fishing and trawling.
- General opposition to mining exploration, ship-loading and mining-related infrastructure development in sanctuary zones and special purpose (recreation and conservation) zones; one submission called for rejection of all mining tenements intersecting with the marine parks.

Scientific/research

- General support for the parks and plan.
- Comments that sanctuary zones should cover at least 30 per cent of the marine parks.
- Sanctuary zones should exclude oil and gas exploration and mining activities.
- One submission called for exclusion of mining and activities with high noise levels like geophysical surveys from the marine parks, particularly sanctuary zones.
- One submission called for a definite review of the plan in five years.
- Support for exclusion of prawn trawling, gillnet fishing, large-scale dredging and dredge spoil dumping from the marine parks.

Government organisations

- General support for the parks and plan, as well as joint management.
- One submission called for recognition of a wider range of recreation activities in the permitted uses table.
- General support for opportunities for Dambimangari people to generate income and receive employment and training benefits.
- Support for the plan's recognition that existing commercial tour/cruise ship operations will continue.
- One submission raised concern about the proposed Walcott Inlet sanctuary zone in terms of safety, practicality and fishing impacts, and the compliance challenges that the proposed zoning scheme will create, however it mostly supported the plan's management strategies.
- One submission pointed out that although the parks were very remote, any future services/facilities need to cater for all potential visitors, including those with a disability.

Others

- General comments that the plan needed more emphasis on resource use.
- Two submissions queried the prohibition on discharge of untreated sewage in the marine parks, which would exclude most recreational boat owners as it is too far to go outside the park to discharge sewage.
- One submission stated that non-Indigenous cultural values were not adequately recognised in the plan.
- One submission queried the creation of joint management conservation areas over exclusive possession native title areas that are already Indigenous Protected Areas, and felt that the plan needed more emphasis on conservation.

Summary of key issues raised by proforma submissions made via CNGOs

The following key messages were promoted through the CNGO campaigns.

- Support for establishment of the parks.
- General comments that the inclusion of eight sanctuary zones is welcomed, but critical areas remain unprotected and open to trawling, mining for oil and gas, and gillnetting.
- General opposition to: mineral and petroleum exploration and development; undersea pipelines, cables and ship-loading docks; seismic testing, dredging and dredge spoil dumping, prawn trawling and gillnetting in the marine parks.
- Comments that a world-class level of sanctuary zones is essential.
- Support for new and/or extended sanctuary zones, including:
 - to join the proposed Turtle Reef and Kingfisher Island sanctuary zones;
 - a new sanctuary zone at Dugong Bay;
 - to join the proposed Walcott Inlet sanctuary zone with deeper water; and
 - to include a sanctuary zone at Booby Island in the North Lalang-garram Marine Park.

6. Summary of responses to key issues and modifications to the joint management plan

All issues raised during the public submission period were considered. Additional contextual information has been included in a number of areas of the plan in response to questions and new information contained in a range of submissions.

Responses to the key issues raised, and any resulting modification to the joint management plan, are summarised below.

Zoning scheme

The revised zoning arrangements for the marine parks include the addition of the Mooloogoob Special Purpose Zone (recreation and conservation) within the Mooloogoob Sanctuary Zone in the Lalang-garram / Horizontal Falls Marine Park. The new special purpose zone will provide for additional recreational activities, including shore-based recreational fishing, adjacent to a sandy beach on Kingfisher Island.

While there was strong support for additional sanctuary areas, as well as some concerns raised about individual sanctuary zones, it was concluded that the level of sanctuary zoning was appropriate to achieve a balance of conservation, cultural and social use outcomes. The zoning schemes are based on a comprehensive, adequate and representative design and aim to protect ecologically and culturally important values such as mangroves and coral reefs. The zoning scheme also considers the needs of other park users such as commercial and recreational fishers.

In addition to the zoning scheme, a range of complementary management strategies, such as seasonal and temporal closures, speed restrictions and restrictions to foot access on intertidal coral

reefs are included in the plan to provide additional protection to marine fauna, habitats and communities.

The joint management plan commits the Conservation and Parks Commission and the Joint Management Body to undertake a five-year review of the adequacy of the zoning and management arrangements for the marine parks. The plan recognises that the values of the area are still being discovered, particularly through research by the Western Australian Marine Science Institute, and promotes an adaptive management approach.

This approach is supported by key State Government agencies, Dambimangari Traditional Owners and the Conservation and Parks Commission.

Commercial fishing

The comments made on commercial fishing, including commercial prawn trawling and gillnetting, have been noted, however no significant changes were considered necessary in response to the issues raised. The proposed marine parks recognise that commercial fishing is important to the economy of the Kimberley region. The proposed marine parks are zoned for multiple uses and commercial fishing is permitted in appropriate zones of marine parks. Commercial gillnetting and prawn trawling are not permitted in some areas of the Lalang-garram / Horizontal Falls Marine Park which are zoned as sanctuary or special purpose zones to protect the particular values of these areas.

Minimising the potential impacts of commercial fishing and pearling activities has been included in the plan as 'key management challenges' for a number of values. Management strategies are also included to research and monitor any ecosystem effects, as well as to investigate the extent and significance of any commercial fishing interactions with marine mammals and other protected species.

Management of the parks will provide a balanced approach to providing for sustainable uses, including commercial fishing, while achieving conservation outcomes.

Mining and development

The comments made on mining and development have been noted. Mineral exploration and development contributes significantly to the State's economy. The proposed marine parks are created for multiple uses and mineral exploration and development is permitted in appropriate zones of marine parks. No changes have been made to the permitted uses of the draft joint management plan in relation to mining activities. Within the marine parks, ground disturbing mineral and petroleum activities are not permitted within sanctuary or special purpose zones.

Mining and development proposals in the marine parks which are likely to have a significant effect on the environment may be referred to the Environmental Protection Authority and may be subject to the environmental impact assessment requirements of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. Proposals may also be assessed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. The management plan includes mineral exploration and developments as a 'key management challenge' and states that assessments will need to be managed in recognition of the marine parks values.

Sustainable tourism activities

The support for sustainable tourism activities in the marine parks is noted. The proposed marine parks aim to protect some of the most significant tourist attractions on the Kimberley coast, including the world-renowned Horizontal Falls. Sustainable tourism is important to the Kimberley regional economy and will be actively promoted and supported by Parks and Wildlife in the creation

of the proposed marine parks. The majority of comments supported the approach to managing tourism in the marine park as such, no changes were required.

Joint management

The support for joint management of the marine parks is noted. Parks and Wildlife acknowledges and respects Dambimangari people as the Traditional Owners of the areas within the marine parks and recognises their strong and ongoing cultural connections over land and saltwater country. Parks and Wildlife has worked in partnership with Dambimangari Traditional Owners to develop zoning and management arrangements which will protect important cultural, ecological and social values and will provide for ongoing customary activities and uses within the jointly-managed marine parks.

Other modifications of significance

The State Government and Dambimangari Traditional Owners have agreed to focus on the establishment of new, jointly managed marine parks within Dambimangari country. As such, the proposed Oomeday National Park, which was included in the draft joint management plan, is not included in the final management plan.

Additional information has been included in the management plan on cultural values, along with the inclusion of cultural sites as a high priority value. In response to submissions made on the management plan, finfish have now also been included as a high priority value.

In response to submissions made on the management of sewage discharge from vessels, amendments have been made to the permitted uses table for special purpose and general use zones to indicate that impacts will be monitored and managed in accordance with applicable legislation. An additional amendment has also been made to the permitted uses to provide for the assessment of general marine infrastructure within special purpose zones (recreation and conservation).

In response to a submission made on disability access in the marine parks, an additional management consideration has been included related to relevant legislation, policies and guidelines supporting disability access.

Appendix 1

Aboriginal Organisation

Kimberley Land Council
Swan Valley Nyungah Community

Commercial fishing and aquaculture

Ainsworth Fishing
Western Australian Fishing Industry Council Inc.

Conservation groups

Centre for Conservation Geography
Environs Kimberley
Friends of Jervis Bay Marine Park
The Pew Charitable Trusts
WWF - Australia

Government

Aboriginal Lands Trust
Department of Aboriginal Affairs
Department of Fisheries
Department of Mines and Petroleum
Department of Planning
Department of Sport and Recreation
Department of Water
Disability Services Commission
Parks Australia
State Heritage Office
Tourism Western Australia
Western Australian Museum

Recreational fishing

Mary Island Fishing Club
Recfishwest

Sailing Club

Kimberley Coast Cruising Yacht Club

Scientific/Research

Australian Marine Sciences Association WA
Southern Cross University
The University of Sydney
University of Saskatchewan
University of Western Australia

Tourism operators

Best of the Kimberley
CMC Marine
Coral Princess/Coral Expeditions
Fish n Trips
Go Bush Safaris
Kimberley Quest
Lady M Luxury Cruises
North Star Cruises Australia
Odyssey Expeditions
Reel Teaser Fishing Adventures
The Great Escape Charter Company

Appendix 2

Submissions were received from 46 nations.

Country	Country	Country
Afghanistan	Gabon	Poland
Argentina	Germany	Portugal
Australia	Greece	Romania
Austria	Guatemala	Serbia
Azerbaijan	Hong Kong	Singapore
Bahamas	Hungary	South Africa
Belgium	Israel	Spain
Brazil	Italy	Sweden
Canada	Japan	Switzerland
Chile	Lithuania	Thailand
Cook Islands	Mauritius	Trinidad and Tobago
Croatia	Mexico	United Arab Emirates
Denmark	Netherlands	United Kingdom
El Salvador	New Zealand	United States
Finland	Nicaragua	
France	Norway	