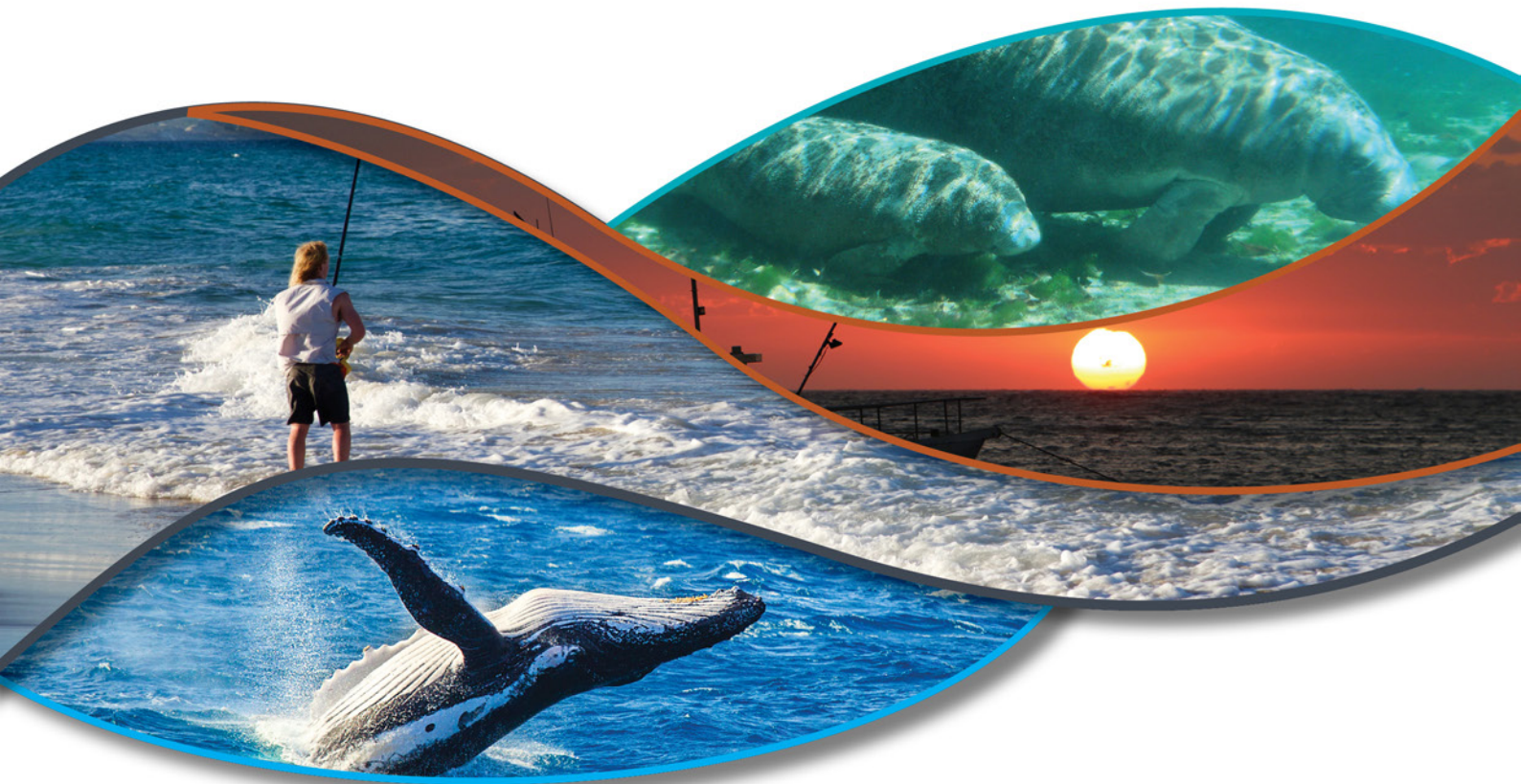


Great Sandy Marine Park discussion paper

Zoning plan opportunities



© The State of Queensland 2019

The Queensland Government supports and encourages the dissemination and exchange of its information. The copyright in this publication is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 Australia (CC BY) licence.



Under this licence you are free, without having to seek permission from Department of Environment and Science, to use this publication in accordance with the licence terms.

You must keep intact the copyright notice and attribute the State of Queensland as the source of the publication.

For more information on this licence visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/4.0/au/deed.en>

Disclaimer

This document has been prepared with all due diligence and care, based on the best available information at the time of publication. The Queensland Government holds no responsibility for any errors or omissions within this document. Any decisions made by other parties based on this document are solely the responsibility of those parties. Information contained in this document is from a number of sources and, as such, does not necessarily represent government policy.

If you need to access this document in a language other than English, please call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National) on 131 450 and ask them to telephone Library Services on +61 7 3170 5725.

#31640

Message from the Minister

The Great Sandy Marine Park, extending from Baffle Creek in the north to Double Island Point in the south, is an amazing place. Covering around 6000km², it's home to a diverse range of plants and animals.

The area is known for its breathtaking natural beauty and cultural significance. It supports an extensive nature-based tourism sector, a wide range of recreational activities, many commercial enterprises, and is bordered by small coastal communities and regional population centres.

Like all Queensland marine parks, the Great Sandy Marine Park was established to achieve a balance between conservation of the marine environment and its use for a variety of recreational, commercial and other activities.

The natural values of the Great Sandy region are internationally recognised. A large part of the marine park is listed as a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance. It also surrounds K'gari (Fraser Island), the world's largest sand island and a World Heritage listed area.

A review of the Great Sandy Marine Park Zoning Plan is underway. The review aims to identify and explore opportunities to better protect the marine environment, while continuing to allow for recreational, commercial and other activities to take place in the park.

It will look at the existing zoning plan, draw upon the available science, and take into account the feedback provided by stakeholders and the community who live, work and play in and around the marine park.

Continual improvement of the marine park's management is increasingly important in the face of a changing climate, increased usage and the community's desire for better protection of the values that make the Great Sandy Marine Park such an amazing place.

I encourage you to read this Discussion Paper and take advantage of the opportunity to provide your feedback on the future of the Great Sandy Marine Park by visiting www.getinvolved.qld.gov.au.



Leeanne Enoch MP

Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef,
Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts

Contents

Message from the Minister	3
Contents	4
Introduction	5
Purpose.....	5
What do you think?.....	6
Management review process.....	7
Boundary and zone mapping.....	7
Discussion paper format	8
Park wide	8
Regions	8
Great Sandy Marine Park zoning plan.....	10
Developing a zoning plan	10
Achieving marine conservation outcomes.....	10
Park-wide management	14
Cultural heritage.....	14
Non-Indigenous heritage.....	16
Conservation	18
Shorebirds	18
Habitat types and zoning.....	19
Use and zoning.....	23
Great Sandy Area	23
Non-conforming uses.....	25
Commercial bait netting in conservation park zones	26
Visitors	27
Coastal development.....	28
Regional management	30
Bundaberg coast	30
Woongarra Coast	32
Woodgate and Burrum Coast	34
Hervey Bay Coast	37
Central and Eastern Hervey Bay	39
Offshore	42
Northern Great Sandy Strait	45
Central Great Sandy Strait.....	48
Southern Great Sandy Strait	50
Zoning plan opportunities survey	53



Introduction

The Great Sandy Marine Park was established in 2006 and covers an area of approximately 6000 km². Extending from Baffle Creek in the north to Double Island Point in the south the marine park includes the waters of Hervey Bay, Great Sandy Strait, Tin Can Bay Inlet and the waters off the east coast of K'gari (Fraser Island), seaward to the extent of Queensland state waters (three nautical miles). Like all Queensland marine parks, it is a multiple use area supporting conservation while providing opportunities for a range of recreational, commercial and tourism opportunities.

In conjunction with the *Marine Parks Act 2004* and the Marine Parks Regulation 2017, the Great Sandy Marine Park zoning plan provides for the management of the Great Sandy Marine Park to protect and conserve the significant environmental, social, cultural and economic resources and values in the Bundaberg/Fraser Coast region. To ensure that the management of the marine park remains relevant and effective for its long-term conservation and sustainable use, periodic reviews of the zoning plan are required. This discussion paper forms part of the review process.



Purpose

This discussion paper seeks public input on conservation and management opportunities for the Great Sandy Marine Park zoning plan.

The goal is to ensure we have a marine park management framework that is best placed to support the long term protection of the many values within the park while also allowing a range of sustainable uses.

Comments received from the public and stakeholders since the marine park was declared in 2006, suggest that enhancements to its management may be achieved through actions that further:

- support the long-term health and resilience of reef communities
- balance conservation and use within the designated Great Sandy Area
- protect dugongs and turtles from potential boat strike and disturbance in shallow water habitat
- protect critical shorebird feeding, roosting and nesting habitat
- protect nesting turtles, hatchlings and their habitat
- protect the habitat of grey nurse shark
- recognise the effect of coastal processes in defining zone boundaries around creek mouths
- integrate the marine park with adjacent land uses and planning.

Public input on these matters and others will help guide future planning for the Great Sandy Marine Park. Zoning plan opportunities are presented throughout this discussion paper to help generate input, and explore the feasibility and level of support for possible updates or changes to the zoning plan.

What do you think?

The Queensland Government invites comment from all interested parties on suggested opportunities to enhance the zoning plan for the Great Sandy Marine Park. This feedback will inform the development of a revised zoning plan. Ideas/suggestions have been included throughout the discussion paper to prompt input. To assist with focusing review and feedback on location specific matters, regional overviews are provided.

You are invited to respond to the questions posed at the end of this document and more broadly, to provide comment on any issues you feel are relevant to this review. These questions are included in an online survey available on the Queensland Government's Get Involved website: www.getinvolved.qld.gov.au.

The use of this online form will significantly assist analysis of the feedback.

Alternatively, written submissions may be lodged by:

Email to: marine.policy@des.qld.gov.au

Mail to:

Great Sandy Marine Park zoning plan review
Department of Environment and Science
PO Box 15187, City East
Brisbane QLD 4001

Submissions close Monday 25 February 2019

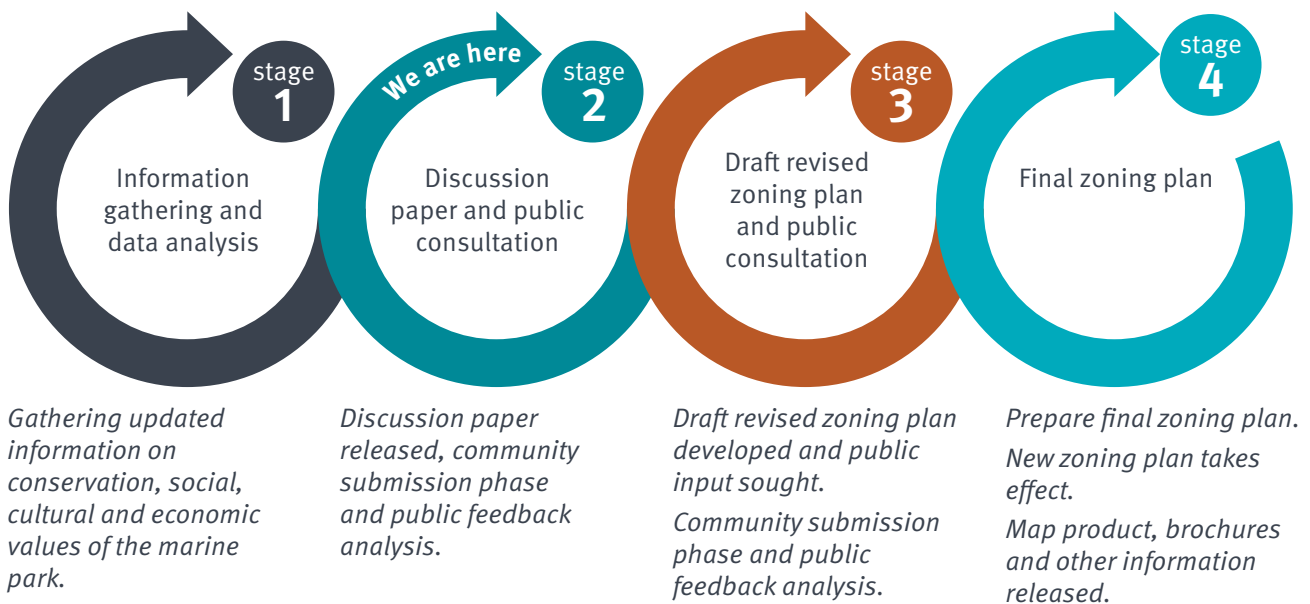
Management review process

The Great Sandy Marine Park review process consists of four key stages. Stage 1 has been completed. This stage was a data gathering exercise that has supported the development of this discussion paper.

This discussion paper forms part of stage 2 and further consultation will be conducted during stage 3.

Public input is critical in shaping the management of the marine park and ensuring that any changes to the zoning plan are effective, practical and well supported by the community.

Key stages in the zoning plan review



The Great Sandy Strait
© Nicola Udy

Boundary and zone mapping

In the 12 years since the marine park and zone boundaries were originally mapped there have been significant advances in mapping technology and in the resolution of satellite and aerial imagery. These advances now allow for identification and mapping of the landward boundary of the marine park with far greater accuracy.

In addition to delivering a more accurate mapping product, the boundary and zone maps will be available in a digital format that can be easily uploaded to contemporary geographic information systems (GIS) and applications (e.g. fishing apps). This will aid compliance with marine park rules and improve integration of the marine park into a wide range of land and marine planning initiatives. The revised mapping is expected to be released to coincide with Stage 3 of the management review process.

Discussion paper format

Opportunities to amend current management arrangements are identified throughout this discussion paper. Some of these management opportunities have local application such as a vessel go slow area, while others have more park-wide application or occur over a large geographic area such as the designated Great Sandy Area.

Management opportunities have been split into two parts in this discussion paper—those that are park-wide and those that apply at a regional level.

If you have an interest in a particular area or have a favourite part of the marine park please review the section of this paper that relates to that region while also taking the time to consider any park-wide matters. For example, if you are a regular user of the Burrum River please consider the 'Woodgate and Burrum Coast' region for a local area discussion on matters such as vessel go slow areas at the river mouth to reduce the risk of harm to turtles and dugong from boat strike, while also considering the park-wide section for discussion on fishing in the designated Great Sandy Area.

More detailed information on the habitats, species and regions mentioned in the discussion paper is provided online at www.des.qld.gov.au/parks/great-sandy-marine/.

Park-wide

Park-wide matters are those that apply to large parts of the marine park and their management has implications on the marine park as a whole. These are:

- protection of cultural resources and connections to country
- protection of shorebirds and their habitat from disturbance
- protection of a range of habitat types
- fishing in the designated Great Sandy Area
- continuation of non-conforming uses
- the use of commercial bait nets in conservation park zones
- visitor opportunities
- coastal development.

Regions

The marine park has been divided into nine regions to help identify key values or locations of an area and to support more localised analysis and feedback.

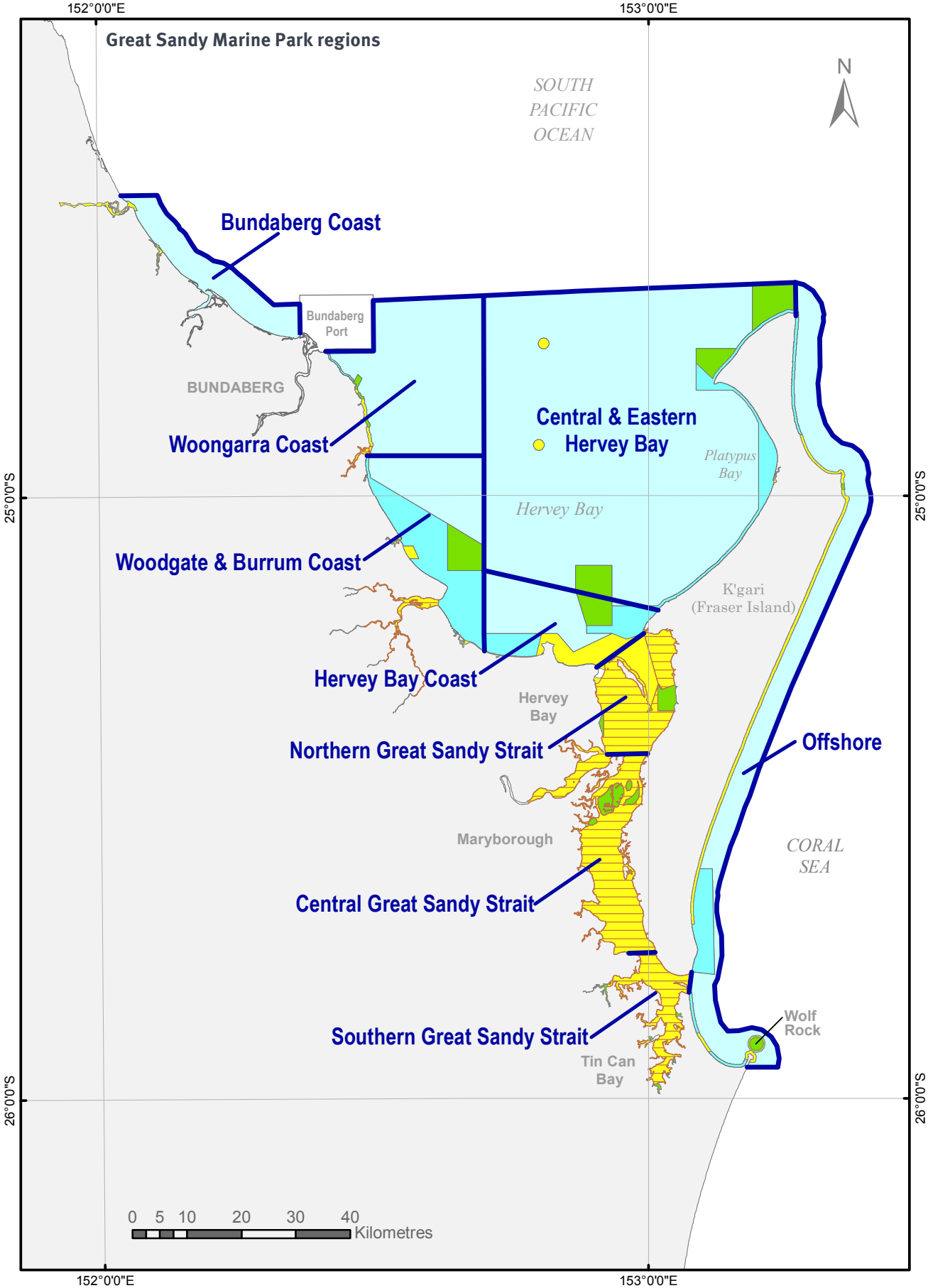
While the regional breakdown is a convenient method to focus discussion on zoning plan opportunities within particular areas, it is important to recognise that the marine park manages a connected and integrated natural ecosystem that flows across these arbitrary boundaries.

As mentioned, some feedback may require consideration of a regional area section plus the park-wide section.

The regions are:

1. Bundaberg Coast
2. Woongarra Coast
3. Woodgate and Burrum Coast
4. Hervey Bay Coast
5. Central and Eastern Hervey Bay
6. Offshore
7. Northern Great Sandy Strait
8. Central Great Sandy Strait
9. Southern Great Sandy Strait





Great Sandy Marine Park zoning plan

The Marine Parks (Great Sandy) Zoning Plan 2017 provides a management framework that aims to achieve conservation of the marine environment while also seeking to balance the community’s requirements for sustainable use of the area.

Specifically the zoning plan aims to:

- protect and conserve the biological diversity of ecosystems, habitats and populations within a network of highly protected areas and supporting designated areas
- protect high conservation values, including threatened species and internationally recognised wetlands
- provide opportunities for the ecologically sustainable use of, and access to, marine resources
- provide for a range of recreation, tourism, commercial and research opportunities
- provide for the protection of heritage values in the marine park
- recognise and allow for Aboriginal traditional use of marine park resources.

Developing a zoning plan

A range of key factors are considered during marine park planning processes to achieve the objective of the *Marine Parks Act 2004*, that being the conservation of the marine environment. Consideration of these factors is critical to developing marine park management arrangements. For example, any decision to include an area of habitat within a highly protected zone or to develop

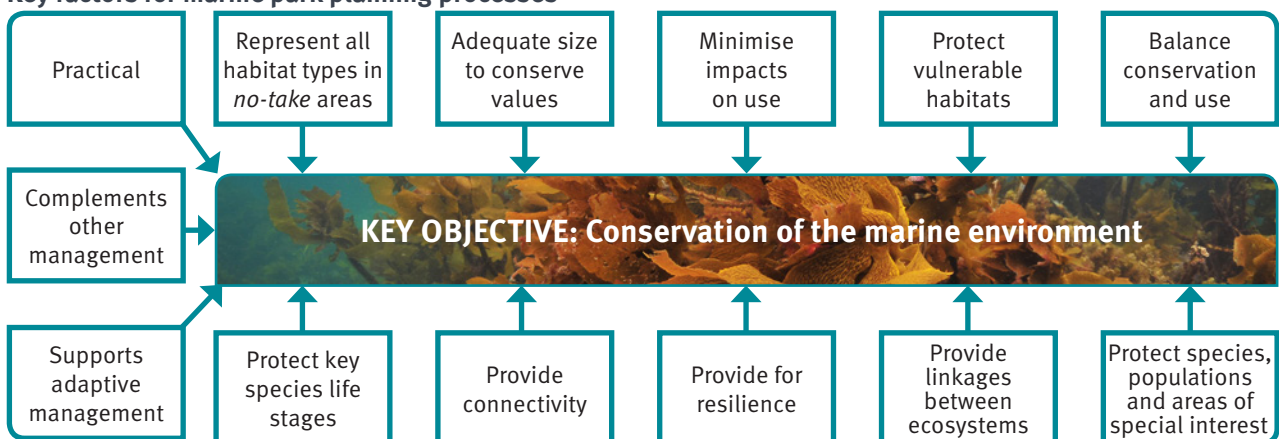
a designated area to protect a particular species, needs to also consider the potential effects on users and how the management arrangements can be efficiently implemented and enforced.

Achieving marine conservation outcomes

Since 2006 the zoning plan has provided for conservation objectives through:

- a system of spatially defined management zones, with the entire marine park allocated to one of five types of zones. The zones provide for different levels of protection and use
- eight categories of designated area that support management of particular values and uses at specific locations. Some of these include:
 - turtle conservation measures at Mon Repos to protect nesting turtles and regulate access
 - vessel go slow areas to reduce the risk of boat strike to turtles and dugong
 - shorebird roosting and feeding areas to protect shorebirds from disturbance
 - fish trap areas to protect Aboriginal cultural sites from anchor damage
 - Great Sandy Area enabling continued recreational fishing and licensed commercial fishing in the Baffle Creek, Elliott River, Burrum River, and Great Sandy Strait conservation park zones
- entry and use provisions for each zone which state which activities do or do not require permission before they can be undertaken in that zone

Key factors for marine park planning processes

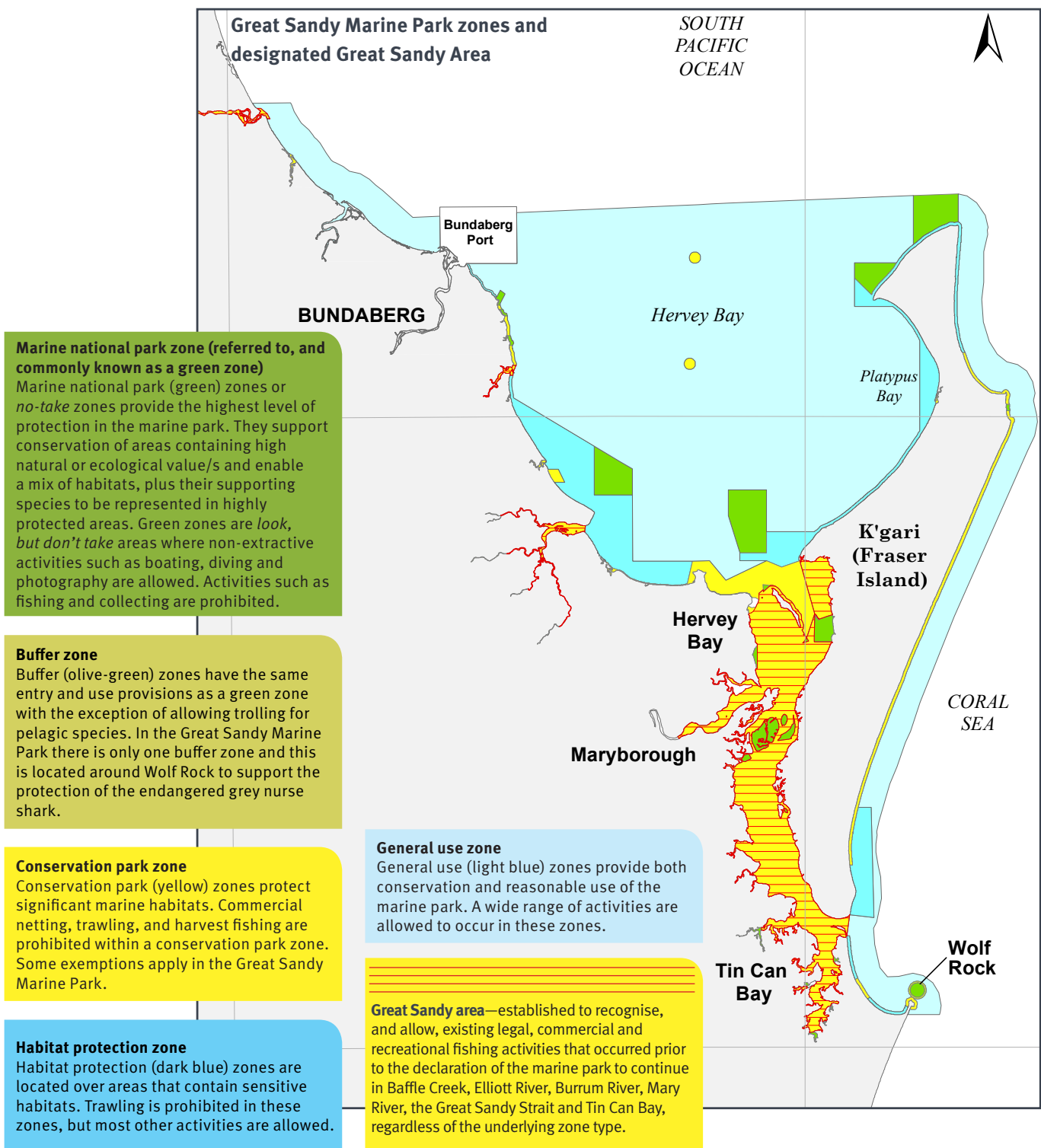




- offence provisions for non-compliance with the requirements of the zoning plan
- accreditation of Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreements (TUMRA) developed by Traditional Owners to manage traditional collecting activities.

The zoning and designated area maps on the following pages identify where some of these management measures apply with the entry and use table providing an overview of the activities allowed in each zone.

Further information about the marine park can be found on the Department of Environment and Science website www.des.qld.gov.au.



Summary of zone entry and use provisions for Great Sandy Marine Park

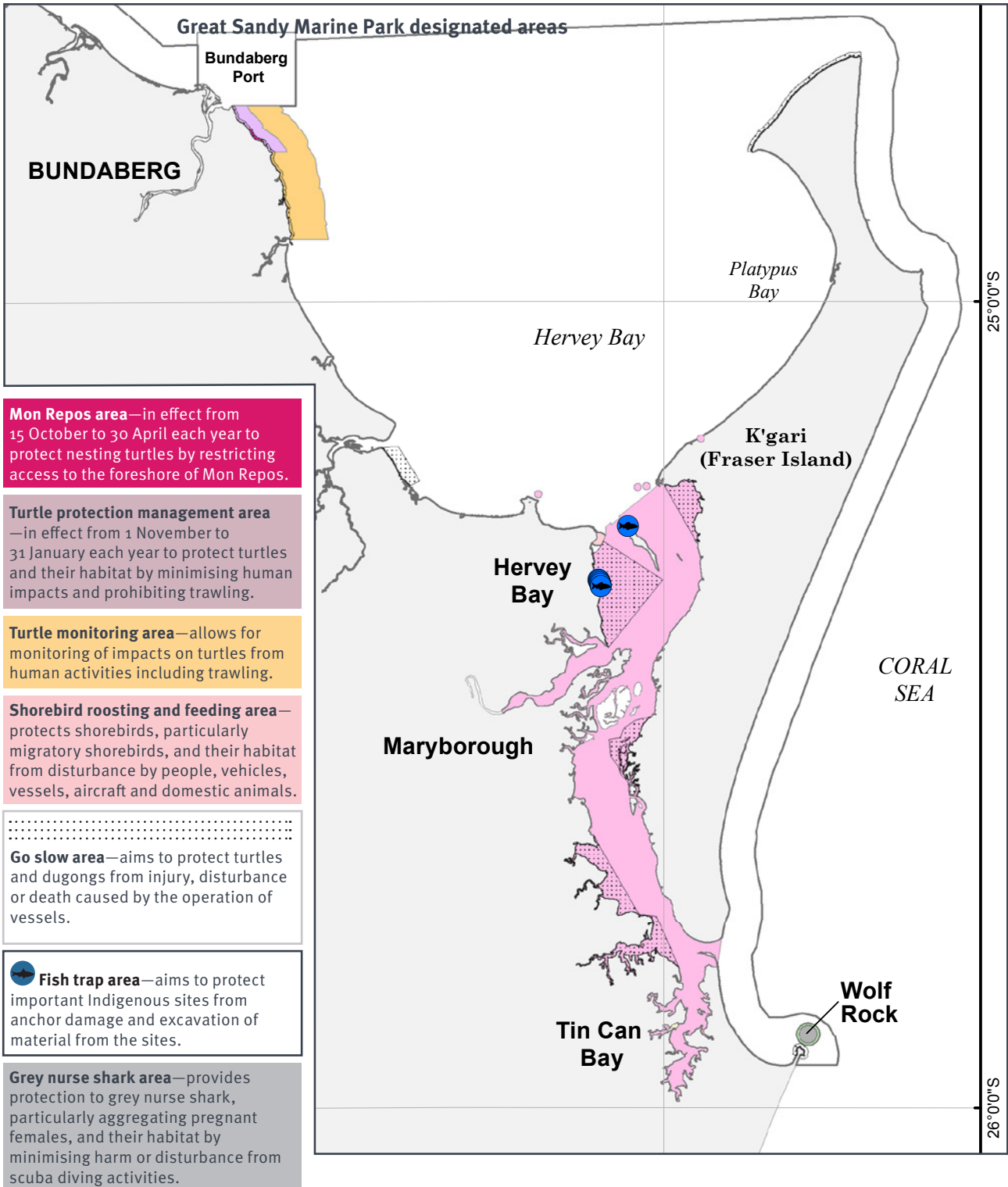
Entry and use provisions	General use zone	Habitat protection zone	Conservation park zone	Buffer zone	Marine national park zone
Fisheries, fishing and collecting activities					
Bait netting	Yes ⁹	Yes ⁹	Yes ⁹	No	No
Aquaculture	Permit	Permit	Permit	No	No
Crabbing	Yes ⁹	Yes ⁹	Yes ^{2,9}	No	No
Bait gathering	Yes ⁹	Yes ⁹	Yes ⁹	No	No
Line fishing	Yes ^{4,9}	Yes ^{4,9}	Yes ^{5,9}	No	No
Limited collecting	Yes ^{3,9}	Yes ^{3,9}	Yes ^{3,9}	No	No
Limited spearfishing (snorkel only)	Yes ⁹	Yes ⁹	Yes ⁹	No	No
Traditional use of marine resources	Yes ⁶	Yes ⁶	Yes ⁶	Yes ⁶	Yes ⁶
Trolling	Yes ^{4,9}	Yes ^{4,9}	Yes ^{4,9}	Yes ^{4,7,9}	No
Commercial netting (other than bait netting)	Yes ⁹	Yes ⁹	Yes ^{8,9}	No	No
Harvest fishing for aquarium fish, coral and beachworm	Permit ¹	Permit ¹	Permit	No	No
Harvest fishing for sea cucumber, trochus, tropical rock lobster	Permit ¹	Permit ¹	No	No	No
Trawling	Yes ⁹	No	No	No	No
Other activities					
Boating, diving, photography	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Research (other than limited impact)	Permit	Permit	Permit	Permit	Permit
Shipping (other than in a designated shipping area)	Yes	Permit	Permit	Permit	Permit
Tourism program	Permit	Permit	Permit	Permit	Permit

Notes on entry and use provisions

1. Other than an accredited harvest fishery.
2. Limited to four catch devices (e.g. crab pots or dillies) per person.
3. By hand or hand-held implement.
4. Maximum of three lines/rods per person with a combined total of six hooks.
5. Limited to one line/rod per person and one hook/lure per line (except the Great Sandy area which is as per note 4).
6. Activities that are not *as of right* in the zone, or that involve the take of protected species require either a permit or a Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreement.
7. Pelagic species only.
8. Commercial fishers holding Department of Agriculture and Fisheries commercial fishing endorsements can continue commercial fishing activities within the Great Sandy Area where this overlays a conservation park zone.
9. All fishing activities must comply with restrictions or conditions placed upon them by the *Fisheries Act 1994* and Regulations.

Notes:

- Permits are required for most activities not listed above.
- Designated areas (such as *go slow areas*) may provide additional restrictions at some locations.
- The zoning plan does not affect the operation of s. 2.11 of the *Native Title Act 1993*.



Park-wide management

This section covers topics that apply at a marine park-wide scale or a number of different regions within the marine park. Discussion of these topics is split over three key themes—cultural heritage, conservation and use.

Please consider the regional sections for any crossover or local-specific matters.

Cultural heritage	Conservation	Use
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Connection to country and cultural resources• European heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shorebirds• Habitats types and zoning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Great Sandy Area• Bait netting in conservation park zones• Visitors• Coastal development

Cultural heritage

Connection to country and cultural resources

The Bailai, Gurang, Gooreng Gooreng, Taribelang Bunda Traditional Owners, the Butchulla people and Kabi Kabi First Nation have a connection with the waters now identified as the Great Sandy Marine Park.

This connection spans tens of thousands of years of history and their traditional connection to these waters continues today and will continue into the future.





These waters represent a significant part of the respective Traditional Owners' living cultural landscapes. Today Traditional Owners of the marine park continue to practice their native title rights and interests, have a significant interest in protecting the cultural landscape and aspire to derive an economy from the land and waters. The Great Sandy Marine Park zoning plan does not affect the operation of s. 2.11 of the *Native Title Act 1993* and does not affect any native title rights and interests, including any activity carried out in accordance with any native title rights or interests.

The Traditional Owners of the waters have inherited custodial responsibilities for their traditional areas. Part of these custodial responsibilities is to have access to country to pass on traditional knowledge to future generations.

The legacy of having lived as part of the country over millennia has resulted in significant Indigenous cultural resources continuing to exist over and within the landscape.

These cultural resources include the cultural landscapes themselves, story lines, creation stories, sacred animals, stone-walled fish traps, shell middens, trade routes and traditional foods.

Port Curtis Coral Coast Traditional Owners —Bailai, Gurang, Gooreng Gooreng and Taribelang Bunda peoples

The Port Curtis Coral Coast (PCCC) native title area encompasses the coastline from the Burrum River in the south to Port Alma and Curtis Island in the north. The Port Curtis Coral Coast Regional TUMRA (Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreement) area adjoins this coastline. A TUMRA describes how Traditional Owner groups work in partnership with the Australian and Queensland governments to manage traditional activities in sea country.

The PCCC Regional TUMRA covers an area of 26,386km², extending from the Burrum River to, and including, Curtis Island off Gladstone. The southern portion of the TUMRA area overlaps with the Great Sandy Marine Park.

Butchulla people

The Butchulla people have an enduring connection with K'gari (Fraser Island) and surrounding waters and an ongoing commitment to manage country based on traditional law and customs. A Native Title determination in 2014 recognises the Butchulla people as the Traditional Owners and Native Title holders of K'gari. The Butchulla people also have a claim that encompasses the sea country surrounding K'gari. This includes the southern half of Hervey Bay from Burrum River and the Great Sandy Strait down to Double Island Point in the south. The sea country component of this claim comprises a significant component of the Great Sandy Marine Park.

The Butchulla people are developing a Healthy Country Plan for K'gari that seeks to achieve a range of objectives including:

- telling the story of their continuing connections to K'gari and how they will look after their traditional country
- giving them greater control over how their country is cared for and managed in line with their values and recognised native title rights
- a holistic and sustainable approach that will address their aspirations for their land and sea country, culture, people and future
- recognition by government and other partners who can assist with the plan's implementation, and
- placing their Indigenous ecological knowledge at the forefront of management, in such a way that it is supported and complemented by western scientific knowledge.

Traditional Owner aspirations, such as these, will be important considerations when revising the zoning plan.

Kabi Kabi First Nation

Kabi Kabi country is located on the Sunshine Coast and extends north from Brisbane to Double Island Point and inland to Kilcoy. Kabi Kabi country includes the southern waters of Tin Can Bay in Great Sandy Marine Park. The Kabi Kabi First Nation are the registered applicants for a Native Title claim for the Sunshine Coast region.

Park-wide management

Non-Indigenous heritage

There are a variety of sites of non-Indigenous cultural heritage in the Great Sandy Marine Park including remnants of Pettigrew's Cooloola Timber Tramway, McKenzie's Jetty, wrecks of aircraft and various shipwrecks such as the *SS Maheno* on the eastern beach of K'gari (Fraser Island).

Many of these items are listed on the State Heritage Register or as historic shipwrecks under Commonwealth legislation.

Wrecks such as the *SS Marloo* and the *Chang Chow* are popular dive sites used by local tourism operators. Recognition of these heritage values highlight important aspects of European history in the Bundaberg/Fraser Coast region.

The management of the marine park with its key objective of conserving the marine environment is consistent with the use and protection of these heritage values.

The *Marine Parks Act 2004* creates a platform to support cultural recognition and protection of heritage values.



Zoning plan opportunity

Greater recognition of cultural connections and heritage resources and values could be achieved by considering:

- introducing no anchoring areas to protect sensitive sites
- introducing site specific management arrangements
- opportunities to enhance Traditional Owner-led cultural tourism and economic participation
- your suggestions ...



SS Maheno shipwreck on K'gari (Fraser Island)
© istockphoto.com



SS Chang Chow amidst ships
© Queensland Government

Wrecks in Great Sandy Marine Park

A large number of shipwrecks are known to exist in the Great Sandy Marine Park. Twenty-three wrecks were recorded in the waters around K'gari (Fraser Island) between 1856 and 1935.

One of these is the *SS Maheno*, which was wrecked in 1935 and lies off the eastern shore of K'gari, making it easily accessible to park visitors. Others such as the *SS Chang Chow*, a cargo ship travelling to Hong Kong from Newcastle with a predominantly Chinese crew which was wrecked in 1884 and the *SS Marloo*, a luxury Italian liner travelling from Mackay to Brisbane in 1914, can only be visited by scuba divers.

An Avro Anson military bomber is also known to have been wrecked in the marine park, crashing in to the sea approximately 1.5 miles off Bargara in 1942.

While a number of wrecks have been located in the marine park and have been investigated by maritime archaeologists there are still a large number yet to be found. Shipwrecks are like underwater museums that reflect the history of discovery, trade and colonisation and provide important scientific, historical and educational information to archaeologists.

All shipwrecks, aircraft wrecks, and associated relics in the Great Sandy Marine Park that are more than 75 years old are protected by law.

The newest wreck in Great Sandy Marine Park is the ex-*HMAS Tobruk*, a former Landing Ship Heavy of the Royal Australian Navy. Ex-*HMAS Tobruk* was scuttled in June 2018 to create an artificial reef and world class dive site in the Hervey Bay region.



Marloo ship wreck
© Queensland Government

Park-wide management

Conservation

Shorebirds

The marine park supports large numbers of migratory and resident shorebirds—many of which are internationally significant. The Great Sandy Strait is recognised as the second most important region for shorebirds in Queensland.

While the Great Sandy Strait is a key shorebird habitat, there are more than 80 recognised shorebird roost sites distributed around the marine park many of which are not within the Strait. In addition to these recognised roost sites, shorebirds will opportunistically roost in other locations, as habitats (e.g. exposed sand bars) are created and lost as a result of natural coastal processes.

The majority of the Great Sandy Strait and Tin Can Inlet, plus sites at Coongul Creek, Pelican Bank, and Point Vernon are part of the designated shorebird roosting and feeding area in the current zoning plan (see map on page 13).

Within this designated area, shorebird disturbance rules apply—making it an offence to disturb shorebirds by navigating a vessel, driving a vehicle, landing or taking off in an aircraft, walking an unrestrained dog or generally undertaking an activity that causes excessive shorebird disturbance. These rules do not apply to areas used by shorebirds for roosting and feeding outside of this designated area.

The zoning plan for Moreton Bay Marine Park has similar shorebird disturbance rules that apply to the entire marine park and are not site specific. Adopting similar rules in the Great Sandy Marine Park would help with compliance by having consistent rules concerning shorebirds across the entire marine park.

Further details of the shorebird values within the marine park are described in the respective regional management sections of this discussion paper.



Zoning plan opportunity

Enhancing the protection of shorebirds and their habitat could be achieved by considering:

- introducing broad, park-wide conservation measures
- introducing site specific protection at recognised roost sites
- introducing seasonal restrictions on access at key locations
- your suggestions...



Habitat types and zoning

To improve the understanding of the habitat types that occur in the marine park and their location, input was sought from researchers and local experts to create the first broad scale habitat map for the park. The development of this map incorporated around 80 different data sources to identify and model the various marine habitats at a landscape scale.

Using this map, the habitat types within each marine park zone can be identified. The habitat map also shows which habitat types may be under-represented in highly protected zones (conservation park, buffer and marine national park zones). Within these zones, limits on the activities allowed provides protection of habitats and species.

The map also provides valuable information on the location of habitats likely to be important for different species and potential corridors of connection between habitat types (e.g. between mangrove forests and coral reefs).

The following table outlines the area of each habitat type within the marine park and the proportion of the area within each marine park zone type. An analysis of habitat types and zoning indicates that:

- a significant proportion (>40% of the total area of each habitat type) of reef communities, saltmarsh, mangroves, areas of hard substrate (rocky shores), beaches, claypans and mudflats are within highly protected zones.
- areas of intertidal to deep seagrass (from the high tide mark to 35 metres deep), subtidal sand, mud, pebbles and gravel and deep holes and gutters (35 to 200 metres deep), may be under-represented in highly protected zones.

Note that despite the large areas of conservation park zone in the marine park, the continuation of some fishing activities within the designated Great Sandy Area, which overlays many conservation park zones, results in management of these areas being similar to that of a habitat protection zone.

Ensuring each habitat type is adequately represented (>10% of the total area) in no-take areas is a key objective in marine park planning processes. On this basis the zone and habitat analysis table suggests that the following habitats may be under-represented in marine national park zones:

- intertidal and deep seagrass (from the high tide to 35 metres deep)
- rocky shores such as those along the Gatakers Bay shoreline
- shallow to deep subtidal reef such as those around Wolf Rock
- low- to moderate-wave energy sand habitat
- claypans and mudflats
- areas of unconsolidated substrates (i.e. cobbles, pebbles or gravel)
- subtidal sand and mud
- deep holes and gutters (35 to 200 metres deep).

Detailed information on the various habitat types outlined on pages 20 and 21 is provided online at www.qld.gov.au/marineparks.



DID YOU KNOW?

highly protected areas

Highly protected areas in marine parks are recognised as Matters of State Environmental Significance (MSES) in state planning legislation.

In recognition of the importance of maintaining the natural integrity and value of MSES, state and local governments must have regard to these matters in any decision making regarding planning and development proposals.

Great Sandy Marine Park Benthic habitat map



Flora

- Saltmarsh
- Mangroves
- Intertidal and shallow subtidal seagrass (0-15m)
- Deep subtidal seagrass (15-35m)

Coral/Reef

- Intertidal and shallow subtidal corals (0-15m)
- Deep subtidal corals (15-35m)
- Subtidal reefal gardens (0-35m)
- Reef on calcium carbonate platform (0-35m)

Hard (consolidated) substrates

- High wave-energy rocky shore (on headlands or platforms)
- Intertidal and subtidal boulder dominated rocky shore (on headlands, platforms or shallow reefs)
- Other rocky shore
- Shallow to deep subtidal reef

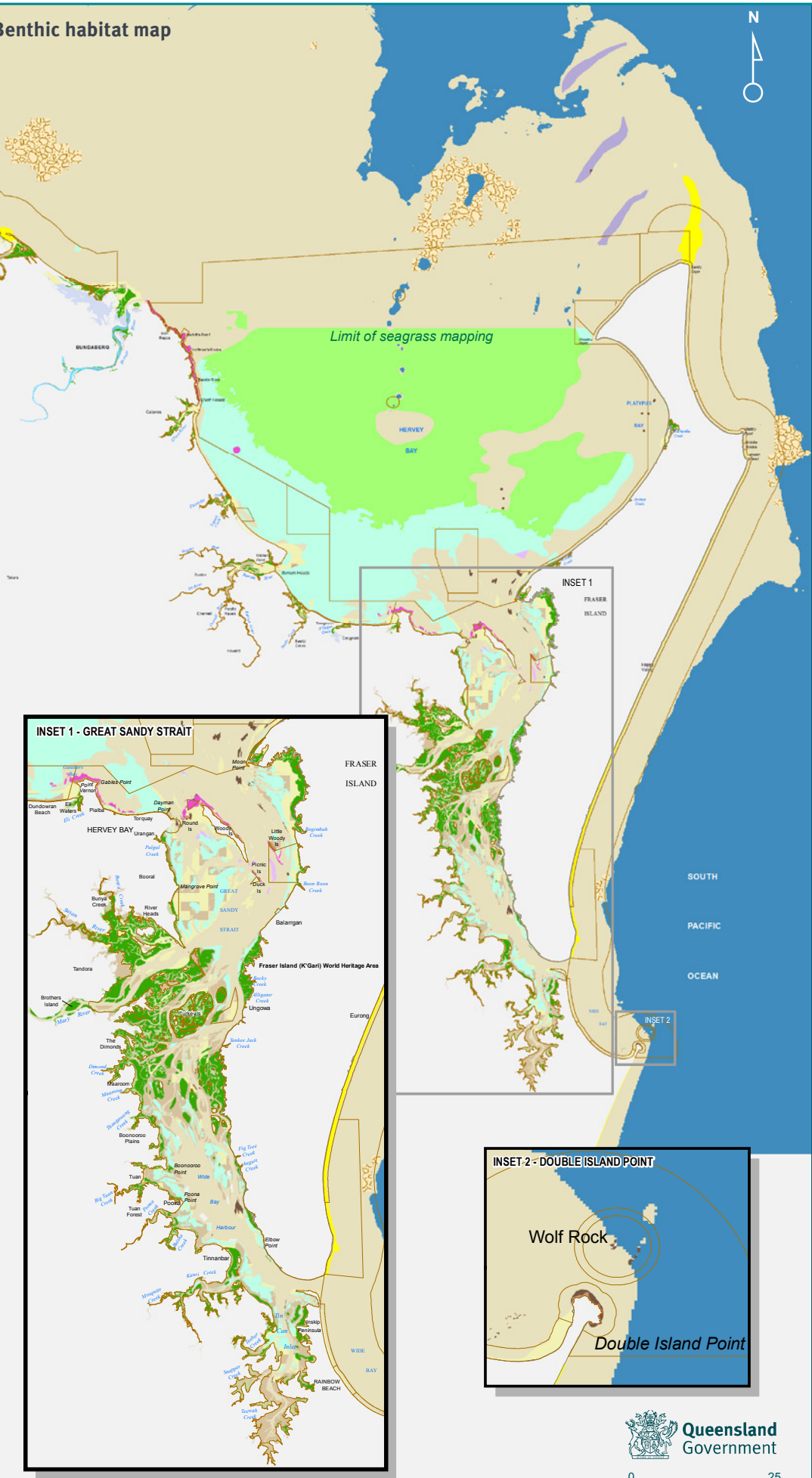
Soft (unconsolidated) substrates

- High wave-energy sandy beaches
- Low to moderate energy sand habitat (on beaches, banks, bars or plains)
- Claypan, mudflats, salt pans, muds
- Other intertidal unconsolidated i.e. cobbles, pebbles or gravel
- Subtidal sands or muds (on bars, shoals, dunes or plains)
- Other subtidal unconsolidated i.e. cobbles, pebbles or gravel

Other intertidal and subtidal habitats

- Tidal influenced outside channels (low to moderate energy)
- Tidal influenced channels (low to moderate energy)
- Other shallow to deep subtidal areas (0-35m)
- Very deep holes and gutters (>35m)

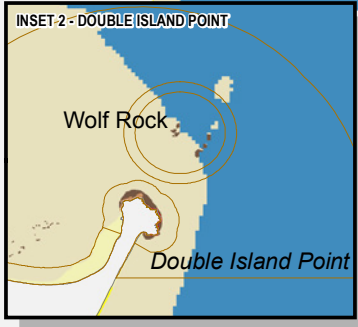
— Great Sandy Marine Park Zone Boundaries



STATEMENT OF LIMITATIONS:
 This map is compiled from information supplied to the Department of Environment and Science. While all care is taken in the preparation of this map, neither DES nor its officers or staff accept any responsibility for any loss or damage which may result from inaccuracy or omission in the map from the use of the information contained therein. Not to be used for navigation. Reproduction by whatever means is prohibited without prior written permission.

ACCURACY STATEMENT:
 Due to the dynamic nature of the marine environment this map is an indication of available data as at July 2016 and is variable in scale and content. Some features may be artefacts created by the intersection between datasets of different scales. Due to varying sources of data, spatial locations may not coincide when overlaid.

MAP PRODUCTION
 02 July 2018
 Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service,
 Department of Environment and Science.
 Enquiries should be addressed to:
 Director-General, Department of
 Environment and Science
 COORDINATE SYSTEM: GCS GDA 1984
 HORIZONTAL DATUM: GDA 1984
 PO Box 15187, CITY EAST, QLD 4002





Habitat distribution by zone type in Great Sandy Marine Park

Habitat type	Total area of habitat km ²	General use zone	Habitat protection zone	Conservation park zone	Buffer zone	Marine national park zone
Coral/reef		Approximate percentages				
Intertidal and shallow subtidal corals (0–15 metres)	11.6	15	15	46	0	24
Deep subtidal corals (15–35 metres)	<1	0	0	92	0	8
Subtidal reefal gardens (0–35 metres)	4.2	38	2	32	0	28
Reef on calcium carbonate platform (0–35 metres)	2	99	0	<1	0	0
Flora						
Saltmarsh	41	2	<1	83	0	14
Mangroves	127.6	4	<1	85	0	11
Intertidal and shallow subtidal seagrass (0–15 metres)	855	56	25	11	0	8
Deep subtidal seagrass (15–35 metres)	1548	99	<1	<1	0	0
Hard (consolidated) substrates						
High-wave energy rocky shore	<1	0	0	79	0	21
Intertidal and subtidal-boulder-dominated rocky shore	3.6	11	30	43	0	16
Other rocky shore	7.8	7	5	82	0	6
Shallow to deep subtidal reef	6.6	15	30	46	0	9
Soft (unconsolidated) substrates						
High-wave energy sandy beaches	51	43	11	32	0	14
Low–moderate energy sand habitat	150	7	25	64	0	4
Claypan, mudflats, salt pans, muds	146.9	2	2	93	0	3
Other intertidal unconsolidated substrates	6.5	0	0	100	0	0
Subtidal sands or muds	3126	77	6	12	<1	4
Other subtidal unconsolidated substrates	28.8	100	0	0	0	0
Other intertidal and subtidal habitats						
Tidal influence outside channels	<1	31	25	43	0	<1
Tidal influence channels	<1	3	0	97	0	0
Very deep holes and gutters (>35 metres)	53.7	91	0	3	2	4

Other shallow–deep subtidal areas (<35 metres deep) also occur on the habitat map –however none of these areas occur within the marine park.

Park-wide management



Zoning plan opportunity

Ensuring a range of habitats are adequately represented and protected could be achieved by considering:

- expanding the area protected by marine national park zones
- increasing the level of protection at certain locations by upgrading the zone category
- introducing no anchoring areas
- establishing go slow areas
- introducing restrictions on use at certain locations (e.g. access by permit only)
- your suggestions ...



Coral reef habitat at Pialba
© Amanda Delaforce



Use and zoning

Great Sandy Area

The Great Sandy Area is a designated area in the zoning plan that overlays the conservation park zones within Baffle Creek, Elliott River, Burrum River and Great Sandy Strait. The area supports the commercial and recreational fishing arrangements that were in place at the time of the marine park declaration, specifically the use of three handheld rods or hand lines per fisher, commercial netting, and the commercial yabby and bloodworm harvest fisheries.

Without this designated area most of these commercial fishing and collecting activities would be prohibited and additional limits would apply to recreational fishing as they do for other conservation park zones in the marine park.

In effect, the Great Sandy Area results in these areas having the level of environmental protection afforded to a conservation park zone but with the fishing and collecting rules similar to those of a habitat protection zone.

Challenges

Since the commencement of the marine park in 2006 the government has received regular feedback from commercial and recreational fishers, conservation groups and the community about the management arrangements for the designated Great Sandy Area.

Commercial fishers have conveyed the social and economic benefits the designated area provides by supporting the commercial fishing industry and other businesses reliant on commercial fishing, such as fish processors, gear suppliers and chandlery, and restaurants.

Recreational fishers have expressed a desire to apply the objective of the underlying conservation park zone through limiting commercial fishing activity citing increased community and economic benefits from recreational fishing, charter fishing and tourism. Improved ecosystem outcomes are another benefit cited by recreational fishers.

Conservation groups also want the conservation zone objective to prevail as part of enhancing the conservation outcomes and protecting the habitat and species, especially those of conservation interest, within these areas.

Requests to amend the management arrangements of the Great Sandy Area have included:

- no changes
- changing parts of the conservation park zone to a zone where fishing activities are allowed
- removing parts of the Great Sandy Area requirements in areas of higher habitat and species value
- only allowing commercial fishers with long-term catch history

- only allowing certain types of fishing gear such as tunnel nets, and
- removal of all Great Sandy Area requirements, including possible phasing out of some fishing activities over time.

Concerns have also been raised regarding the potential physical habitat impacts from commercial blood worming.

It is clear that the current management arrangements in the Great Sandy Area are of interest to many stakeholders, some with opposing views. Determining the optimal balance between conservation and use presents a challenge for the zoning plan review.

Queensland Sustainable Fisheries Strategy 2017–2027

Management of the state's commercial and recreational fisheries is the responsibility of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF).

In 2017 DAF released the Queensland Sustainable Fisheries Strategy 2017–2027 which sets out the government's reform agenda for recreational and commercial fisheries for the next 10 years.

Fisheries reforms to the net, crab, trawl and harvest fisheries are expected by the end of 2019. Reforms being considered include dividing fisheries into management regions, setting sustainable catch limits and reviewing fishing rules for all sectors.

The Department of Environment and Science will liaise closely with DAF during the zoning plan review process as it starts to implement actions, identified in the strategy, which are likely to affect fisheries-related matters in the Great Sandy Marine Park.

Park-wide management



Zoning plan opportunities

Enhancing the balance of conservation and use where the Great Sandy Area rules apply in Baffle Creek, Elliott River, Burrum River and Great Sandy Strait could be achieved by considering:

- Rezoning the underlying conservation park zone with a combination of other zone types
- Removing the Great Sandy Area rules in their entirety
- Changing the net restrictions
- Removing commercial blood worming from the Great Sandy Area
- Removing the Great Sandy Area rules in go slow areas
- Your suggestions ...



Commercial fishers operating in the park
© Nicola UDV

Non-conforming uses

To minimise the impact on a range of historical uses, a small number of non-conforming use provisions were established in the zoning plan in 2006. These provisions allowed for the continuation of certain activities, subject to the granting of a marine park permit, in areas where they would have otherwise been prohibited by the zoning. The non-conforming use provisions allow the following activities:

- commercial coral collecting in the conservation park zone north of Big Woody Island
- commercial crabbing in the conservation park zones of Baffle Creek, Elliott River, Burrum River and Great Sandy Strait
- dredged spoil disposal in the conservation park zone near the Snapper Creek Boat Harbour
- commercial beam trawling in the conservation park zone at the mouth of the Mary River
- commercial aquarium fish collecting in the marine national park zone east of Little Woody Island.

Without these provisions in the zoning plan these activities would be prohibited by the entry and use provisions of the relevant zone type. This zoning plan review provides an opportunity to explore if more contemporary, alternate management approaches to these uses exist. This will involve discussions with the relevant operators to discuss potential management options which may include no changes, exploring alternate sites, phasing out an activity over time or some other special management arrangements.



Zoning plan opportunities

Enhancing the balance between conservation and use in areas where non-conforming uses occur could be achieved by considering:

- allowing existing activities to continue with no changes
- phasing out some or all non-conforming use activities over time
- your suggestions ...



DID YOU KNOW?

marine park fishing rules

Fishing or collecting is not permitted in a marine national park or 'green' zone.

Limited fishing (including no netting, only four crab pots per person, and only use of one line and hook per person), limited collecting, and limited spearfishing rules apply in conservation park zones. Commercial bait netting can also occur in conservation park zones.

Commercial netting can occur in habitat protection and general use zones.

Refer to the zoning plan for further details. Fisheries rules also apply.

Park-wide management

Commercial bait netting in conservation park zones

Within a conservation park zone the only form of commercial net fishing that may be undertaken is bait netting (unless the zone is overlain by the designated Great Sandy Area in which case bait netting and other forms of netting are allowed). A commercial bait net is defined under the zoning plan to be:

- a cast net—which is no longer than 3.7m in length and with a mesh size of no more than 28mm, or
- a small mesh net—which has a mesh size of between 12–45mm and a maximum length of between 200–600m depending on its location of use in the marine park.

A commercial fisher using a bait net in a conservation park zone must not take and keep bream, flathead, and whiting. The *Fisheries Act 1994* also prevents the taking of barramundi or a regulated coral reef fin fish with these nets.

However, fishers may take and keep other species, including species sold as bait and species sold for human consumption such as snapper, mulloway, threadfin salmon and golden trevally.

Similar commercial bait netting provisions apply in conservation park zones in other Queensland marine parks and in the Commonwealth's Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

The objective of the conservation park zone allows for 'limited extractive use'. From a fishing perspective, compliance with this limited extractive use objective means that commercial netting (other than bait netting) is not permitted, only four crab pots are able to be used, and a limited number of lines are allowed for line fishing. There is public concern about use of commercial bait nets being used for the same purpose as other commercial nets to target species that are not true bait species (e.g. species that are being sold for human consumption), due to impacts on fish communities, including non-target species, the size of commercial nets, and general inconsistency of this practice with the zone objective of limited extractive use.

Public feedback to date has also questioned whether bait netting should be limited to the taking of only specified bait species and whether greater gear restrictions should be implemented.



Zoning plan opportunities

Providing greater clarity on the definition of commercial bait netting in conservation park zones could be achieved by considering:

- listing the species that can be taken as bait
- listing the species that cannot be taken and retained
- changing gear restrictions
- your suggestions ...



Visitors

A diverse range of visitor opportunities exist in the marine park. Some of these activities include:

- boating
- scuba diving
- snorkeling
- swimming
- water sports
- fishing
- bird watching
- beach going.

The zoning plan supports many of these activities by allowing low impact recreational activities (for example sailing, swimming, walking, kayaking, bird watching) in all zones. In some areas there are rules to help minimise impacts on species and habitats from visitor use, such as designated go slow areas to help reduce the risk of possible boat strike to turtles and dugong.

Nature-based tourism is also a significant activity with key draw cards being:

- visiting K'gari (Fraser Island)
- whale and dolphin watching

- viewing turtle nesting
- boating and fishing activities.

In managing tourism, the zoning plan requires all tourist programs and charter operators to hold a marine park permit to operate in all zones. Limits also apply on the number of operators that can hold a commercial whale-watching authority.

The Department of Environment and Science aims to ensure that the tourism industry is consistently able to provide high-quality, nature-based experiences across a range of iconic protected areas. The Queensland Eco and Sustainable Tourism (QuEST) initiative delivers a policy framework for ecotourism operators accessing high visitation national parks.

In 2015 the first stage of the QuEST project was implemented for K'gari (Fraser Island) Recreation Area. Tourism operators who undertake activities in the intertidal areas of K'gari are also operating with the Great Sandy Marine Park and are subject to the provisions of the zoning plan.



Zoning plan opportunities

Continue to encourage and promote the Marine Park as a place for a range of visitor opportunities while regulating a range of tourism and charter activities.

Are any changes needed to the zoning plan to support or enhance visitor opportunities, including ongoing tourism in the marine park?

Park-wide management

Coastal development

Shoreline management

Local government plays a key role in reducing the potential impact of coastal erosion on property and infrastructure. These activities may include dune restoration, beach nourishment, sand pushing, channel re-alignment and coastal protection works such as groynes and revetments.

Large scale sand extraction/dredging, beach nourishment and erosion control works are not permitted in highly protected zones (conservation park, buffer and marine national park) of the marine park.

The current zoning plan provides a 50 metre-wide general use zone along the Hervey Bay foreshore to support Fraser Coast Regional Council to undertake erosion control activities at this location. However, in many other locations, conservation park zones abut coastal communities, making it difficult to implement erosion mitigation measures in response to changing climatic conditions and weather events.

To improve the resilience of coastal communities to extreme weather events and coastal erosion, an option could be to include general use or habitat protection zones adjacent to urban areas or erosion prone areas. Subject to assessment of the proposed works and granting of a marine park permission, this

would allow shoreline protection and maintenance activities to occur.

For Hervey Bay, the availability of sand has been raised as a limiting factor in implementing effective coastal protection works. Dayman Spit (near the Urangan Pier) has been suggested as a potential sand source. Use of Dayman Spit as a sand source requires a management change in the zoning plan. This could be via a zoning change—from conservation park zone to either general use or habitat protection zone or the introduction of special management provisions allowing sand removal. Any subsequent proposals for sand extraction from this area would then be subject to assessment with the goal being to minimise adverse impacts on Dayman Spit, nearby habitats, and public use.

Boating infrastructure

With boating and fishing being popular activities in the marine park, a range of public infrastructure is available—jetties, pontoons, and boat ramps. An area of 30 metres extending from the edge of most existing public boat ramps and jetties is excluded from the marine park. This allows for the ongoing upgrade and maintenance of the existing infrastructure without the need for a marine park permit.

Any new infrastructure within the marine park is subject to assessment and planning approvals.

The government also receives requests and applications from property owners adjacent to the marine park to establish private jetties, pontoons and boat ramps.

Typically, private infrastructure is not permitted in highly protected zones. This has proven challenging to manage as many estuaries, rivers and creeks in the marine park are within conservation park zones, with adjacent private properties.

In the Moreton Bay Marine Park zoning plan private infrastructure (e.g. jetties, pontoons, boat ramps) are only permitted within a general use zone. This has resulted in a number of small general use zones being established alongside areas of private infrastructure or areas of demand. Private infrastructure in other locations cannot be permitted. The model used in the Moreton Bay Marine Park could be considered for the Great Sandy Marine Park.

It should be noted that other planning and management instruments, such as declared Fish Habitat Areas, local government planning schemes, and adjacent land tenure, need to be considered in determining the suitability of amendments to the zoning plan for this purpose.



Zoning plan opportunities

Enhancing the balance of conservation and use in areas subject to shoreline erosion and adjoining development could be achieved by considering:

- introducing a strip of general use or habitat protection zone adjacent to certain urban areas
- changing the zoning at Dayman Spit off Urangan to allow extraction of sand for shoreline management
- changing the zoning of some areas to general use zone to support land owners establish boating access to the marine park
- your suggestions ...

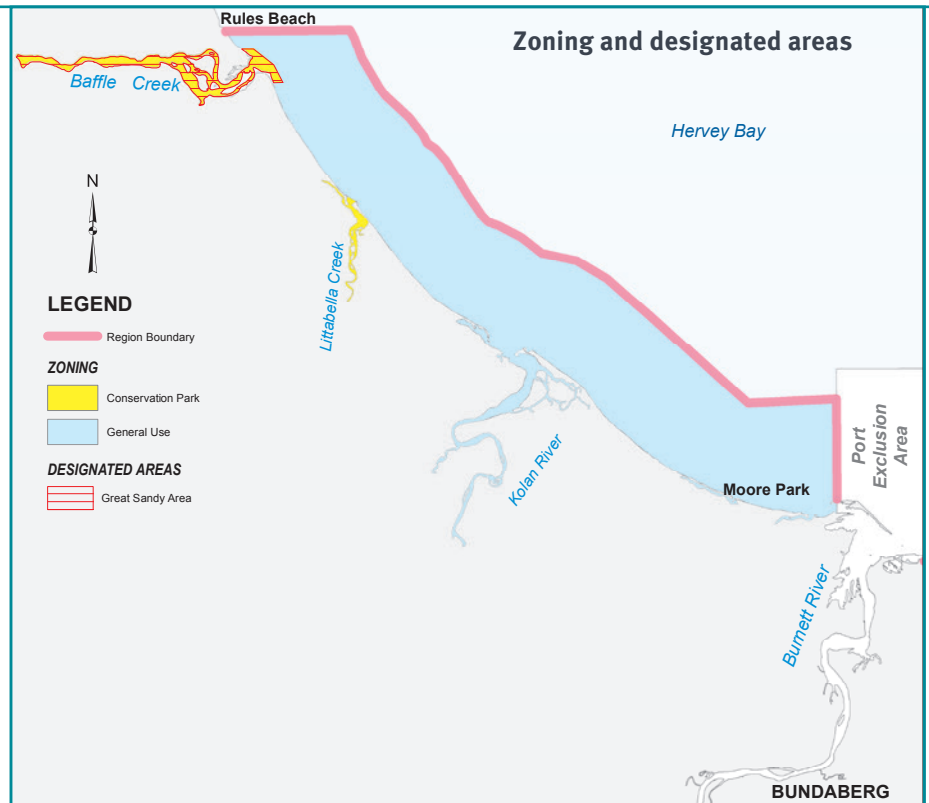


Regional management

Please also consider issues outlined in the park-wide section of this paper which may also be relevant.

Bundaberg coast

The Bundaberg Coast region captures the most northern section of the marine park. The primary matters of conservation interest in this region include the broad-ecological values provided by Baffle and Littabella creeks, and turtle habitat values in the Moore Park area.



Conservation values



Regionally important estuarine system of Baffle Creek due to its size, extensive wetlands and flow regime that is not impacted by dams or weirs.



Key turtle habitat. Beaches and offshore areas at Moore Park provide habitat for nesting loggerhead, green and flatback turtles.



Key shorebird feeding and roosting habitat, including the endangered eastern curlew, occur at Baffle Creek, Littabella Creek and Kolan River.



Diversity of habitats in estuaries and open water—sand, mud flats, seagrass, mangroves and submerged rocky outcrops.



Diverse and abundant fish and crustacean populations.

Uses



Recreational fishing, crabbing and boating.



Commercial net fishing and crabbing in rivers and creeks. River beam trawling in Kolan River and offshore trawling.



Beach and near-shore recreation, including swimming, kayaking, and four-wheel driving—particularly in the Moore Park area.

Current marine park management



- Baffle and Littabella creeks are managed as conservation park zone where limited fishing is allowed. Restrictions apply to coastal development as part of conserving habitat and species.
- The large offshore area of this region and the Kolan River are managed as a general use zone enabling a range of commercial and recreational uses.
- The designated Great Sandy Area over the conservation park zone in Baffle Creek allows for the continuation of commercial netting and use of three lines and hooks per fisher (both recreational and commercial). Commercial crabbing is allowed to continue in this conservation park zone through non-conforming-use provisions.

DID YOU KNOW?



turtle protection measures at Mon Repos

Designated Mon Repos turtle protection measures include a seasonal go slow area (15 October to 30 April), turtle protection area (1 November to 31 January) which prohibits trawling, and access restrictions between dusk and dawn (meaning no swimming, fishing, boating or pets allowed).

Refer to the zoning plan for more details.



Zoning plan opportunities

- Maintain a mix of marine park zoning to support a balance between conservation and use.
- Enhance existing management to support the resilience and health of Baffle Creek.
- Increase protection of turtles and their habitat in the Moore Park areas.

These could be achieved by considering:

- introducing seasonal use restrictions or a go slow area in the Moore Park area similar to Mon Repos
- establishing conservation park zone along Moore Park Beach
- establishing a marine national park zone in Baffle Creek
- your suggestions ...

Regional management

Please also consider issues outlined in the park-wide section of this paper which may also be relevant.

Woongarra Coast

The Woongarra Coast region extends from Burnett Heads to the Elliott River. The primary matters of conservation interest include turtle nesting at Mon Repos, fringing reefs and the Elliott River.

Conservation values



Extensive wetlands occur within the Elliott River.



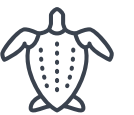
Valuable shorebird habitat occurs at Dr Mays Island at the mouth of the Elliott River.



Diverse and abundant fish and crustacean populations.



Significant reef communities. Fringing reefs at Burkitt's Reef, Hoffman's Rocks, and Barolin Rock contain a mix of corals, sponges, fish and other species.



Key turtle habitat. Mon Repos supports the largest concentration of nesting marine turtles on the east Australian mainland (including the endangered loggerhead turtle).

Uses



Recreational fishing, crabbing and boating.



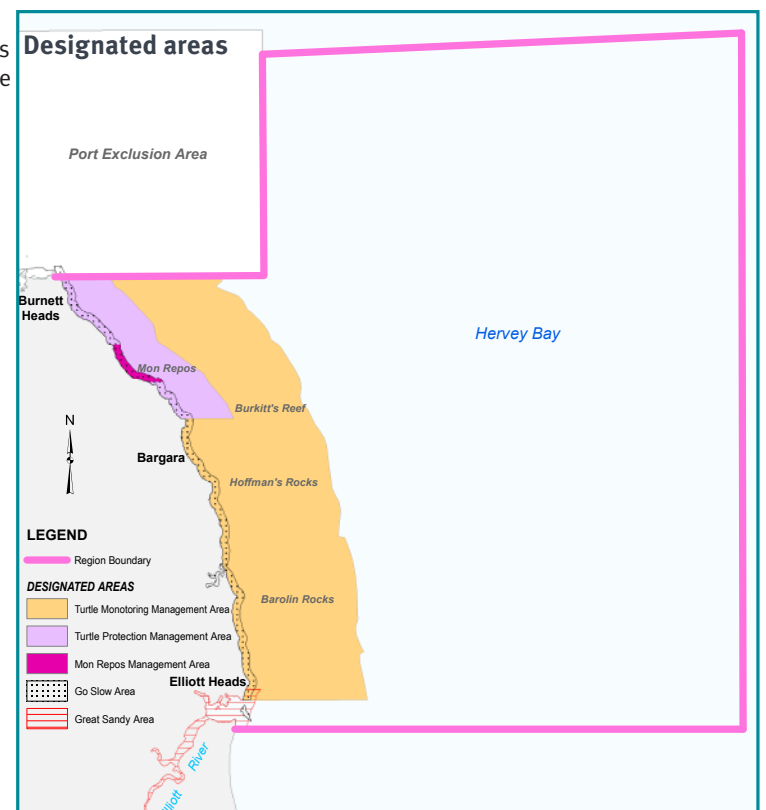
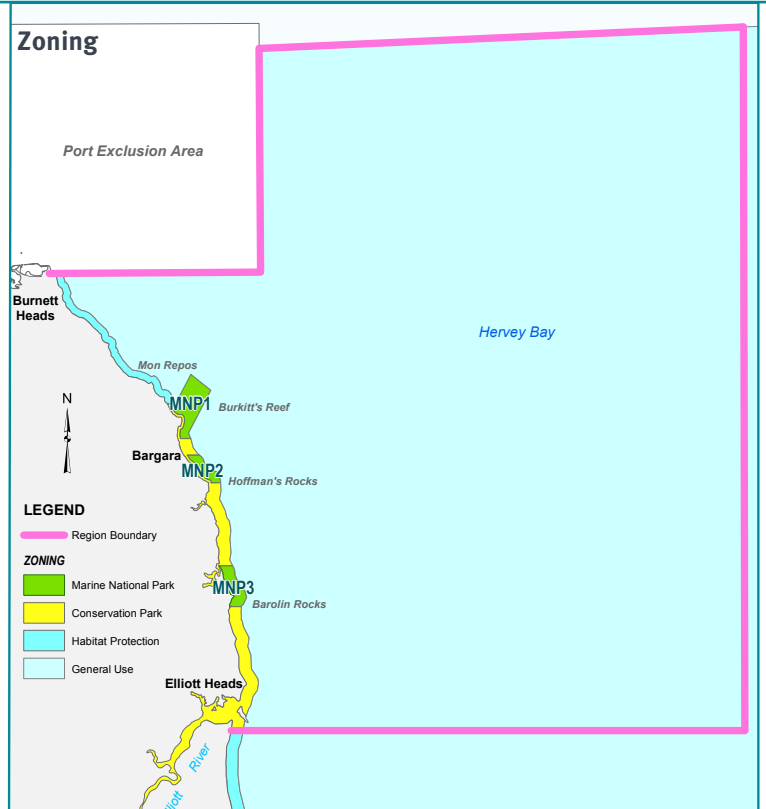
Significant tourism destination—the Mon Repos Turtle Centre attracts large numbers of tourists during the turtle nesting and hatching season.



Beach and near-shore recreation, including swimming and kayaking.



Commercial net fishing in the Elliott River, potting for sand crabs and offshore trawling.



Current marine park management



Marine national park or 'green' zones extend over each of Burkitt's Reef (MNP₁), Hoffman's Rocks (MNP₂), and Barolin Rock (MNP₃). No fishing or collecting is allowed in green zones to help maintain the natural integrity and values of these areas.

- The Elliott River and most of the coastal fringe to the south of Bargara is managed as conservation park zone where limited fishing is allowed with restrictions also on coastal development.
- The Elliott River conservation park zone also forms part of the designated Great Sandy Area which allows the continuation of commercial netting and use of three lines and hooks per fisher (both recreational and commercial). Commercial crabbing is allowed to continue in the Elliott River conservation park zone through non-conforming use provisions in the zoning plan.
- The coastal fringe north of Bargara is a habitat protection zone where a range of commercial and recreational uses can occur, but trawling is prohibited.
- The large offshore area of this region is managed as a general use zone enabling a range of commercial and recreational uses, including commercial trawling.
- These zoning arrangements are supported by a series of designated areas, centered on Mon Repos, which provides targeted protection for marine turtles. These include a seasonal go slow area, access rules, and seasonal restrictions on trawling.



Zoning plan opportunities

- Maintain a mix of marine park zoning to support a balance between conservation and use.
- Enhance existing management to support the resilience and health of coral communities and protect nesting turtles and their habitat.

These could be achieved by considering:

- extending the boundary of the existing Turtle Protection Area and/or go slow area seaward
- establishing conservation park zone between Burnett Heads and Burkitt's Reef
- establishing marine national park zone over the existing Mon Repos area
- introducing no anchoring rules at certain locations
- changing the marine national park zone boundaries to provide greater protection at Burkitt's Reef, Hoffman's Rocks and Barolin Rock
- changing the evening access restrictions on the beach at Mon Repos
- your suggestions ...



DID YOU KNOW?

current Mon Repos designated area rules

Entry and use provisions apply from 15 October to 30 April:

- only authorised vehicles can access the foreshore for the purpose of management and for official monitoring of marine turtles.
- domestic animals are prohibited.

Between 6.00 pm and 6.00 am:

- swimming, fishing or the use of a vessel is prohibited.
- torches must be small and not more than three volts. It is an offence to project a light that changes the ambient light in the area as this may disturb marine turtles.

Regional management

Please also consider issues outlined in the park-wide section of this paper which may also be relevant.

Woodgate and Burrum Coast

The Woodgate and Burrum Coast area extends from the Elliott River to Toogoom. The primary matters of conservation interest include Four Mile Reef, turtles and dugong, and the Burrum River system.

Conservation values



Regionally outstanding soft corals, algae, sponges, hydroids, reef fish and shark communities at Four Mile Reef.



Extensive seagrass meadows in near shore and offshore areas.



Seagrass meadows provide key turtle and dugong habitat at the mouth of the Burrum River.



Regionally significant waterway. The Gregory, Isis, Cherwell and Burrum Rivers support connectivity and exchange of fresh and tidal waters and help support a range of habitat and species values.



Important habitat for the vulnerable water mouse in the Burrum River system.



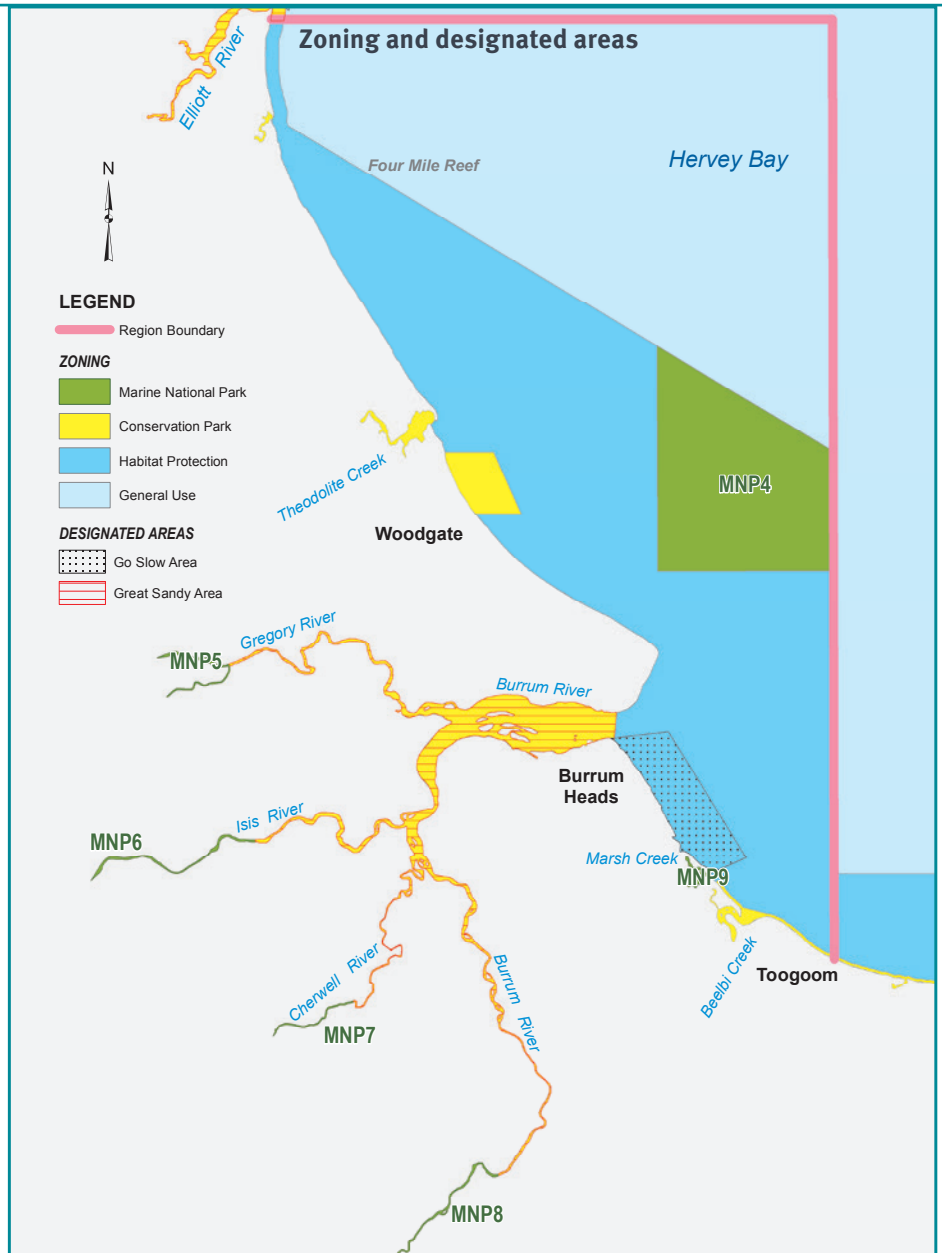
Extensive mangrove and saltmarsh habitats within rivers and creeks.



Diverse and abundant fish and crustacean populations.



Intertidal flats support migratory shorebirds.



Uses



Recreational fishing, crabbing and boating.



Commercial net fishing in the Elliott River, potting for sand crabs and offshore trawling.



Beach and near-shore recreation, including swimming and kayaking.



Current marine park management



- Six marine national park or ‘green’ zones occur in this region. No fishing or collecting is allowed in green zones as part of maintaining the natural integrity and values of these areas.
 - MNP₄ is located in the waters offshore from Woodgate, protecting a large area of seagrass and assisting with the long-term sustainability of turtles and dugong.
 - MNPs 5, 6, 7 and 8 are in the upper reaches of each of the Gregory, Isis, Cherwell and Burrum Rivers, protecting the habitats at the upper tidal limits of these waterways.
 - MNP 9 extends over the entire Marsh Creek estuary and provides connectivity with the surrounding Burrum National Park.
- Conservation park zones protect Coonarr Creek, Theodolite Creek, a coastal strip north of Woodgate including the Woodgate Artificial Reef, the Burrum River (including parts of the Gregory, Isis and Cherwell Rivers) and Beelbi Creek. Restrictions on fishing and coastal development apply to support the conservation of these areas.
- A large portion of the offshore area is managed as habitat protection zone where a range of commercial and recreational uses can occur, but trawling is prohibited.
- The north east offshore portion of this region is managed as a general use zone enabling a range of commercial and recreational uses.
- The above zoning arrangements are supported by two designated areas:
 - A go slow area which extends to the south of the Burrum River mouth helping to minimise the risk of vessel strike and disturbance to dugong and turtles.
 - The Burrum River system also forms part of the Great Sandy Area which allows the continuation of commercial netting and use of three lines and hooks per fisher (both recreational and commercial). Commercial crabbing is allowed to continue in the Burrum River conservation park zone through non-conforming use provisions in the zoning plan.



DID YOU KNOW?

go slow areas

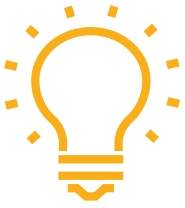
Designated go slow areas are located throughout the marine park to protect turtles and dugongs from boat strikes and disturbance—especially in critical feeding and resting areas.

When operating a vessel in go slow areas, it must be *off the plane* unless within navigational channels or defined transit lanes.

Keeping vessels off the plane is a proven and effective way of reducing disturbance, injuries and death to marine wildlife from boat strikes.

Regional management

Please also consider issues outlined in the park-wide section of this paper which may also be relevant.



Zoning plan opportunities

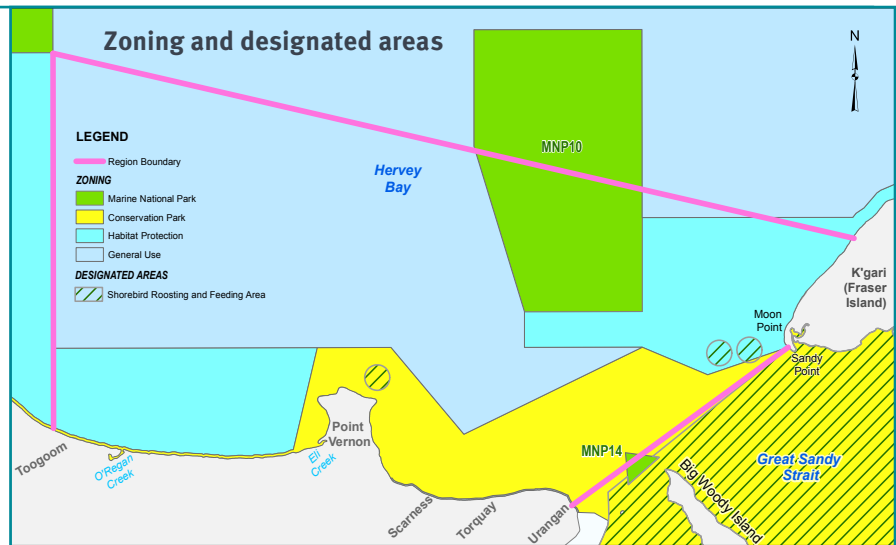
- Maintaining a mix of marine park zoning to support a balance between conservation and use
- Enhancing existing management to support the resilience and health of coral communities at Four Mile Reef
- Enhancing existing arrangements to protect turtles, dugongs and their habitat
- Improving habitat connectivity between Burrum River and the Burrum Coast National Park.

These could be achieved by considering:

- introducing no anchoring rules and/or a conservation park zone at Four Mile Reef
- extending the boundary of the go slow area at the mouth of the Burrum River
- establishing a conservation park zone over the existing go slow area at the mouth of the Burrum River
- establishing a conservation park zone adjacent to Burrum Coast National Park, north and south of the Burrum River
- your suggestions ...

Hervey Bay Coast

The Hervey Bay Coast region extends from Toogoom to Urangan. The primary matters of conservation interest in this region include Eli Creek, intertidal areas west of Point Vernon, and near shore reef communities.



Conservation values



Marine turtles and dugong are common in the region.



Diverse and abundant fish and crustacean populations.



Eli Creek contains a mix of estuarine habitats—saltmarsh, mangroves and tidal flats and is an important area for resting turtles.



Nearshore areas at Point Vernon support some of the marine park's most prolific coral communities.



Key shorebird roosting and feeding habitats occur between Point Vernon and O'Regan Creek and at Moon Point.



Fringing coral reefs from Point Vernon to Scarness support temperate and tropical hard and soft coral species, nudibranchs, cowries, sea snakes, turtles and fish.



Coastal processes shape the area around Urangan, carrying sediment from the Mary River and depositing it on Dayman Spit near the Urangan Pier.



The shallow water habitat and seagrass beds of Fork Bank are important areas for resting, transiting and feeding turtles and dugong.



The region supports extensive seagrass meadows, sandbars and coffee rock ledges and outcrops.

Uses



Recreational fishing and boating.



Commercial net fishing particularly in inshore areas west of Point Vernon and offshore trawling in the general use zone.



Major recreational use area—beach walking, sightseeing, swimming, kayaking, paddle boarding, kite surfing, snorkeling, and recreational and chartered diving. Other tourism activities include jet-ski and equipment hire.

Regional management

Please also consider issues outlined in the park-wide section of this paper which may also be relevant.

Current marine park management



- The marine national park zone (MNP10) at Fork Bank protects a shallow sand bank and seagrass habitat which is an important area for turtles and dugong.
- A conservation park zone extends over the nearshore waters adjacent to Hervey Bay, around Point Vernon and along the coastal fringe west of Point Vernon. Restrictions on fishing and coastal development apply to support the conservation of these areas.
- Habitat protection zone and a general use zone cover most of the offshore areas allowing for a range of commercial and recreational uses.
- A narrow strip of general use zone extends along the Hervey Bay foreshore from Pialba to Urangan to reflect the foreshore management requirements in this area.
- The zoning is complemented by three designated shorebird roosting and feeding areas—one at Point Vernon and two off Moon Point which aim to minimise shorebird disturbance in these roosting and feeding locations.



Urangan Pier at Hervey Bay
© Nicola Udy



Zoning plan opportunities

- Maintain a mix of marine park zoning to support a balance between conservation and use.
- Enhance existing arrangements to protect the habitat values of Eli Creek.
- Enhance existing management to support the resilience and health of fringing reef communities.

These could be achieved by considering:

- allowing only non-motorised vessels in Eli Creek
- establishing a go slow area in and/or outside Eli Creek
- extending the boundary of the Point Vernon conservation park zone to the west
- introducing no anchoring rules and/or marine national park zones at all or some fringing reefs
- your suggestions ...

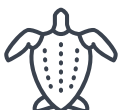
Central and Eastern Hervey Bay

The Central and Eastern Hervey Bay region extends from Moon Point to Break Sea Spit. The primary matters of conservation interest in this region include Coongul and Wathumba Creeks on K'gari (Fraser Island), Platypus Bay and migratory whales, a unique gastropod reef, and turtle and dugong values from Rooney Point to Sandy Cape.

Conservation values



Locally important estuarine systems of Coongul and Wathumba creeks. These sand dominated estuaries, with mobile creek mouths, are connected with the Great Sandy National Park, and are in good ecosystem health.



Key turtle habitat. The area between Rooney Point and Sandy Cape is an important area for green and loggerhead turtles with large numbers basking, courting and nesting in this area.



Key dugong habitat. Large numbers of dugong have also been recorded around Rooney Point to Sandy Cape. Dugong from Hervey Bay make the journey here in search of warmer waters and seagrass during cooler months.



Significant humpback whale habitat. Platypus Bay is an important resting area for humpback whale mother-calf pairs and attendant males during their southern migration to Antarctica. In 2017 the estimated migratory population of humpback whales on the east coast was approximately 30,000.



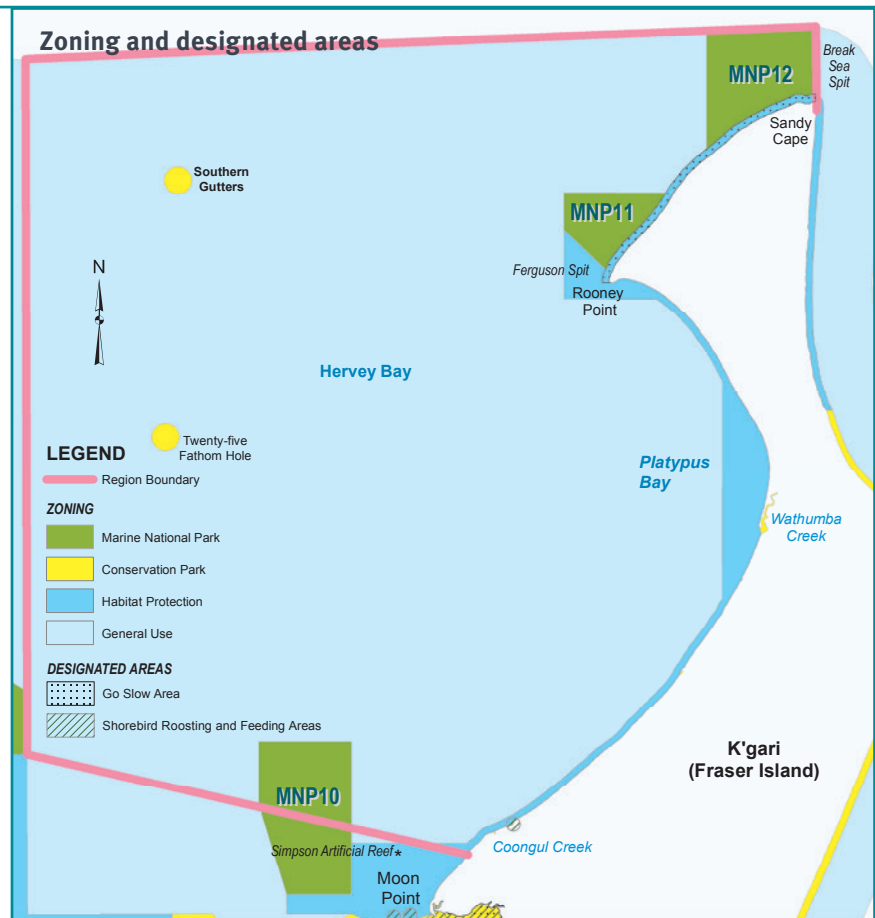
Many whale species, in addition to humpbacks, also visit this region throughout the year including Bryde's whales, sperm whales, pilot whales, pygmy sperm whales, southern right whales and dwarf minke whales.



Rare and endemic gastropod communities estimated to be more than 100 years old occur off Rooney Point. Diverse marine life aggregates around these reefs including sharks, sea snakes, butterflyfish, barracuda, trevally, red emperors, snapper, Queensland groper, marlin, kingfish and angelfish.



Ancient Mary River channel (paleo-channel) extending in a northerly direction through the middle of Hervey Bay with some areas reaching depths of around 50 metres (for example at the Twenty-five Fathom Hole and the Southern Gutters).



Regional management

Please also consider issues outlined in the park-wide section of this paper which may also be relevant.

Conservation values continued



Extensive sand spit at Breaksea Spit fed by the most extensive longshore sediment transport system in the world and exposed to high wave energy.



Diverse seafloor features. The soft, sand dominated seafloor supports large seagrass meadows and a range of flora and fauna such as hard coral, algae, sponges, ascidians (such as sea squirts), sea fans, sea stars, feather stars, brittle stars, molluscs, prawns, scallops and crabs.



Diverse and abundant fish and crustacean populations.



Extensive habitats for shorebirds and seabirds.

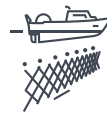
Uses



Regionally significant tourism area. The annual return of migratory humpback whales is a focal point for Hervey Bay's whale watching tourism industry, with Platypus Bay being a critical area. Other forms of ecotourism also occur in the region, such as scenic flights and general wildlife tours.



Rooney Point to Moon Point is a popular anchorage for private cruising yachts and bareboat charter vessels.



Commercial net fishing for inshore and pelagic species, potting for crabs and offshore trawling in the general use zone.



Remote natural area north of Wathumba Creek along K'gari (Fraser Island) supports a range of ecological values relatively free from disturbance and remote natural experiences for visitors.



Beach and near-shore recreation, including swimming, kayaking, and four-wheel driving.



Recreational fishing and boating.

Current marine park management



- Marine national park or 'green' zone (MNP10) covers Fork Bank protecting this area's dugong and turtle and habitat values. The green zone (MNP11) north of Ferguson Spit and Rooney Point protects offshore reef communities, while MNP12 on the western side of Breaksea Spit helps protect this area's important values as a dugong and turtle habitat.
- Conservation park zones are present over Wathumba and Coongul Creeks and Twenty-five Fathom Hole and the Southern Gutters, within the paleo-channel helping to conserve the values in these areas.
- The nearshore areas along the K'gari (Fraser Island) coastline are within a habitat protection zone with most of the region being a general use zone. Both these zones allow for a range of commercial and recreational activities.
- The zoning is complemented by a seasonal go slow area in the nearshore waters (to 500 metres offshore) between Rooney Point and Sandy Cape which applies from 15 October to 30 April and aims to reduce the risk of vessel strike during this period of high turtle activity in the area.
- Coongul Creek forms part of the designated Shorebird Roosting and Feeding Area that aims to protect shorebirds from disturbance and habitat loss.
- Commercial activity agreements are in place with commercial whale watching operators and approach distances exist to protect whales and the safety of visitors.



Zoning plan opportunities

- Maintain a mix of marine park zoning to support a balance between conservation and use.
- Enhance existing arrangements to protect the habitat values of Platypus Bay and Coongul and Wathumba Creeks.
- Enhance existing arrangements to protect turtles, dugongs and their habitat.
- Enhance existing management to support the resilience and health of reef communities off Rooney Point.

These could be achieved by considering:

- extending the boundary of the habitat protection zone further west into Platypus Bay
- establishing a go slow area and/or restrictions on motorised water sports in Platypus Bay north of Wathumba Creek
- changing the existing seasonal go slow area between Ferguson Spit and Sandy Cape to a permanent go slow area
- extending the boundary of the existing habitat protection zone off Rooney Point to the south
- introducing no anchoring rules over the gastropod reefs off Rooney Point
- expanding the existing marine national park zone (MNP11) off Ferguson Spit to include the adjacent habitat protection zone west of Rooney Point
- extending the boundary of the marine park zones at Ferguson Spit (MNP11) and at Sandy Cape (MNP12) to the shoreline to coincide with the marine park boundary on the beach of K'gari (Fraser Island).
- your suggestions ...



© Tourism and Events Queensland
Whale breaching

Regional management

Please also consider issues outlined in the park-wide section of this paper which may also be relevant.

Offshore

The Offshore region extends from Break Sea Spit to the southern boundary of the marine park near Double Island Point. The primary matters of conservation interest in this region include grey nurse shark and nutrient-rich offshore waters.

Conservation values



Nationally significant habitat for the endangered grey nurse shark occurs at Wolf Rock. Rocky habitats close to Wolf Rock, including Round Rock and The Pinnacles may also provide important habitat for grey nurse shark.



Significant tidal exchange between the open ocean and the Great Sandy Strait occurs through the Wide Bay Bar, making it both a physically dynamic location and a biologically important migration corridor.



Areas of high biological productivity where the K'gari (Fraser Island) continental shelf meets with the East Australian Current, creating eddies which drive cold, nutrient-rich waters from depths greater than 200 metres up to the water's surface. This upwelling supports a number of food chains and important spawning grounds for a range of pelagic species.



Geological features at Waddy Point, Middle Rocks, Indian Head and Double Island Point provide key anchor points trapping sand movement.



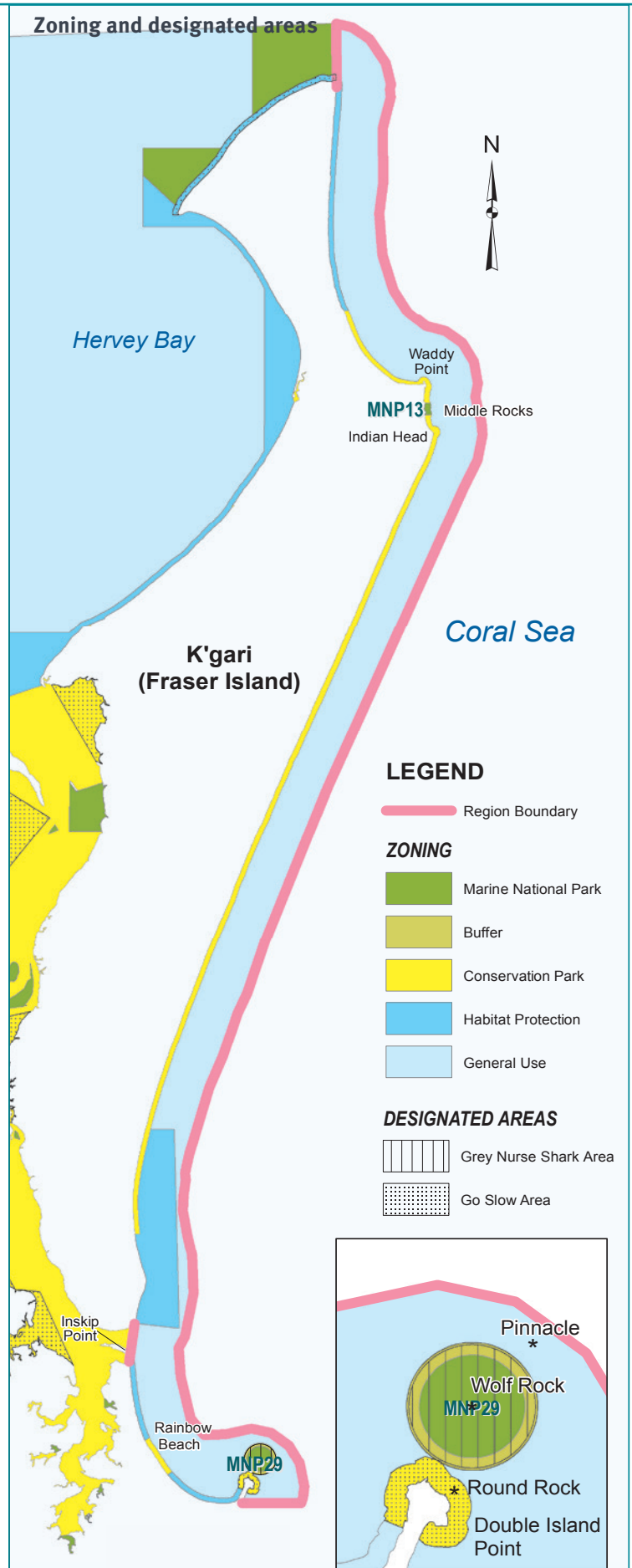
Important reef ecosystems surrounding rocky headlands and rock pinnacles situated offshore from Double Island Point (including Wolf Rock, Round Rock and The Pinnacles).



Diverse species found at Wolf Rock and surrounding rocky habitats including manta rays, eagle rays, Queensland groper, leopard sharks, nudibranchs, pelagic fishes, marine turtles, tropical fishes, hard and soft corals, sea snakes, octopus, eels and other invertebrates.



Extensive resident and migratory shorebird habitats, with counts of 3,900 individuals recorded.



Uses



Great Sandy National Park (including both K'gari (Fraser Island) and Cooloola) is one of the most visited national parks in Queensland. Four-wheel driving, fishing, surfing and passive recreation are key activities on the beaches.



Rainbow Beach is a popular tourism destination, with visitors drawn to the surf beach, where swimming, surfing, fishing, paddle boarding and beach walking are also popular. The town provides the base for a number of the tourism businesses, such as eco tours, tag-along four-wheel drive tours, fishing charters, surf schools and dive charters to Wolf Rock.



Wolf Rock is a very popular dive site with its high diversity of species and grey nurse shark. Areas around Double Island Point and Round Rock are also popular with spear fishers.



Commercial beach net fishing, line fishing for reef and pelagic species and offshore trawling in the general use zone.



Recreational beach and boat based fishing.

DID YOU KNOW?



grey nurse shark designated area

The grey nurse shark designated area protects the grey nurse shark population, their habitat and minimises harm or distress, especially to the pregnant females that congregate here, caused by diving or other human activities. The designated area extends 1.5 km around a point at Wolf Rock. Activities are highly regulated and restrictions apply to everyone, including divers entering and using the area. **While in the area do not:**

- touch or feed a grey nurse shark
- dive between 6pm and 6am
- chase, harass or interrupt swimming patterns or interfere with a shark's natural behaviour
- attempt to block cave entrances or gutters, or entrap grey nurse sharks
- operate mechanical or electro-acoustic apparatus including, but not limited to, scooters, horns and shark repelling devices, or
- dive in a group of more than 10 divers.

Current marine park management



- Middle Rocks and the surrounding area support a high-value nearshore reef ecosystem with intertidal rock pools and are protected within a marine national park zone (MNP13).
- Marine national park zone (MNP 29), surrounded by a buffer zone, at Wolf Rock recognises and protects the values of this area to grey nurse shark and as a valuable reef habitat.
- The majority of nearshore areas are managed as either conservation park zone or habitat protection zone.
- Conservation park zone surrounds Double Island Point in recognition of its habitat and species values.
- A block of habitat protection zone is present adjacent to the southern end of K'gari (Fraser Island) to protect fauna migrating from the Great Sandy Strait.
- The offshore area of the region is predominantly general use zone allowing for a range of commercial and recreational activities.
- A grey nurse shark area has been designated over Wolf Rock that applies specific management to diving in this area to minimise disturbance of the grey nurse sharks. A go slow area is also designated around Double Island Point to minimise the risk of boat strike and disturbance of wildlife using or moving through this area.

Regional management

Please also consider issues outlined in the park-wide section of this paper which may also be relevant.



Zoning plan opportunities

- Maintain a mix of marine park zoning to support a balance between conservation and use.
- Enhance existing arrangements to protect grey nurse sharks and other important offshore habitats and species.

These could be achieved by considering:

- restricting diving access to the grey nurse shark area at Wolf Rock to marine park permit holders only
- establishing a conservation park zone or buffer zone over The Pinnacles (north east of Wolf Rock) and/or Round Rock
- expanding the conservation park zone at Double Island Point to surround the Wolf Rock marine national park and buffer zones.

Grey nurse shark *Carcharias taurus*

The grey nurse shark is one of Australia's most endangered marine species with about 1000 individuals thought to remain within the east Australian population.

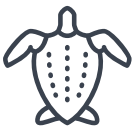
Northern Great Sandy Strait

The Northern Great Sandy Strait region extends from Urangan and Moon Point south to the mouth of the Mary River. The primary matters of conservation interest in this region include reef values at Woody Island, turtles and dugong, and the broad species and habitat values of tidal flats south of Moon Point.

Conservation values



Significant hard coral communities occur around Woody Island including large stands of branching coral with some considered to be more than 100 years old. A range of reef fish and other fauna inhabit these coral communities.



Key turtle and dugong habitat from Urangan to River Heads, and south of Moon Point. The area around Mangrove Point provides essential habitat for basking green turtles with some of these turtles migrating to this area from New Caledonia.



Biologically diverse values in the waters and intertidal flats south of Moon Point supporting a mix of habitats and species including mangroves, extensive seagrass, turtles, dugong, shorebirds, and fish, sharks, and rays.



The Mary River is a significant driver of the region's habitats and ecological processes. This influence is evident during flood events, when large volumes of fresh, turbid and nutrient rich floodwaters are channeled through this region and into Hervey Bay and the Strait.



Diverse hard and soft corals, hydroids, gorgonians, sponges, sea pens and small worm shell reefs occur in the waters around Little Woody Island, providing habitat for reef fish, invertebrates, turtles, dugongs, dolphins and other marine fauna.



Key shorebird habitat with over 30 species of shorebirds recorded in the Mangrove Point area.



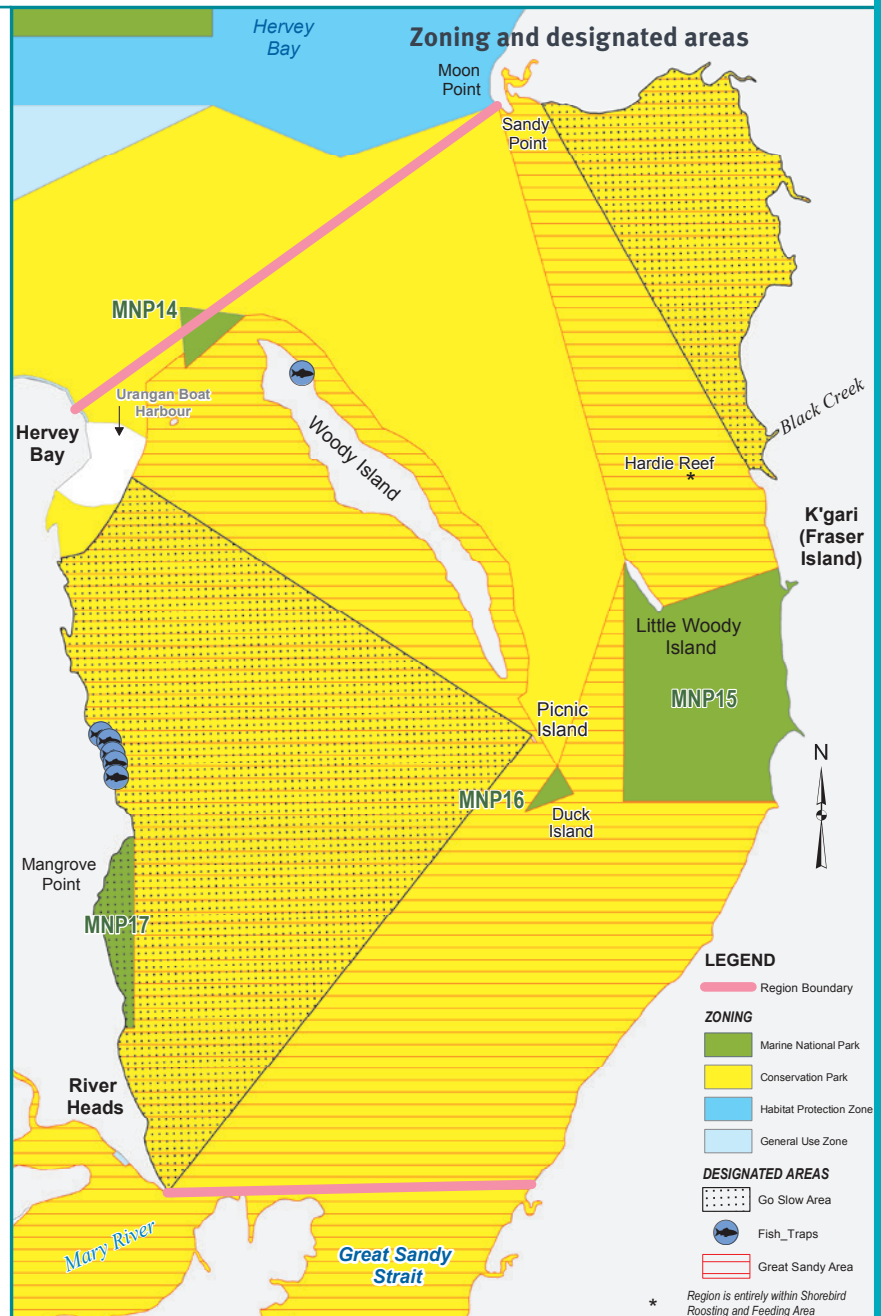
Home to a population of the vulnerable Australian humpback dolphin.



Diverse and abundant fish and crustacean populations.



Extensive seagrass meadows.



Regional management

Please also consider issues outlined in the park-wide section of this paper which may also be relevant.

Uses



Urangan Boat Harbour is the base for a wide range of commercial fishing, tourism and recreational vessels (including Hervey Bay's fleet of large whale watching vessels) and boat ramps. River Heads provides a boat ramp, and ferry and barge landing that service K'gari (Fraser Island). A shipping lane extends through the Sandy Strait main channel to a cruise ship anchorage adjacent to the Kingfisher Bay Resort on K'gari (Fraser Island).



Commercial crabbing and net fishing. Small scale commercial collection of coral and aquarium fish as non-conforming uses.



Commercial tours, wildlife watching, sailing, jet skiing, diving, snorkeling, kayaking, swimming and beach walking occur.



Recreational fishing, crabbing and boating.



Current marine park management



The region has four marine national park or 'green' zones:

- MNP14 located at the northwestern end of Woody Island protects the valuable coral and rocky reef habitat in that location.
 - MNP 15 protects the coral and sponge habitats to the south of Little Woody Island and an area of intertidal flats and mangrove and seagrass habitat near K'gari (Fraser Island).
 - MNP 16 extends to the southeast of Duck Island protecting intertidal flats and an important shorebird roost site.
 - MNP 17 protects the intertidal foreshore south of Mangrove Point and its values as a shorebird and turtle habitat.
- Most of the region sits within a conservation park zone reflecting the high conservation values present across this region.
 - The following designated areas also occur in this region:
 - the entire area is a designated shorebird roosting and feeding area helping to minimise disturbance to shorebirds and their habitat
 - go slow areas are designated over the flats between Woody Island and the mainland and over the intertidal embayment between Moon Point and Black Creek, to protect turtle and dugong within these areas from boat strike and disturbance
 - The Great Sandy Area extends over most of the conservation park zone and allows for the continuation of some fishing practices that would normally be prohibited or limited within this zone. Specifically, commercial net fishing is allowed to continue and recreational fishers are allowed to use up to three lines or rods per person rather than being limited to one line or rod per person
 - Five fish trap areas are designated along the mainland shore and one is located adjacent to Woody Island to protect these culturally significant sites from anchor damage.
 - Commercial crabbing is allowed to continue in the Great Sandy Strait conservation park zone through non-conforming use provisions in the zoning plan.



Zoning plan opportunities

- Maintaining a mix of marine park zoning to support a balance between conservation and use
- Enhancing existing arrangements to protect reef communities around Woody Island
- Enhancing existing arrangements to protect turtles, dugongs and their habitat
- Improving habitat protection and connectivity between Moon Point and Black Creek on K'gari (Fraser Island)

These could be achieved by considering:

- realigning and extending the boundary of the marine national park zone (MNP14) northward and/or introducing no anchoring rules to protect the coral communities at the northern end of Woody Island
- extending the existing go slow area and/or establishing a marine national park zone between Moon Point and Black Creek on K'gari (Fraser Island)
- your suggestions ...



Regional management

Please also consider issues outlined in the park-wide section of this paper which may also be relevant.

Central Great Sandy Strait

The Central Great Sandy Strait region extends from the mouth of the Mary River to Tinnanbar. The primary matters of conservation interest in this region include the central islands and turtle and dugong values.

Conservation values



Significant coastal processes occur where tidal currents from the north and south meet in the central Great Sandy Strait. These currents deposit sediment and create extensive intertidal and submerged sand and mud banks, and islands.



Largest area of marine vegetation (mangroves, saltmarsh and seagrass) in the Strait, providing important habitats for a range of species including turtles, dugong, shorebirds, fish and crustaceans.



The Mary and Susan Rivers are major waterways supporting extensive and diverse habitat and ecological values.



Internationally significant numbers of migratory shorebirds. Boonooroo is home to a large roosting site supporting around 4,000 birds at certain times. Bookar Island also provides habitat for a large number of critically endangered eastern curlews.



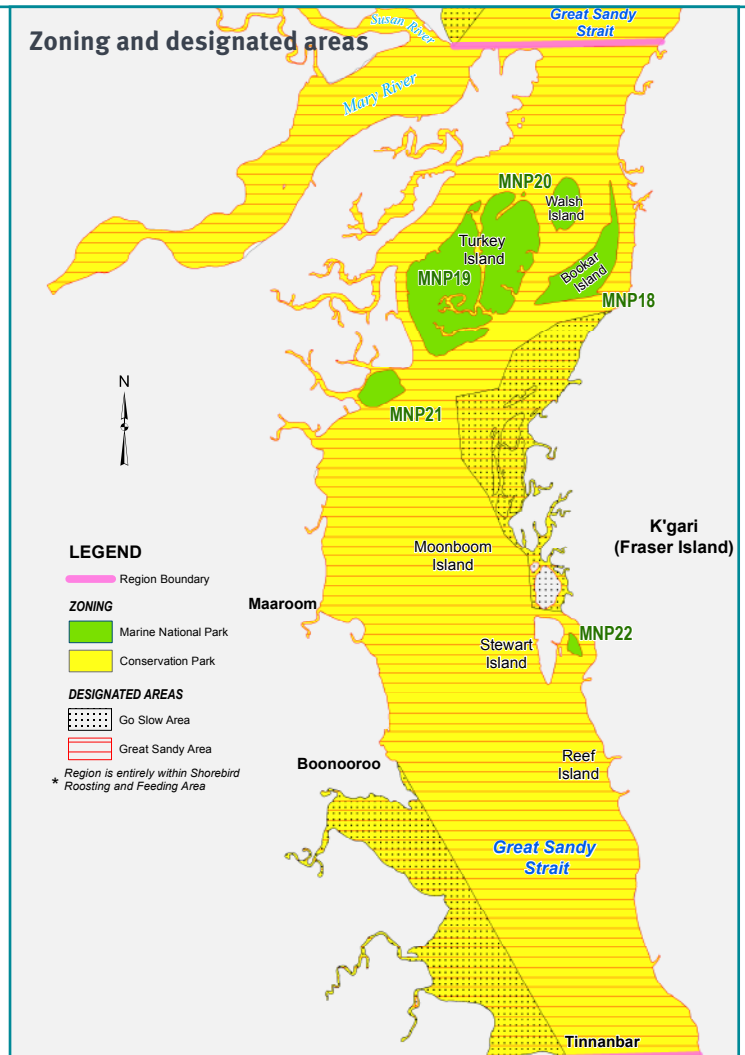
Key habitat for the vulnerable Illidge's ant-blue butterfly and water mouse in the Mary and Susan Rivers.



Key dolphin habitat, including for the vulnerable Australian humpback dolphin.



Key turtle and dugong habitat with green and loggerhead turtles found around Reef Island.



Uses



Recreational activities include swimming, kayaking and paddle boarding, particularly adjacent to townships.



Commercial crabbing and net fishing, and stripe netting and beam trawling in the Mary River.



Popular anchorages for private cruising yachts, such as Garry's Anchorage.



Recreational fishing, crabbing and boating.



Current marine park management



- This region contains five marine national park or ‘green’ zones—four of which extend over mangrove islands (MNPs 19, 20, 21 and 22). The other (MNP18) protects an area of intertidal and subtidal banks on the eastern side of Bookar Island that is extensively used by turtles and as a feeding location for shorebirds, including endangered eastern curlews.
- The majority of the region sits within conservation park zone reflecting the high conservation values present across this region.
- The following designated areas occur in this region:
 - a shorebird roosting and feeding area covers the entire region to protect shorebirds and their habitat from disturbance.
 - go slow areas are designated over Sheriden Flats adjacent to K’gari (Fraser Island) and over the nearshore areas between Boonooroo and Tinnanbar, to protect turtle and dugong from boat strike and disturbance.
 - the Great Sandy Area extends over all of the conservation park zone and allows for the continuation of some fishing practices that would normally be prohibited or limited within this zone. Specifically, commercial net fishing is allowed to continue and recreational fishers are allowed to use up to three lines or rods per person rather than being limited to one line or rod per person.
- Commercial crabbing is allowed to continue in the Great Sandy Strait conservation park zone through non-conforming use provisions in the zoning plan.



Zoning plan opportunities

- Maintain a mix of marine park zoning to support a balance between conservation and use.
- Enhance existing arrangements to protect turtles and dugong.
- Enhance the protection of the habitats in the vicinity of Turkey, Bookar and Walsh Islands.

These could be achieved by considering:

- incorporating the marine national park zones at Turkey (MNP19), Walsh (MNP20) and Bookar (MNP18) Islands into one large, comprehensive marine national park zone
- establishing one comprehensive marine national park zone by creating a boundary along a line of latitude north and south across the Great Sandy Strait encompassing the existing marine national park zones at Turkey (MNP19), Walsh (MNP20) and Bookar (MNP18) Islands
- establishing a marine national park over Turkey Island in its entirety, including any internal channels and inlets
- establishing a go slow area around the Reef Islands
- your suggestions ...

Regional management

Please also consider issues outlined in the park-wide section of this paper which may also be relevant.

Southern Great Sandy Strait

The Southern Great Sandy Strait region extends from Tinnanbar to Tin Can Inlet. The primary matters of conservation interest in this region include broad estuary values, and turtles and dugong.

Conservation values



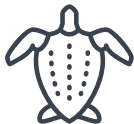
Critical pathway between Inskip Point and K'gari (Fraser Island) for the movement of flora, fauna and nutrients between inshore and offshore habitats. This exchange also influences the formation of channels and intertidal flats.



Extensive mangrove communities in Kauri Creek and the creeks feeding into Tin Can Inlet. Areas of saline grasslands and salt pans are also present. Tin Can Inlet provides the southern limit for the Club, Cannonball, and Myrtle Mangroves.



Extensive seagrass meadows extending over intertidal flats. Coffee rock ledges and rock bars fringe part of Tin Can Inlet.



Key habitat for turtles, dugong and dolphins. The intertidal flats at the mouth of Kauri Creek are a high use area for feeding dugong.



Home to a community of vulnerable Australian humpback dolphin.



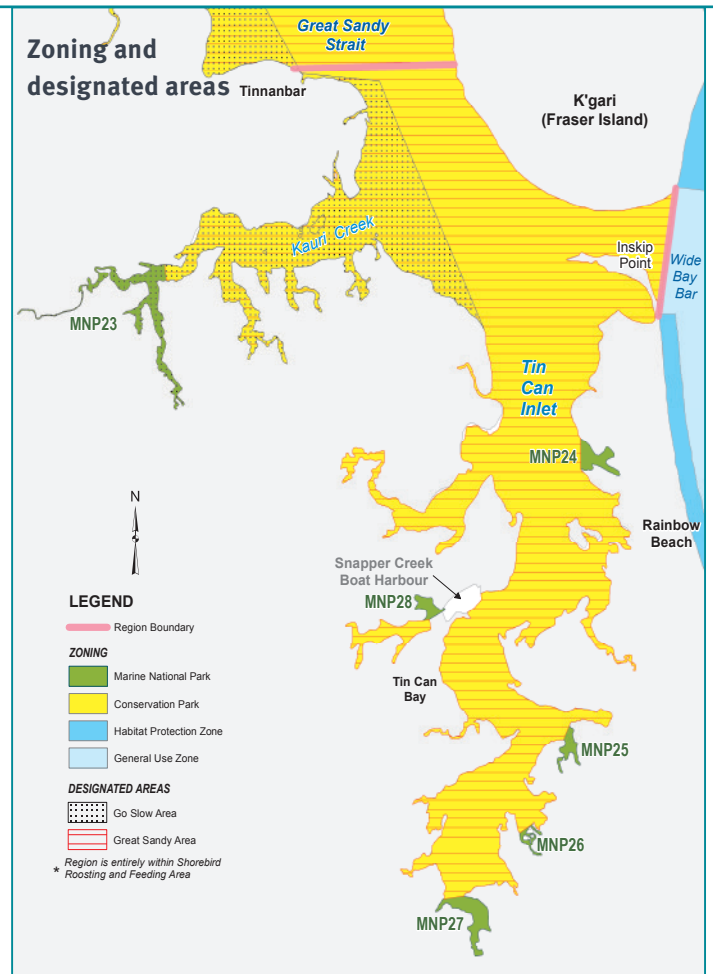
Home to the vulnerable water mouse in mangrove and saltmarsh areas.



Important habitat for migratory shorebirds and waders.



Diverse and abundant fish and crustacean populations.



Uses



Northern shoreline of Inskip Point and southern shoreline of K'gari (Fraser Island) are heavily used by four wheel drives and recreational activities. Inskip Point also provides barge access to K'gari (Fraser Island).



Commercial crabbing and net fishing. Tin Can Bay is the main access node and home to a fleet of commercial fishing vessels.



Houseboat hire and nature-based tourism.



Recreational fishing, crabbing and boating.



Current marine park management



- There are six marine national park or ‘green’ zones in the region, all of which are focused on protecting a range of representative intertidal creek habitats:
 - Upper reaches of Kauri Creek (MNP23)
 - Myers Creek (MNP24)
 - Seary’s Creek (MNP25)
 - Cooloola Creek (MNP26)
 - Carland Creek (MNP27)
 - Griffin Creek (MNP28).
- The remainder of the region sits within conservation park zone reflecting the high conservation values present.
- The following designated areas occur in this region:
 - the entire area sits within a Shorebird Roosting and Feeding area to protect shorebirds from unnecessary disturbance
 - go slow areas occur within Kauri Creek and over the flats adjacent to its mouth to protect dugong and turtle from boat strike and disturbance
 - the Great Sandy Area extends over most of the conservation park zone and allows for the continuation of some fishing practices that would normally be prohibited or limited within this zone. Specifically, commercial net fishing is allowed to continue and recreational fishers are allowed to use up to three lines or rods per person rather than being limited to one line or rod per person.
- Commercial crabbing is allowed to continue in the Great Sandy Strait conservation park zone through non-conforming use provisions in the zoning plan.

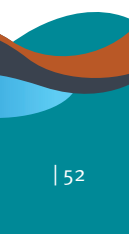


Zoning plan opportunities

- Maintain a mix of marine park zoning to support a balance between conservation and use.
- Enhance existing arrangements to protect turtles and dugong and their habitat.

These could be achieved by considering:

- expanding the Kauri Creek go slow area
- your suggestions ...





Great Sandy Marine Park zoning plan opportunities survey

As part of the consultation process for the review of the Great Sandy Marine Park zoning plan, you have the opportunity to submit your feedback to the discussion paper via a survey. Before you begin the survey, we suggest you read the discussion paper which provides information to assist in providing feedback.

You can skip any of the questions and only answer the ones that interest you. Questions with no response will be taken to mean you have no opinion on these topics.

In addition to general questions in part 1 about marine park management, more specific questions are provided in part 2 of the survey to assist us to better understand regional marine park issues and your interests in the marine park.

All answers to the survey questions will be treated anonymously. The survey can be completed in one of two ways:

1. online at the Queensland Government's Get Involved website www.getinvolved.qld.gov.au or
2. by printing the following pages of the survey and submitting them to:

email: marine.policy@des.qld.gov.au

post: Great Sandy Marine Park management review
Department of Environment and Science
PO Box 15187, City East
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Submissions close 5.00 pm Monday 25 February 2019

Part 1: General

1. Does the Great Sandy Marine Park adequately protect the marine environment while also allowing for a range of activities to be undertaken?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure

2. Should no anchoring areas be introduced to protect coral communities?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure

3. Should there be more protection for shorebirds throughout the marine park?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure

4. Should there be more go slow areas in the marine park to protect turtles and dugong?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure

5. Which habitat types do you think need greater protection in the marine park?
 - seagrass
 - mangroves
 - coral
 - saltmarsh
 - rocky shores
 - sandy beaches
 - sand flats/mudflats
 - none of the above
 - other (please specify)

6. Should there be more protection for grey nurse sharks?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure

7. Should there be more protection for heritage items in the marine park?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure

8. Which activities do you support occurring in the marine park?
 - aquaculture
 - commercial fishing
 - education programs
 - media activities, e.g. filming
 - motorised water sports
 - organised events, e.g. regattas, sporting events
 - passive recreation, e.g. kayaking, diving birdwatching
 - recreational fishing
 - research
 - tourism
 - works, e.g. dredging, reclamation
 - other (please specify)

9. Should zoning be changed to manage shoreline erosion and allow land owners to install private jetties/boat ramps in selected locations?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure

10. Do you have any other suggestions or comments to improve the management of the Great Sandy Marine Park?





Part 2: Topic-specific questions

Shorebird conservation (p 18)

11. Which of these shorebird roost sites should be considered for inclusion in the designated shorebird roosting and feeding area?

- mouth of Baffle Creek
- mouth of Littabella Creek
- mouth of Kolan Creek
- mouth of Theodolite Creek
- mouth of O'Reagan Creek
- Eli Creek
- Gables Point
- Dr Mays Island
- none of the above
- other (please specify)

12. Should whole-of-park measures be adopted to protect shorebirds like in Moreton Bay Marine Park?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Designated Great Sandy Area (p 23)

13. Which of these actions should be considered for the designated Great Sandy Area?

- Remove the designated Great Sandy Area and keep the conservation park (yellow) zone
- Remove Great Sandy Area and rezone the conservation park zone with a combination of zone types
- Keep the conservation park zone but amend the Great Sandy Area (provide suggestions below)
- No change—keep the current conservation park zone and Great Sandy Area
- Other (please specify)

Use and zoning (pp 25–26)

14. Which of these actions should be considered to manage each existing non-conforming use?

Non-conforming use (activity)	Allow activity to continue	Phase activity out
Commercial coral collecting in the conservation park zone located north of Woody Island	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial crabbing in the conservation park zone located in the Great Sandy Strait, Baffle Creek, Elliott River and Burrum River	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial beam trawling in the conservation park zone located in the Mary River and waters from its mouth to 1 km seaward of its mouth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial aquarium collecting in the marine national park zone located east of Little Woody Point	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dredge spoil disposal in the conservation park zone located in the Great Sandy Strait near the mouth of Snapper Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other (please specify)

15. Which of these actions should be considered to manage commercial bait netting in conservation park zones?

- List the bait species that can be taken using a bait net
- Prohibit the collection of regulated fish (as listed in the *Fisheries Act 1994*)
- Specify size and type of nets that can be used to catch bait
- Implement a combination of species and gear rules
- None of the above
- Other (please specify)

Shoreline management (p 28)

16. Which of these actions should be considered to manage shoreline erosion and private infrastructure?
- Modify the zoning at select locations to support additional shoreline erosion and management activities
 - Modify the zoning or include a designated area over part of Dayman Spit off Urangan to potentially allow the use of the spit as a sand source for shoreline management
 - Modify parts of the zoning in rivers and creeks to general use zone to support the establishment of private jetties/boat ramps
 - None of the above
 - Other (please specify)

Bundaberg region (p 30)

17. Should parts of Baffle Creek be included in a marine national park zone to support the long-term health and resilience of this system?
- Yes
 - No
 - Unsure
18. Which of these actions should be considered along Moore Park Beach to enhance protection of nesting turtles, hatchlings and their habitat?
- Seasonal go slow areas
 - Establish conservation park zone
 - Seasonal restrictions on bringing a domestic animal into the area
 - Seasonal restrictions on vehicle use
 - Seasonal restrictions on vessel use
 - Seasonal restrictions on artificial lights (e.g. torches)
 - None of the above
 - Other (please specify)

Woongarra region (p 32)

19. Should a conservation park zone be adopted between Burnett Heads and Burkitt's Reef in recognition of the significance of the sandy beaches and offshore habitats for turtles?
- Yes
 - No
 - Unsure
20. Which of these actions should be considered at Mon Repos to enhance protection of resting, nesting and courting turtles and their hatchlings?
- Expand existing seasonal turtle protection management area seaward
 - Expand existing seasonal go slow area seaward
 - Establish marine national park zone over the area
 - Commence access restrictions on Mon Repos Beach at 5 pm rather than 6 pm
 - None of the above
 - Other (please specify)

21. Which of these actions should be considered for the marine national park (green) zones at Burkitt's Reef (MNP1), Hoffman's Rocks (MNP2) and Barolin Rock (MNP3) to protect coral reef communities?
- No anchoring rules
 - Modify existing zone boundaries to include other reef communities in these locations to support conservation and connectivity between reefs
 - Modify the boundaries of the green zone at Burkitt's Reef and Hoffman's Rocks to assist with use and compliance of these zones
 - None of the above
 - Other (please specify)





Woodgate and Burrum Coast region (p 34)

22. Which of these actions should be considered to protect coral communities at Four Mile Reef?

- No anchoring rules
- Establish conservation park zone
- None of the above
- Other (please specify)

23. Which of these actions should be considered for the go slow area at the mouth of the Burrum River to protect turtle and dugong habitat?

- Expand existing go slow area boundaries in an easterly and southerly direction
- Establish conservation park zone
- None of the above
- Other (please specify)

24. Should a conservation park zone be adopted adjacent to the Burrum Coast National Park north and south of the Burrum River mouth and over shallow water habitat outside the river mouth to support enhanced connectivity with the national park, plus enhanced protection at the mouth of the Burrum River?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Hervey Bay Coast region (p 37)

25. Which of these actions should be considered to minimise impacts on amenity values and reduce disturbance to shorebirds, turtles and dugong in Eli Creek?

- Non-motorised activities only in Eli Creek
- Establish go slow area in Eli Creek

26. Should a go-slow area be established over intertidal habitat outside Eli Creek to protect resting turtles?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

27. Should the western boundary of the current conservation park zone west of Point Vernon be relocated further west to better cover and protect reef communities in this area?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

28. To enhance the protection of coral communities, select the locations at which no anchoring rules and/or the establishment of a marine national park zone (MNPZ) should be considered:

Location	MNPZ	No anchoring
Gatakers Bay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Near ESA park (northern Point Vernon)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Near The Gables (north eastern Point Vernon)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Near Point Vernon east	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Near Pialba	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Near Scarness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
None of the above	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other (please specify):

Central and Eastern Hervey Bay region (p 39)

29. Should the conservation park zone at Coongul Creek and Wathumba Creek be modified to better capture the dynamic nature of these creek mouths and enhance conservation of the creek ecosystems and connectivity with Platypus Bay? Note, as an example, a strip of conservation park zone occurs along the mouth of Baffle Creek helping to cater for any coastal movement.
- Yes
 No
 Unsure
30. Should the current habitat protection zone be expanded further west into Platypus Bay to enhance habitat and species protection and connectivity with K'gari (Fraser Island) and the Fraser Island World Heritage area, while also recognising the importance of the area for whales, tourism and other uses of Platypus Bay?
- Yes
 No
 Unsure
31. Should the waters of Platypus Bay adjacent to the western side of K'gari (Fraser Island) north of Wathumba Creek be recognised as a remote natural area with go slow requirements and associated restrictions on motorised water activities such as water skiing, to help maintain the natural landscape and amenity values of this area?
- Yes
 No
 Unsure

32. Which of these actions should be considered in the vicinity of Rooney Point?

- Expand existing habitat protection zone south into the northern end of Platypus Bay to protect dugong habitat
- Expand existing habitat protection zone further west to protect reef communities
- No anchoring rules to protect coral and rare gastropod communities off Rooney Point
- Establish conservation park zone to adjoin the current marine national park zone and habitat protection zone to enhance conservation of reef communities
- None of the above
- Other (please specify)

33. Which of these actions should be considered along the coastline between Ferguson Spit and Sandy Cape on K'gari (Fraser Island) to protect reef communities and turtle and dugong habitat?

- Change existing seasonal go slow area to a year-round go slow area
- Expand existing marine national park zone (MNP11) off Ferguson Spit to cover the habitat protection zone west of Rooney Point while maintaining a 500 metre habitat protection zone along the beach
- Expand green zones at Ferguson Spit (MNP11) and Sandy Cape (MNP12) to the marine park boundary on the beach of K'gari (Fraser Island).
- None of the above
- Other (please specify)





Offshore (p 42)

34. Which of these actions should be considered to enhance the protection of grey nurse shark and other offshore habitats and species?
- Restrict diving access to the Wolf Rock grey nurse shark area to marine park permit holders only
 - Establish conservation park and/or buffer zone over The Pinnacles (north east of Wolf Rock) and/or Round Rock
 - Expand the existing conservation park zone at Double Island Point north east to surround the Wolf Rock marine national park and buffer zones
 - None of the above
 - Other (please specify)

Great Sandy Strait region (pp 45–51)

35. Which of these actions should be considered for the existing marine national park (green) zone (MNP14) at the northern end of Woody Island to protect coral communities?
- Realign and expand zone to more effectively protect corals
 - No anchoring rules
 - None of the above
 - Other (please specify)

36. Should the existing go slow area between Moon Point and Black Creek on K'gari (Fraser Island) be expanded to better protect turtle and dugong and their habitat in adjacent shallow water areas?
- Yes
 - No
 - Unsure

37. Should there be a strip of marine national park (green) zone adjacent to the Great Sandy National Park supporting enhanced connectivity and protection of this area in recognition of the Fraser Island World Heritage area, Great Sandy National Park and environmental values of the inshore habitats between Moon Point and Black Creek on K'gari (Fraser Island)?
- Yes
 - No
 - Unsure

38. Which of these actions should be considered in the vicinity of the marine national park (green) zones at Turkey (MNP19), Walsh (MNP20) and Bookar (MNP18) Islands to enhance management, and species and habitat protection?

- Combine three existing green zones to create one green zone
- Establish one green zone across the Great Sandy Strait encompassing the three green zones
- Include Turkey Island, the channels within and any inlets, in a single green zone
- None of the above
- Other (please specify)

39. Should a go slow area be designated over the shallow water habitats around the Reef Islands to protect turtles and dugong and their habitat?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

40. Should the current Kauri Creek go slow area be extended to provide greater coverage of intertidal and shallow water habitat to enhance the protection of turtles and dugong and their habitat?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

41. Are there any other suggestions or comments that you would like to make to improve the management of the Great Sandy Marine Park?

