

The Hon Paul Caica MP
Member for Colton



Government
of South Australia

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31 December 2010

Mr Steven Griffiths MP
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Dear Mr ^{Steven} Griffiths

Thank you for your letter dated 1 December 2010, on behalf of your electorate, regarding South Australia's marine parks program.

As you are aware, Marine Park Local Advisory Groups (MPLAG) are currently considering preliminary sanctuary zone scenarios. The scenarios were based on best available information from a range of sources, including recreational fishers, Government agencies and marine scientists.

As the first stage of the program is to work with the community to develop draft marine park management plans, the preliminary sanctuary zone scenarios provide a starting point to help MPLAGs and other stakeholders begin discussing their preferred zoning scenarios. It is expected that the advice the Government finally receives on preferred zoning will be significantly different from the preliminary scenarios provided to MPLAGs in November 2010.

To maximise community involvement in the development of marine parks the draft management plans, including draft zones, will be released for extensive community and stakeholder consultation in the second half of 2011. Final sanctuary zones will not be implemented until 2012.

I am pleased to provide you with the following responses to the specific questions you raised in your correspondence.

Impact Statement

As the preliminary sanctuary zone scenarios are merely a starting point, it is not reasonable to do a detailed economic impact study on them. However, when draft marine park management plans with zoning are provided for public comment, impact statements will accompany each draft plan. These impact statements will assess the

economic, social and environmental impacts, both positive and negative, of the draft management plans and associated zones.

What marine life (vegetation, species of fish, marine ecology) distinctive to the area from Hardwicke Bay to Corny Point are under threat, are of concern or are attracting the interest of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources?

To support their work, MPLAGs were provided with an explanation of the basis of the preliminary sanctuary zones. The document supporting the Southern Spencer Gulf Marine Park is available on the marine parks website at www.marineparks.sa.gov.au.

Marine park design does not focus on responding to threats. Rather, the *Marine Parks Act 2007* requires the establishment of a comprehensive, adequate and representative system of marine parks across South Australia. To achieve this, examples of every habitat type in South Australia's waters must be protected to a high level (i.e. within sanctuary zones). -- For the network of parks to be comprehensive, adequate and representative, it would need to include some habitats in the unique north facing coast from Hardwicke Bay to Corny Point.

Have studies been undertaken on the effect global warming will have on this particular marine environment and have the findings been influential on the State Government's decision to implement a marine park and fishing restrictions?

The expected impacts of climate change on coastal areas are well documented with predicted increases of extreme weather events, ocean warming, ocean acidification, sea level rise and storm surges, all of which will impact on coastal environments over the coming years. The research also shows that healthy and intact ecosystems have been shown to be more resilient to the effects of climate change and pollution, and in this way sanctuary zones are expected to contribute to the mitigation of the impacts of climate change into the future.

Will beach and jetty fishing continue following any introduction of the marine parks?

The South Australian Government has already made a commitment that fishing from all jetties and popular fishing beaches will not be affected.

Can you confirm if the "vast majority" of recreational fishing in the immediate zone between Hardwicke Bay to Corny Point (approximately 5 kilometres from the shoreline) will not be affected if park 12 comes into effect?

As explained above, the preliminary sanctuary zone scenarios are merely a starting point, and are expected to change as a result of the work in progress. In the current preliminary sanctuary zone scenarios, there is only zone C and a small section of zone A that will restrict fishing within five kilometres of the coast between Corny Point and the town of Hardwicke Bay.

The South Australian Government recognises the importance of balancing the needs of local communities with the requirements for conservation. The two stage process to develop marine park management plans will provide community members the opportunity to support the achievement of this balance. Based on interstate and

overseas experiences, we can expect our marine parks to deliver a range of benefits that will be good for the environment and good for local communities and industries.

For further information on this matter, please contact Ms Jodie Welsh, Ministerial Adviser on telephone 8463 5680.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely



PAUL CAICA

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION