



Jervis Bay Marine Park Alliance Temperate East Jervis Marine Park Review Submission

This submission is presented on behalf of Jervis Bay Marine Park Alliance (JBMPA). Our group's mandate is the ongoing protection of (NSW) Jervis Bay Marine Park and the adjacent waters, and in particular their unique conservation values.

JBMPA welcomes the review of the Temperate East Marine Parks Network and the opportunity to comment on this review. JBMPA strongly encourages the Australian Government to use this once-in-a-decade opportunity to create an ecologically representative and connected marine park network with at least 30% of the region protected highly protected as marine sanctuaries by 2030. This should be supported by stronger protection from incompatible industrial and extractive activities, effective management, increased research, monitoring and enforcement, and closer coordination between genuine First Nations partnerships, and NSW and Commonwealth marine park networks.

The key themes stated in our submission focus on the Jervis Temperate East Marine Park waters, however, where appropriate, our comments also extend to the entire Temperate East Marine Park Network Review.

The Temperate East Jervis Marine Park

The Jervis Temperate East Marine Park covers 2473 square kilometres, with depths from 120 metres to 5000 metres with an average depth of 2,699 metres.

The Jervis Temperate East Marine Park is about 20 kilometres offshore and adjacent to the New South Wales Jervis Bay Marine Park and Commonwealth Booderee National Park. Together these parks cover a wealth of naturally and culturally important places including land and Sea Country of the Wreck Bay Indigenous community, the Traditional Owners.

The Jervis Temperate East Marine Park links shallower continental shelf to the deep ocean. Undersea canyons cut into the continental shelf from the deep waters beyond, providing habitat for deep water, shallower water and wall-dwelling species. Rocky reefs on the shelf itself support yet more diversity. Upwellings at the many canyons and seamounts attract tuna, whales and seabirds, while coral, sponge gardens and rocky reefs provide critical habitats for a vast range of marine species.

Marine Park Zoning and The Importance of Marine Protected Area Connectivity

Research by the National Environmental Science Program¹ found strong support for marine sanctuaries (National Park Zones) including 75% of the public, 80% of recreational fishers, 86% of non-extractive recreational users, and 57% of charter operators supporting the National Park Zones. Most recreational fishers perceived that the zoning in the marine parks would have minimal impact on their fishing and just 2% indicated that these zones would decrease the quality of their fishing.

The combined area of Jervis Bay Marine Park and Booderee marine waters only have an estimated 20% fully protected marine sanctuary zones. These zones play a critical role in replenishing and sustaining marine waters within and beyond Jervis Bay, but currently lack the critical size required for effective long-term resilience of some larger marine species. The Jervis Temperate East Marine Park consists of Habitat

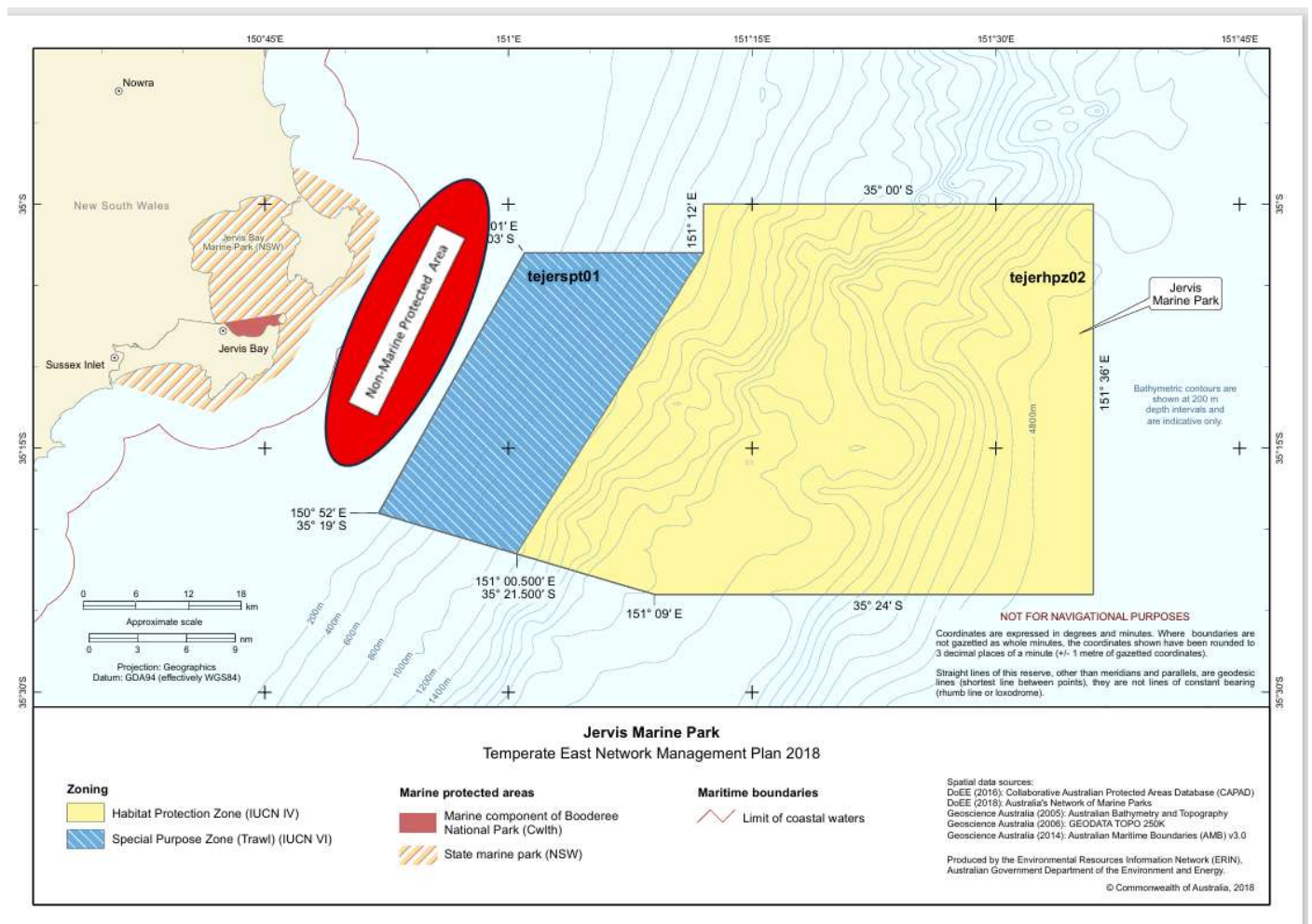
¹ Navarro M, Langlois T, Burton M, Hegarty A, Aston C, Kragt M, Rogers A 2021 Social and economic benchmarks of the Australian Marine Parks. Report to the National Environmental Science Program, Marine Biodiversity Hub. The University of Western Australia.

Protection and Special Purpose (Trawl) zones, however there are NO highly protected sanctuary zones within the Marine Park.

- **Expanding marine sanctuaries within the Jervis Temperate East Marine Park is crucial for safeguarding its unique marine life. JBPMA encourages the Commonwealth to enlarge the protection area through the creation of Marine Sanctuary Zones (IUCN I or II) and additional Habitat or Species Management Area (IUCN IV) within ecologically significant locations.**

It is important to note that the Marine Protected areas within Jervis Bay are not contiguous with the Jervis Park Marine protected Area: Currently there are **NO** Marine Protected Areas linking Jervis Bay Marine Park, Booderee Marine Park waters and the Temperate East Jervis Marine Park. Figure 1 clearly illustrates this lack of connectivity.

Figure 1. Map showing location and zoning of the Temperate East's Jervis Marine Park



Gardner, Lausche, Pittman and Metaxas (2024), state: “Considering connectivity in MPA design will advance efforts to mitigate threats, ensure that marine populations have access to the locations they need to thrive and to maintain biodiversity and ecosystem services [15], [16], [17], [18].” The authors go on to say: “Unimpeded exchanges of individuals (larvae, juveniles, adults) are central to biodiversity, ecosystem functioning and resilience to stressors (e.g., climate change, urbanisation, habitat loss), and underpin the many contributions to human well-being particularly for coastal communities.

(<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/marine-policy>)

- **JBMPA requests that the Commonwealth applies Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative (CAR) and connectivity principles, supported by contemporary seabed mapping and systematic spatial planning. This should prioritise under-represented continental shelf and slope habitats, deep reefs, soft sediments, pelagic areas, canyons, seamounts and climate refuges. Zones should be large, compact and buffered rather than narrow or fragmented.**
- **JBMPA encourages the Commonwealth to enlarge the protected areas of Jervis Marine Park through the creation of a National Park (Sanctuary) Zone on the shelf and upper continental slope, and the park's boundary extended to connect with the adjoining boundaries of the Jervis Bay Marine Park and Booderee Marine waters; and**
- **The Commonwealth enters into a co-management agreement of this area with the NSW Government and Traditional Owners. This creates unimpeded linkages for species migration from the Jervis Bay Marine Park Sanctuary Zone network, as well as consistency between management approaches. This approach is in line with Federal and State environmental ministers' commitment to 'ecological representativeness' and highly protected areas IUCN category I & II²**
- **As an overall objective, JBMPA requests that the Commonwealth increases IUCN Category I and II zoning by a minimum of 30% across all the Temperate East region by 2030. This target should be applied at relevant bioregional and network scales so that protection is ecologically representative, and not concentrated in remote or low-conflict waters of low conservation value.**

Collaborations with Traditional Owner and Sea Country Rangers

The new Marine Parks Network plan should be developed through genuine partnership with Traditional Owners and Sea Country organisations, respecting cultural rights, Indigenous knowledge, and aspirations for governance, ranger employment and co-management.

The Traditional Owners of Booderee are striving to strengthen their Sea Country linkages and Sea Country Ranger Program. The recently released Draft Booderee Management Plan (2026-2036) proposes an increase in Sanctuary Zone areas within Booderee marine waters.

- **JBMPA requests that the Commonwealth facilitate the development of collaborative and integrated research, regulatory and management programs with Traditional Owners, Sea Rangers and the NSW State and Commonwealth governments within the Booderee Marine Protected waters, Jervis Bay Marine Park and Jervis Temperate East Marine Protected Areas.**

Make protection effective and accountable

An independent evaluation of the implementation of progress made over the past eight years of the current Management Plan (2018–2028) found that stakeholders reported that the lack of data collected on awareness of marine park rules amongst users made it difficult to assess whether user awareness of marine park rules had quantifiably improved over the life of the plan. In addition, stakeholders reported that low overall awareness of AMPs amongst recreational users could be indicative of similarly low awareness of AMP rules amongst these users.³

² Federal & State Environmental Ministers, (March 2026), Environment Ministers' Meeting, <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/emm-communique-27-march-2026.pdf>

³ Report on findings from the independent evaluation of the implementation of the Temperate East Marine Parks Network Management Plan Director of National Parks Australian Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water Report: 15 July 2026 [Report on findings from the independent evaluation of the implementation of the Temperate East Marine Parks Network Management Plan](#)

- **JBMPA requests that the Plan aims to set measurable biodiversity objectives, long-term monitoring and public reporting; strengthen compliance and enforcement; provide secure funding; and use adaptive management to respond to marine heatwaves, species range shifts and cumulative industrial pressures. Coordinate management with Sea Country Rangers, NSW Agencies where state and Commonwealth parks form one ecosystem.**

Remove incompatible industrial and high-risk extractive activities from marine parks

Biodiversity conservation should take clear priority over incompatible extractive and industrial development within marine parks.

Oil and gas industry impacts, like seismic testing and extraction, are allowed in five of the eight parks, while pipelines are possible in all zones of all parks.

Under the current management plan, bottom trawling can occur in three of the eight parks, and midwater trawling in seven of the eight parks. Demersal gill netting could also possibly occur in six of the eight parks, and pelagic in seven, while demersal and pelagic longlining could be allowed in six of the eight parks. The independent Fisheries Gear Risk Assessments commissioned by the Australian Government identified these fishing practices as incompatible with marine park values.

The region is facing increasing pressures from coastal urban and industrial development, climate change impacts (including shifts in major currents), commercial and recreational fishing, and increased shipping and port activities.

- **Prohibit oil and gas exploration and extraction, seismic blasting, seabed mining, carbon capture and storage infrastructure, bottom trawling and other destructive seabed-contact fishing methods throughout Australian Marine Parks. Other commercial fishing methods that pose significant risks to conservation values should be excluded from zones where those risks cannot be adequately managed, and any new industrial activity should be assessed against marine park conservation objectives, cumulative impacts and the precautionary principle.**

Conclusion

Jervis Bay Marine Park Alliance welcomes the review of the Temperate East Marine Parks Network. Our organisation and the communities we represent depend on healthy and resilient oceans. We hope that the suggestions and comments in this submission provide a constructive and valuable contribution to the Review process.

Jervis Bay Marine Park Alliance

31/08/2026

PO Box 163

VINCENTIA NSW 2540

jervisbaymarineparkalliance@gmail.com

