

Victoria's Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries

- Planning for the future

Background

In 2001, the Victorian Government accepted the Environment Conservation Council's recommendation that detailed management plans for each of Victoria's 13 marine national parks and 11 marine sanctuaries be completed over the coming three years.

Legislation passed by the Victorian Parliament in June 2002 proclaimed these marine national parks and marine sanctuaries as of 16 November 2002.

The Management Planning Strategy

Parks Victoria is undertaking the management planning for the marine parks system, and as a first stage has prepared a *Management Strategy for Victoria's System of Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries*.

Drawing on State legislation and policy, and best practice principles and guidelines for the management of highly protected marine areas, the Strategy provides a consistent, statewide approach to the management of our Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries.

It seeks to ensure that management priorities, objectives, strategies and programs are developed and coordinated to realise the benefits to marine conservation, and meet public expectations.

The Strategy was prepared with the participation of a Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries Reference Group, comprising representatives from 15 community groups with significant interest in the management of Victoria's marine environment.

Through a formal public consultation process, the wider community was provided with the opportunity to comment on the draft Strategy. Public comments were taken into account in preparing the final Strategy.

The planning process

Over the next three years, Parks Victoria will be encouraging community participation and involvement from interested individuals and groups in the development of park and sanctuary specific management plans. This will involve refinement of local and / or regional issues and management actions based on consultation and input from local communities, stakeholders, government agencies, and interested individuals.

Parks Victoria will engage with the community in a variety of ways, including meetings, consultation and collaboration with interest groups, and formal submission processes.

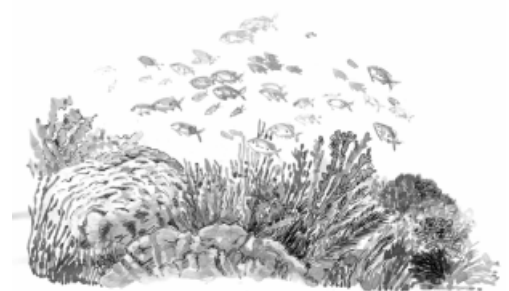
Formal involvement will be invited, and will include the establishment of a small number of *Regional Reference Groups* to provide for regional representation and advice on local marine planning issues



Parks Victoria Ranger

"Victoria's system of Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries provides total protection for their unique inhabitants, offering unlimited opportunities for us all to learn more about this stunning underwater world."

For more information call the Parks Victoria Information Centre on 13 1963 or visit our website at www.parkweb.vic.gov.au



Butterfly Perch over sponge garden

Interim management arrangements prior to release of the management plans are already in place, including the implementation of legislation, appointment of fisheries officers and rangers, signage and boundary marking and the establishment of research and monitoring programs, as well as general information collection and consultation.

Interim management statements will be prepared to guide management until the individual management plans are completed.

For further information

Parks Victoria is responsible for the day-to-day management of Victoria's Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries.

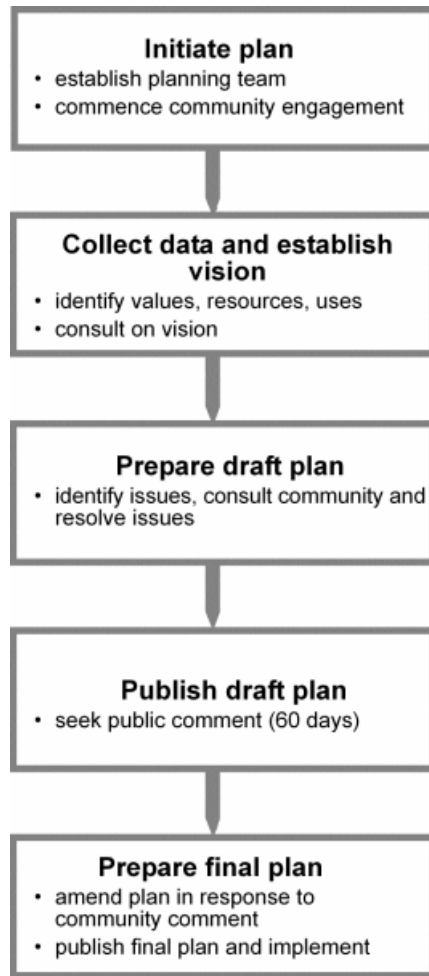
More information on Victoria's system of marine national parks and marine sanctuaries, including *Victoria's System of Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries Management Strategy*, can be found on the Parks Victoria website at www.parkweb.vic.gov.au or by calling the Parks Victoria Information Centre on 13 1963

Information is also available at the Department of Natural Resources and Environment website at www.nre.vic.gov.au/coastsandmarine

The Environment Conservation Council *Marine, Coastal and Estuarine Investigation: Final Report* can be found on the Victorian Environment Assessment Council website at www.veac.vic.gov.au/ecc/marine/report2000.htm

The *National Parks (Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries) Act 2002* (Vic.) can be obtained at www.dms.dpc.vic.gov.au/sb/2002_Act/A01106.html

Parks Victoria's management planning process will involve the following key steps:



Plan scheduling

The development of management plans for each of the 24 marine national parks and marine sanctuaries is a significant undertaking, and will therefore be scheduled over the three year planning period. However, Parks Victoria encourages input on management planning for all marine national parks and sanctuaries at any time. Although not finalised, the proposed program for completion of the management plans is as follows:

How can I get involved?

Planning

If you are interested in providing input into the management planning for a specific marine national park or marine sanctuary or finding out more site-specific information, you can contact the relevant Regional Marine Planner (West Victoria, East Victoria or City and Bays) via the Parks Victoria Information Centre on 13 1963.

Park programs

Aside from being involved in the planning for these areas, there are opportunities to establish or participate in new Friends groups and other volunteer activities. It is not necessary to belong to a group to join in volunteer activities - visitors are always welcome!

However, joining or establishing a Friends Group has many benefits, from being actively involved in marine conservation and meeting like-minded people to keeping abreast of issues and activities.

For more information or assistance on becoming involved in your local Friends group, or establishing a new Friends group, contact Geoff Durham, Friends Network Liaison Officer on 9523 5559.

Your local park office (contact 13 1963) can also provide information on other activities in which you can be involved.



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November 2002

Region	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
East Victoria	Wilson's Promontory MNP Beware Reef MS	Corner Inlet MNP Point Hicks MNP Bunurong MNP	Cape Howe MNP Ninety Mile Beach MNP
West Victoria	Point Danger MS Point Addis MNP Merri MS	Marengo Reefs MS Twelve Apostles MNP The Arches MS	Discovery Bay MNP Eagle Rock MS
City and Bays	Jawbone MS Port Phillip Heads MNP Ricketts Point MS Point Cooke MS	Barwon Bluff MS Mushroom Reef MS Churchill Island MNP French Island MNP Yaringa MNP	