

## Co-Chairs' Update 6 August 2015

### An update from the road

We are now well into the final stages of testing our revised zoning options with the last week of meetings to occur next week in Queensland and Sydney.

By then we will have held over 60 meetings in Sydney, Port Stephens, Adelaide, Fremantle, Broome, Darwin, Nhulunbuy, Mooloolaba, Cairns, Canberra and by phone, with regional and national stakeholders relevant to each of the five regions.

Our aim has been to outline our proposed options and to identify any further issues that would require us to further refine our recommendations to Government.

### What we have heard so far

We are very pleased to report that our proposals have generally been well received and that consultations have been going well, with stakeholders providing constructive feedback.

As you can imagine there are differing views on zonation. Balancing competing interests is always challenging but we believe that with this further stakeholder engagement we are finding workable solutions and refinements to our options.

Some of the strong messages we have heard so far are to maintain a national representative system of Commonwealth marine reserves that recognises a range of uses in our marine environment, including commercial and recreational fishing, traditional use, tourism and oil and gas activities. We have also heard clear messages to maintain the integrity of no-take marine national park zones as a central part of the system of zonation used in our marine reserves network.

Our focus continues to be the extent to which our options improve conservation and/or socio-economic outcomes, or how they make

it easier for users to comply with or Parks Australia to manage the areas in the future.

### Addressing misinformation

There have been some instances where we have heard inaccurate and disingenuous claims about our proposals – even in advance of us actually discussing an area with the relevant stakeholders. This is unfortunate and disappointing.

We would not entertain any proposal to allow commercial fishing or oil and gas activities in no-take marine national park zones.

We are working hard to consider the views put to us on an area and we hope you will see how we balance these different views in our final recommendations.

We would encourage everyone to get the facts from us – visit the CMR Review website ([www.marinereservesreview.gov.au](http://www.marinereservesreview.gov.au)) and subscribe to our updates or send us an email [cmrreview@environment.gov.au](mailto:cmrreview@environment.gov.au)

### Completion of the Review

We understand the importance to many stakeholders of completing our Review quickly in order to allow the Government to consider the recommendations and start the process of developing management plans to provide the certainty many stakeholders are seeking.

We plan to deliver our reports to the Government as soon as possible.

**Prof. Colin Buxton**

**Mr Peter Cochrane**

Co-Chairs of the Bioregional Advisory Panels

#### **Further information:**

For more information about the Commonwealth Marine Reserves Review and the Panels, please visit: [www.marinereservesreview.gov.au](http://www.marinereservesreview.gov.au)

If you have a question, or would like an article for your organisations newsletter or magazine please email [cmrreview@environment.gov.au](mailto:cmrreview@environment.gov.au)