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Great Sandy Marine Park



Renewal of Great Sandy Marine Park Zoning Plan

What are the challenges in the sustainable management of the Great Sandy Marine Park?

The Great Sandy Marine Park, like all Queensland marine parks, is a multiple use area supporting conservation while providing opportunities for a range of recreational, commercial and tourism opportunities. One of the biggest challenges in any zoning plan process is seeking an appropriate balance between conservation and use. Science and public input can help shape the outcome.

When and how can I get involved?

Public input is a key step in the Great Sandy Zoning Plan renewal process. If you would like to be involved in the upcoming consultation process please provide the department with your contact details by emailing marine.policy@npsr.qld.gov.au.

Further information about the Great Sandy Marine Park, including a Visitor Guide, can be found on the department's website www.npsr.qld.gov.au

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Great Sandy Marine Park Zoning Plan renewal

The Great Sandy Marine Park is a special place containing significant marine values. Covering 6000km² the marine park includes a mix of seagrass meadows, mangroves, rocky shores, reefs, sandy beaches, bays, sheltered channels, rivers, creeks and estuaries. These areas host a wealth of wildlife including whales, turtles, dugong, grey nurse sharks, fish, corals, birds and more.

The marine park also supports a diverse mix of tourism, commercial and recreational activities.

The Zoning Plan plays a key role in the conservation and management of the values that make this marine park special.

Why does the plan get renewed?

With 2016 marking the 10 year anniversary of the Great Sandy Zoning Plan declaration it is required under law that the Zoning Plan is reviewed. The goal is to renew the Zoning Plan for a further 10 years to support ongoing conservation and management of this area.

To allow this renewal process to include public consultation and assessment, a one year extension has been approved.

The new renewal target date is 1 September 2017. This renewal provides the opportunity to consider what has worked well, and to explore any challenges and opportunities that have arisen over the past 10 years.

What happens during the renewal process?

The process for reviewing the zoning plan is outlined below. It involves three key stages focussing on data collection and analysis, releasing a draft zoning plan for public comment, and finalising the zoning plan.

