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Minister Adam Marshall MP  
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Minister Matthew Kean MP  
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Dear Minister Marshall and Minister Kean

**Re: Technical papers and a summary document to support the draft Management Plan for the NSW Mainland Marine Park Network (2021-2031)**

I refer to my previous correspondence, dated 10 June 2021, regarding the draft Management Plan for the NSW Mainland Marine Park Network (2021-2031) and associated draft Communications and Engagement Strategy for Ministers' consideration. In that correspondence I noted that products for community engagement (for the draft management plan) noted in the draft Communications and Engagement Strategy were also under development to inform the public consultation process.

I am pleased to advise that the Authority will be releasing two technical papers summarising the social, cultural, economic sciences and environmental/biological sciences of NSW marine protected areas since 2010 (when the last Independent Scientific Audit of NSW Marine Parks was commissioned), along with a brief summary fact sheet. These papers and the summary fact sheet will help the NSW community and stakeholders to understand the current state of knowledge on NSW marine protected areas and provide recommendations for research to inform the effectiveness of future marine park management. The two papers are:

- Evaluation of the performance of NSW Marine Protected Areas; biological and ecological parameters (MEEKP 2020) (**Attachment A**)
- Social, cultural and economic science technical paper for NSW marine protected areas (BDO EconSearch 2021) (**Attachment B**).

In addition, a short summary has been prepared to support stakeholder and community consultation:

- Research and evidence informing marine park management in NSW (**Attachment C**).

Evidence used in the development of the draft Management Plan for the NSW Mainland Marine Park Network (2021-2031) (the draft plan) includes:

- Reports, research and academic papers identified by agencies, independent experts and key stakeholders
- Expert opinion of subject matter experts, including the Marine Estate Expert Knowledge Panel, marine park advisory committees and agencies
- Knowledge from Traditional Owners
- Community input and advice.

The technical papers prepared by the MEEKP (**Attachment A**) and BDO EconSearch (**Attachment B**) review literature that is an important part of this evidence.

Together these two technical papers discuss the ecological, social, cultural and economic literature published since the Audit. They acknowledge that while there has been substantive new knowledge gained since 2010, there are still knowledge gaps and uncertainties about ecosystems, threats, positive and negative impacts and the effectiveness of alternative management options. Identified knowledge gaps will inform future research to improve our decision making and management effectiveness of NSW marine protected areas. The summary fact sheet (**Attachment C**) outlines key aspects of the reports for stakeholders and the community.

I would be pleased to provide any further information on the summary and two technical papers if required.

Yours sincerely



**Dr Russell Reichelt AO FTSE**  
**Chair**  
**Marine Estate Management Authority**

21 September 2021

Enc:

- Attachment A - Evaluation of the performance of NSW Marine Protected Areas; biological and ecological parameters (MEEKP 2020)
- Attachment B – Social, cultural and economic science technical paper for NSW marine protected areas (BDO EconSearch 2021)
- Attachment C - Summary - Research and evidence informing marine park management in NSW