

# Batemans Marine Park Management Plan Pilot Stakeholder Consultation Outcomes Report

**Client:**  
Department of Primary Industries - Fisheries NSW

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Final Report

A Veris Company



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# 1 Introduction

The Department of Primary Industries – Fisheries NSW (DPI Fisheries) is undertaking a pilot process to develop the Batemans Marine Park Management Plan (the Management Plan). Recognising that engagement with stakeholders is critical during the development of the Management Plan, DPI Fisheries conducted four stakeholder workshops to identify management objectives. The process for the Management Plan’s development is governed by the *Marine Estate Management Act 2014* (MEM Act) and involves engagement with stakeholders and community members.

This report details the outcomes of stakeholder workshops with marine estate agencies, other State and local government representatives and the Batemans Marine Park Advisory Committee (the AC). A summary of the workshops is detailed in the table below. The list of attendees at each workshop is provided in Appendix A.

Workshop	Date	Location	Attendees
Marine estate agencies	Monday 18 June 2018	Narooma Golf Club	17 representatives from: » Office of Environment and Heritage » NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service » Roads and Maritime Services » Department of Planning and Environment » Department of Primary Industries.
External agencies	Wednesday 27 June 2018	Narooma Golf Club	12 representatives from State government agencies and local government including: » Office of Environment and Heritage » Local Land Services » EPA NSW » Eurobodalla Shire Council » Bega Shire Council.
Marine Park Advisory Committee	Wednesday 11 July 2018	The Whale Inn, Narooma	12 Advisory Committee members
Marine Park Advisory Committee	Monday 20 August 2018	Narooma Golf Club	10 Advisory Committee members

Workshops were designed to inform and engage stakeholders in the development of the Management Plan. At the workshops, participants discussed the regional values and threats identified in the state-wide Threat and Risk Assessment (TARA) for the southern region and their applicability at the local level. Workshop participants were able to provide their expertise and local knowledge on the values and threats and identify any gaps in the assessment. Participants were then able to identify and discuss potential management objectives. Workshop agendas are provided in Appendix B.

This report summarises the feedback from participants during the workshops in line with the discussions and overarching themes of the values and threats as well as the potential management objectives identified. Draft management objectives will be considered at the next stage of consultation with external agencies to test and refine. These workshops will seek to identify management actions which address the TARA and management objectives.

## 2 Workshop overview

Stakeholder workshops hosted by the DPI Fisheries for the Batemans Marine Park Management Plan pilot sought to frame management objectives for the Management Plan. Information from the TARA for the southern region was used to set the context for discussions around local values and threats. Through the workshops, participants were encouraged to consider environmental, cultural, social and economic values and threats and develop management objectives relevant to the Batemans Marine Park.

By way of introduction, participants were informed about the process of developing the Management Plan, including the TARA report and engagement activities. Workshops involved three group discussions on values, threats and management objectives for the Marine Park. The values derived from the marine estate were identified and split into four clusters – economic, social, environmental and cultural. Participants discussed threats, values and objectives within these clusters and their corresponding headings below:

### **Environment**

- » Marine vegetation
- » Ocean environment
- » Estuaries and shoreline
- » Biodiversity, species assemblages and protected species

### **Social, Cultural and Economic**

- » Enjoyment and participation
- » Economic value
- » Cultural heritage and use
- » Viability of businesses.

The workshops were also designed to elicit local values and threats not identified in the TARA. The workshop agendas are provided in Appendix A.

The information obtained in the workshops was gradually built upon, with the previous workshops informing the discussion for the consequent workshops. For example, external agencies were able to review the threats and values identified by marine estate agencies to identify any further gaps.

# 3 Stakeholder feedback

Environmental, social, economic and cultural values and threats were discussed at all workshops. This section provides a summary of local values and threats identified through the workshops, knowledge gaps and possible draft objectives.

As stated in Section 2, feedback received from the workshop participants formed part of a sequence. Agencies were able to identify gaps and opportunities in order to inform management objectives. The AC were then able to comment on draft objectives identified and inform potential management actions.

## 3.1 Local values

### 3.1.1 Environmental

Workshop participants reflected on the values identified for the region, to specifically identify local values not included in the southern region TARA. Feedback identified new values and suggested definitions and amendments to values already included. All workshops identified that the Marine Park contains a diversity of physical landscapes and habitats which should be incorporated and addressed as a value.

At the internal agency workshop, discussion on environmental values focused on how **species conservation** is defined. It was recognised by participants that definitions from Biodiversity Conservation and Fisheries Management legislation include any species that interact with the marine environment. Participants felt that management actions should reflect the species conservation and population levels. The AC workshop also identified that the **size of the fish** should be included explicitly in fish assemblages reflecting the importance of their role in trophic levels and larger fish tend to be more fecund. **Artificial habitats** were supported by AC members in order to support fish assemblages.

At all workshops, participants raised that **marine algae** should be explicitly included as part of the marine vegetation value.

It was raised at all workshops that intermittently closing and opening lakes and lagoons (**ICOLLS**) should be identified as a value. Participants also raised that environmental values of the Marine Park extend beyond its boundary, an example of this was **rocky headlands and riparian vegetation**. Participants at the internal and external agency workshop also felt that **islands** should be listed as a separate environment category in the Management Plan.

For the AC, ocean environment values were identified as **offshore bommies**, as there can be particular assemblages in these habitats.

Further, it was recognised the **community's environmental values** are not explicitly addressed by regulation. For example, some species are not protected under Fisheries Management legislation but are highly valued by the community.

It was felt that the Marine Park will provide added value through **spatial management**, this included setting aside areas for species (e.g. seal colonies) and using an ecosystems approach.

### 3.1.2 Social, economic and cultural

Participants at the internal and external agency workshop felt that **islands have distinct social and cultural values** and should be considered as a separate category.

**Non-aboriginal heritage** was considered a strong value for the Batemans Bay Marine Park, this included:

- » Ship wrecks and jetties
- » Townships opened up by sea
- » Historical oyster farming
- » Tuross River gold mining
- » Light houses and stations, e.g. Montague and Moruya
- » Historical industries of forestry, fishing, and dairy farms linked with shipping values
- » Early settlements/shacks which provide character
- » Cultural (non-aboriginal) fishing.

Workshop participants considered **tourism** to be a highly significant value in the region for both economic diversification and public appreciation purposes. Given the setting of the Marine Park, with large land tenures vested in National Parks and State Forests, internal agency workshop participants raised that tourism should be nature-based. The external agency workshop participants raised that the economic value of the asset is underestimated as tourism in the region is based on the environmental amenity, even if visitors don't use the Marine Park directly.

#### **Economic value from ecosystem services**

While the MEM Act does not specifically consider tourism, it was felt that tourism should complement Marine Park use. It is also important that the definition of tourist is clear. AC members raised that the consumption of local seafood is also part of the tourism experience for visitors. Some AC members added that the consumption of local fresh seafood provides a health benefit to the local and wider community.

This group also raised that good **environmental health is a social value which supports human health and wellbeing**, particularly being able to swim in and consume from clean water. It was added that clean water is also an economic value as it supports industry such as aquaculture. Carbon sequestration was also identified as an economic value. Tidal energy was raised as a potential economic value.

At the external agency workshop, participants raised that the marine environment is part of the reason why people visit and live on the south coast. It was felt that the region's wilderness value, of areas which are untouched as well as not over developed, is a key value.

Aboriginal traditional use was considered significantly important – particularly as a way of sharing intergenerational identity.

Surfing and activist culture were also identified as a cultural value by the external agency workshop participants. **Education and scientific research** were considered important to the Marine Park in order to promote its unique values and protect areas for further research (control areas).

Additionally, technology was raised as a potential threat or value to the Marine Park – enabling opportunities. Being able to identify emerging values was considered important for managing the Marine Park. Many participants across workshops reflected on the principle of intergenerational equity, in that management should particularly consider the needs of future generations.

## 3.2 Local threats

The workshop discussed threats identified as moderate and high in southern region TARA to consider threats at a local level. There was some discussion from the AC that the term “threat” used to describe certain activities including fishing didn’t reflect the low impact nature of these activities in the local area.

### 3.2.1 Environmental

Key local environmental threats discussed were pests, diseases and biosecurity, cruise shipping and cumulative impacts.

Regarding **pests, diseases and biosecurity** participants at the internal agency workshop strongly believed any management response should be commensurate with the level and scale of the threat. This was raised in the context of considering **animals as vectors** and incorporating **public safety threats beyond sharks**. Participants raised that disease transferred from animals to humans should be considered, while disease from sewage effluent is included, animals as vectors has not been identified. It was also recognised that as activity increases the chance of an outbreak or incident also increases. Participants raised the need to include **accidental introduction** of pests and diseases e.g. saltmarsh plants, European green shell crab and Pacific oysters (which are farmed and now moving between areas). Further, it was raised that **urchins** should be explicitly recognised as a pest.

Participants at the internal agency workshop raised that there is increased pressure for **cruise shipping** in the region, particularly at Batemans Bay and Eden. It was added that Batemans Bay is not appropriate for the activity as it is a shallow water port. In all areas, the impacts from ballast water and anchor damage need to be managed beyond the impact to wildlife habitat.

**Aquaculture** was identified as an important use to manage, particularly around opening of ICOLLS and increased pressure to expand activities. This was also identified as a threat to social values as access to the environment is reduced.

**Cumulative impacts** from fishing, vessel activity, estuaries, climate change, Aboriginal cultural heritage use and protected species were identified in the TARA and considered important for the local area. It was felt addressing cumulative impacts should be prioritised in the Management Plan.

Other threats discussed were:

- » Recreation with companion animals, as there is a gap in the restrictions for companion animals between National Parks, councils and Marine Park – overlap in responsibility/authority is source of arguments.
- » Fishing, as it was noted the TARA looked at impacts to trophic levels by each catchment method, rather than by specific location. Consideration at the local level could result in an increase in threat rating.
- » Non-urban and agricultural diffuse sources of water pollution, such as unsealed roads, tracks and the potential for spillages close to tributaries leading into estuaries. These are managed and maintained by state forests and councils.
- » Catchment development and land use changes though councils’ Local Rural Land Strategy has impacts on water quality
- » Uncontrolled access to sensitive wetland and foreshore areas
- » Boat wash erosion
- » Climate change impacts to species assemblages and distribution



- » Wildfire, as it is a threat to water quality, intertidal zones, estuaries, island habitat and saltmarsh from state forest and National Parks
- » Water extraction, environmental surface and groundwater flows result in modified hydrology value but impact is unknown
- » Terrestrial weeds e.g. marron grass (beach weeds) which hold sediment together

### 3.2.2 Social, economic and cultural

The most significant threat discussed was **resource use conflict** in the Marine Park. Participants reflected that maritime reporting is focused on active and passive use and crafts and that conflict occurs within user groups. Camping grounds and recreation parks are also areas of regular conflict as users have different expectations of use and incidences of antisocial behaviour. The conflict was recognised as predominantly a seasonal issue, however it may increase as more people move to the area permanently.

**Public access** was considered a threat and it was particularly important to define access via infrastructure and facilities or by allowance under regulation. Temporal and seasonal use from pulse events (such as surfing or king fish fishing) puts pressure on Marine Park infrastructure. This was also discussed in the context of social media and tourism marketing strategies which change the intensity of use and impact the local community. Further, external agency workshop participants noted **demographic changes** in the region, particularly retirees moving into the area, may change the intensity and frequency of uses in the Marine Park.

**Public safety** from asset use (e.g. boat ramps) and activities (e.g. rock fishing) were raised as a key threat. Participants also identified new technologies and fishing as key threats.

**Governance** was raised as an area for improvement as the jurisdictions are confusing for council and community. Proactive conversations and a coastal marine working group were considered useful to facilitate productive governance and management.

The external agency workshop participants also felt that there is a **lack of awareness around the uses** and opportunities in the Marine Park, suggesting that the range of values and uses should be explicitly stated particularly to respond to misinformation.

It was considered necessary to **identify the dominant, shared and priority values** that the community have for the Batemans Marine Park. This information could be used to evaluate the Management Plan and support spatial management. Importantly participants raised there is insufficient information regarding the social and economic threats in the local area. Closing knowledge gaps was highly supported by participants, particularly to establish an environmental monitoring baseline and understand the cultural uses of the area.

## 3.3 Draft objectives

Draft objectives detailed below are summarised from participant feedback and potential management objectives at the workshop. Some participants also listed actions which could accompany the objectives.

Workshop participants felt management objectives should:

- » Secure values and address threats
- » Be cross cutting objectives e.g. adaptive management of climate change
- » Recognise the growing use pressures and that the range of uses is growing.

### 3.3.1 Environmental

#### Marine Vegetation

For marine vegetation, MEMA and external agencies discussed mitigating and reducing diffuse source pollution and stormwater impacts, reduction of marine debris, adaptive management of local climate change risks, condition and distribution of marine vegetation as well as estuary opening and flood management.

The AC commented on the draft objective shown below. The AC discussed the role and importance of marine algae, the dangers of sewage overflow during peak tourist seasons, elevating the threat from terrestrial pollution and urban runoff on marine ecosystems as well as how to monitor pollution and clean ups.

#### Draft Objective

Conserve saltmarsh, mangroves, seagrass and associated fauna, including:

- a. Supporting water quality improvements, reducing diffuse source pollution, stormwater impacts and marine debris
- b. Facilitating migration and expansion of foreshore and intertidal vegetation communities, and adaptation to climate change
- c. Supporting natural entrance opening regimes to conserve estuarine ecosystems
- d. Improving understanding of threats to marine vegetation in Batemans Marine Park.

Potential actions suggested were:

- » Advocate for best practice development to reduce stormwater impacts upon marine vegetation – reduce sediment inputs from the catchment
- » Eliminate stock grazing in riparian and marine vegetation (fencing and access management)
- » Ensure government approval / consultation processes are adhered to in relation to foreshore development
- » Allocate areas for marine vegetation to retreat upslope as sea level rises
- » Support planning processes that enable adaptive capacity of intertidal habitats in response to climate change like sea level rise
- » Clarify the impact of sea urchin grazing on marine algae communities
- » Protect seagrass habitat from anchoring
- » Install environmentally friendly boat moorings in seagrass habitat (key areas)/ no new moorings over seagrass
- » Ensure artificial entrance opening occurs as close to natural frequency as possible
- » Identify priority areas for further research – areas local government may not be aware of
- » Collate and manage the data coming from external organisations
- » Have a greater incorporation of marine values and outcomes within educational material concerning the individual's impact on run-off.

## Biodiversity, Species Assemblages and Protected Species

Agencies identified objectives focusing on:

- » areas that support recovering populations of marine wildlife and threatened species
- » fish assemblages and trophic structure
- » interactions with wildlife
- » knowledge gaps.

The AC commented on the draft objective shown below. After considering the draft objective, the AC highlighted conservation as a broad concept and discussed the appropriate framing of it for the Marine Park. One of the suggestions that came from this discussion was that the goals should be more assertive and ambitious. The AC also advocated for continuous science and monitoring to obtain accurate and valuable long-term data.

### Draft Objective

- Conserve biodiversity, species assemblages and protected species, including:
- a. Protecting areas that support recovering populations of marine wildlife
  - b. Providing opportunities for sustainable use of marine resources whilst maintaining local species assemblages and trophic structure
  - c. Improving understanding of threats to marine species in Batemans Marine Park
  - d. Providing education and increased community awareness of safe, respectful and responsible behaviour in Batemans Marine Park (e.g. interactions with wildlife, dog walking near shore birds, conflicting uses, waste management)
  - e. Enabling adaptive management of local climate change risks in Batemans Marine Park.

Potential actions suggested were:

- » Assess and evaluate current management instruments e.g. does the closure timing for Greynurse Shark need to be shifted at Montague Island? Do Greynurse Shark aggregation sites need more protection?
- » Look at tenure – Jimmies Island and Snapper Island Marine Park over land
- » Reduce frequency of abalone poaching
- » Promote best practice wildlife tourism to minimise disturbance
- » Measure habitats in targeted areas to monitor populations
- » Identify areas of importance for shorebirds – prohibit dogs and limit physical disturbance to the area
- » Significantly reduce pest animal numbers – feral cats and foxes
- » Start and support education initiatives that focus on awareness of vulnerable marine species and habitats.
- » Create and promote a research prospectus highlight key elements to analyse.

## Ocean Environment

Agencies discussed impacts of cruise shipping, boating impacts and safety, climate change impacts and water quality.

The AC commented on the draft objective shown below. After considering the draft objective, the AC raised that the objective doesn't clearly identify ocean environment values, suggesting that the objective should be more specific about rocky reefs and the biodiversity of ocean environment. The AC added that management actions should focus on improving conditions – not merely maintain them. The AC also highlighted technology's role in improving water outcomes, and how over-management and over-regulation is sapping community goodwill to be involved in rehabilitation.

### Draft Objective

Maintain ecosystem health of ocean waters and ocean habitats within the Marine Park, including:

- a. Enabling monitoring and reduction of the impacts of cruise shipping in the Marine Park
- b. Providing opportunities for sustainable and safe access, whilst protecting ocean habitats
- c. Supporting water quality improvements, reducing diffuse source pollution, stormwater impacts and marine debris
- d. Enabling adaptive management of local climate change risks in Batemans Marine Park
- e. Providing education and increased community awareness of safe, respectful and responsible behaviour in the Batemans Marine Park (e.g. interactions with wildlife, waste management).

Potential actions suggested were:

- » Reduce anchoring and mooring impacts on shallow rocky reefs
- » Ensure safe fishing areas area available close to entrances to rivers, harbours and ports – some Marine Park zones currently conflict with safety
- » Use technology to more accurately measure water quality.

## Estuaries and Shoreline

Agencies discussed estuary and shoreline habitat including, riparian vegetation and impacts of erosion as well as estuary opening, flood management and community awareness.

The AC commented on the draft objective shown below. After considering the draft objective, the AC suggested that it should be consolidated with the marine vegetation and associated fauna objective. The participants identified risks of impacts generated in the catchment particularly chemicals used by farmers.

### Draft Objective

Conserve estuary and shoreline habitats, including:

- a. Supporting natural entrance opening regimes to conserve estuarine ecosystems
- b. Maintaining and improving riparian vegetation and reducing erosion
- c. Supporting water quality improvements, reducing diffuse source pollution, stormwater impacts and marine debris.

Potential actions suggested were:

- » Obtain better data on the levels of erosion across the overall area.

### 3.3.2 Social, economic and cultural

#### Participation and Enjoyment

Agencies discussed conflicting uses, governance, access infrastructure, boating use, sustainable tourism, the role of the Marine Park, community awareness and scientific reference sites. This discussion directly informed the draft objective discussed by the AC.

After considering the draft objective, the AC agreed that participation is based on education and there is a lack of understanding of marine parks from city dwellers. The group highlighted increased community awareness of the parks is critical and to consider the role of virtual technology and access (e.g. underwater footage) to achieving this. Rather than restricting access, it was felt that threats should be managed individually and any restrictions in the park should be communicated very clearly and to have enforcement efforts where it counts i.e. illegal fishing.

Within the group, there was a difference of opinion regarding zoning and its enforcement. Some were in support of more relaxed zoning guidelines and regulation. They supported reviewing fines for being in restricted areas (they should be lower) and believed that zones created conflict. They advocated for multiple use zoning in particular areas with some good common-sense rules about how to co-exist. Others saw a need for stronger zoning and to manage conflicts by enforcing regulation on those that don't comply.

#### Draft Objective

Provide for participation and enjoyment of the Batemans Marine Park for a diverse range of experiences, including:

- a. Providing opportunities to access the Marine Park
- b. Separating conflicting uses
- c. Providing opportunities for sustainable tourism
- d. Providing increased community awareness of the Marine Park, its values and its role
- e. Providing education and increased community awareness of safe, respectful and responsible behaviour in Batemans Marine Park (e.g. interactions with wildlife, dog walking near shore birds, conflicting uses, waste management)
- f. Maintaining scientific reference sites
- g. Enabling increased understanding of the relationship between social, cultural, economic and environmental values in the Batemans Marine Park.

Potential actions identified included:

- » Develop meaningful MOU's/policies between agencies
- » Improve / increase areas available for passive and active users e.g. casual walk (wheelchair access), vessel access / secure
- » Improve understanding of the range of social uses
- » Map overlapping priorities and uses
- » Develop a sustainable tourism strategy
- » Improve communities understanding of habitats
- » Develop targeted 'communication strategy' and enhance 'multiuse' aspect / key message (positive campaign) which uses multimedia, is multilingual and disability friendly.
- » Develop an education / tourism campaign

- » Provide information on the difference between natural and man-made occurrences impacting intrinsic benefits
- » Investigate opportunities for community education e.g. underwater snorkel tour
- » Maintain sanctuary zones that are old, large and enforced
- » Facilitate liaison groups between agencies (e.g. RMS, local govt.) and the food authority in relation to estuary health
- » Undertake a community survey to measure sentiment. This is a robust tool and could be used across many different objectives as a consolidated way of measuring community opinions.
- » Have stronger and better enforcement of permit conditions. Escalating to even taking permits away (fishing, boating)
- » Build capacity with community groups e.g. Nature Coast Marine Group to deliver education
- » Investigate technological mix with zoning
  - > Understanding the environmental make up on an area through new technology can identify zones more accurately.
- » Get young people involved in making decisions in the park and there needs to be a better guide or app that provides information about what to do, how to do it and where you can do things within the Marine Park.

### **Economic Value and Viability of Businesses**

Agencies identified a knowledge gap in the economic value of the Marine Park, discussed different industries reliant on the Marine Park and sustainable tourism. This discussion directly informed the draft objective discussed by the AC.

After considering the draft objective, the AC identified that understanding the economic values and their relationship to socio-cultural values as well as environmental value is a crucial first step.

The AC also highlighted that industry in the area feels excluded, adding that areas that they have had access to were taken away. It was also raised that fishing is not just an economic practice – it is a cultural practice as well.

The AC raised that to enable a better understanding of the economic values of the park, data was needed. Participants sought an understanding of how that economic value can stem from different elements of the area and community – like socio-cultural outcomes and there is a need to identify key industries that are and are not compatible with conservation. However, there was some concern around losing recreational fishing. It is an industry that is a major economic contributor and attractor to the area. There is a feeling amongst recreational fishers that they are always about to be punished.

#### **Draft Objective**

Providing equitable access to the economic values of the Batemans Marine Park, including:

- a. Enabling an improved understanding of the economic values of the marine park
- b. Enabling increased understanding of the relationship between social, cultural, economic and environmental values in the Batemans Marine Park
- c. Conserving a healthy environment to maintain the economic benefits that flow to the community
- d. Providing for marine industries that are compatible with the conservation of biodiversity and the maintenance of ecosystem integrity and function

### Draft Objective

- e. Provide enhanced opportunities for sustainable tourism
- f. Enabling current industries to adapt to practices that are consistent with the purposes and values of Batemans Marine Park.

Potential actions identified included:

- » Have flexible Management Plan rules and zonings to facilitate changes affecting industry
- » Promote passive recreational events e.g. underwater photography, Eco quests, adventure tourism
- » Partner with commercial operators to foster/ensure consistent management
- » Develop a sustainable tourism strategy
- » Promote commercial fishing methods and market 'local' seafood
- » Support and encourage diversification of oyster farming industry
- » Investigate citizen science and citizen stewardship programs
- » Educate for quality operators – encourage and enable them to raise awareness and educate people about the park.
- » Provide an education officer program that focuses on describing the link between a healthy environment and the flow on benefits.
- » Use performance-based outcomes rather than a blunt instrument of blanket prohibitions (general comment on access).

### Cultural Heritage and Use

Agencies discussed non-Aboriginal and Aboriginal cultural uses, involvement of Aboriginal people in management of the Marine Park, European heritage and knowledge gaps in cultural values. This discussion directly informed the draft objective discussed by the AC.

After considering the draft objective, the AC discussed that the beaches and waterways have always been a place for people of many cultures to come. It was raised that Aboriginal people can't access these resources anymore and this should be negotiated with Aboriginal Australians in an active way – and acknowledged that the land is a cultural resource to Aboriginal Australians. There was a strong sentiment from the group that Aboriginal culture should be seen as an asset that can contribute to other socio-economic objectives.

Some concerns were raised about heritage values that they are not well understood by the Marine Park. For example, the middens at Binti Binti are now fenced off and Aboriginal people can't access them. It was added that camping and being on country is really important for the Aboriginal community to ensure young people know their culture.

### Draft Objective

Conserve Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal cultural heritage in the Marine Park and provide for access to cultural resources, including:

- a. Enabling identification of heritage values
- b. Providing for increased Aboriginal participation in management of the Batemans Marine Park
- c. Supporting Aboriginal cultural use of the Marine Park
- d. Providing for understanding of non-Aboriginal cultural heritage history of the Batemans Marine Park.

Potential actions identified included:

- » Acknowledge, promote and encourage cultural practices and heritage in the Marine Park
- » Enhance training and employment opportunities for Aboriginal people
- » Develop / expand sea ranger program.

## 3.4 Other matters

**Adaptive management** was considered highly important by participants at the internal and external agency workshop in recognition of the changing uses and species numbers within the Marine Park. These groups recognised there will be changing values and aspirations for use of the Marine Park over time. Providing a consent process for new or unfamiliar activities was supported, as was identifying objectives and rules around interactions to benefit activities and management approaches.

Additionally, participants referenced councils' **Coastal Management Plans** (CMPs). It was noted that CMPs identify threats, risks and management actions and as such the Marine Park Management Plan should be complementary and act as a gap filler where appropriate. CMPs reflect estuaries/catchment systems and identify catchment pressures which impact on the Marine Park.

It was recommended by participants that the values area be defined in plain English with an explanation of the activities and elements included.



# 4 Workshop outcomes

## 4.1 Stakeholder evaluation

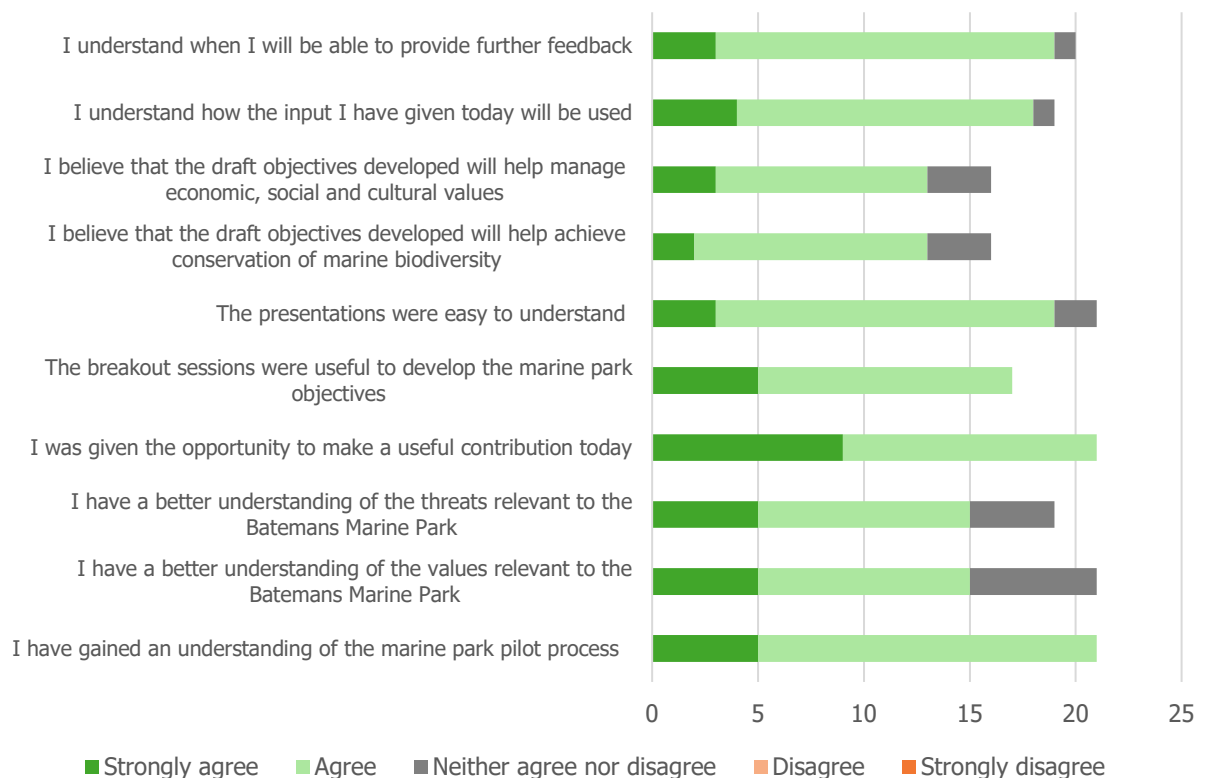
Workshop participants were able to complete an evaluation form at the conclusion of the workshop. The feedback form, provided in Appendix C, measured:

- » participant understanding with the concepts
- » engagement with, and accessibility of the workshop process itself
- » the level of belief in the potential impact of the management objectives.

The feedback form was optional to complete and to disclose personal identifiers (name and organisation). The external agencies and AC workshop two participants did not complete the feedback form.

Generally, participants felt very positively and tended to agree strongly with the statement that there was an opportunity to contribute and found the breakout useful. This is shown in Figure 1.

**Figure 1 Evaluation form feedback**



## **Marine Estate Agencies**

There were 15 respondents to the feedback from the marine estate agency workshop participants. Generally the participants responded positively to all statements. No respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed with any of the statements.

The strongest positive response came from participants agreeing with the statement "The breakout sessions were useful to develop the Marine Park objectives".

However, a fifth of participants responded neutral in both statements that the draft objectives developed will help achieve conservation of marine biodiversity and/or manage economic, social and cultural values.

Opportunity was also given to attendants to provide detailed feedback, outlined below:

- » "Unpack info about the threats, risk and benefits assessed in the TARA – what was considered, what do they mean?"
- » "More time needed to discuss and consider objectives."
- » "Send out South Region TARA threats (med+high) summary out beforehand for people to contemplate (can you email this out too please!)"
- » "Clearer upfront explanation of process for day"
- » "Slides on 5 different groupings for afternoon session shown on screen before lunch"
- » "Better explain objectives – enhance a benefit/mitigate a threat or both"
- » "Explain how existing management arrangements will be reviewed as part of 5 steps"
- » "The event was well organised"
- » "It was good to understand how the relationship with coastal management plan, MEMA strategy fit together"
- » "Not sure how this will develop the plan specifically"

This feedback was from the first workshop held and was used to inform and refine subsequent workshops.

## **Advisory Committee**

There were 6 respondents to the feedback form for the first of two Advisory Committee (AC) meetings. In general, they agreed with the statements and similar to the agency workshop participants, no respondent disagreed or strongly disagreed with any of the statements. At this workshop, participants were told not to answer the questions relating to objectives as this topic was covered in the second workshop with the AC.

Participants also responded neutrally to the statement about having a "better understanding of the values relevant to the Marine Park". Comments from participants are shown below.

- » "Pleased at the responsiveness of Brendan and Matt and their openness in dealing with questions"
- » "Left question 3 unmarked (better understanding of threats) as I felt it was a loaded question"

## 4.2 Engagement objectives and outcomes

Engagement objectives and outcomes for the consultation were met through the workshops, as detailed in the tables below.

<b>Engagement objective</b>	<p>Inform stakeholders of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» the process to develop the marine park management plan</li> <li>» benefits and priority threats identified in the Regional TARA and threats to be addressed through the Marine Estate Management Strategy.</li> </ul>
<b>Engagement outcome</b>	Stakeholders are aware of the management planning process and the links with the Marine Estate Management Strategy
<b>How outcomes and objectives were achieved</b>	<p>At each workshop participants were introduced to the MEM Strategy and process to develop the Management Plan.</p> <p>This introduction was used to frame the discussion of the workshop around the Regional TARA and other supporting processes for the development of the Management Plan.</p> <p>It was important that the parameters of the workshops were shared with participants early.</p>
<b>Engagement objective</b>	Involve the marine park advisory committee and key agencies in identifying and filling gaps on local/marine park benefits, threats and opportunities.
<b>Engagement outcome</b>	Knowledge gaps at the local scale are filled and have informed marine park management planning
<b>How outcomes and objectives were achieved</b>	<p>Two workshops were held with the AC; one with MEMA agency staff; and one with key agency staff external to MEMA and local governments.</p> <p>The workshop included discussion on local values and threats across the environment, social, cultural and economic clusters. This enabled participants to identify gaps and opportunities for the Management Plan and its objectives.</p>
<b>Engagement objective</b>	Identify threats to be addressed by spatial management.
<b>Engagement outcome</b>	Stakeholders have a clear understanding of the threats to be addressed by spatial management.
<b>How outcomes and objectives were achieved</b>	<p>Discussion surrounding threats and values led to some discussion about opportunities for spatial management. Zoning was particularly discussed by participants as a management tool, however there was mixed feedback about its use to reduce the impact of certain threats. The AC, particularly, sought evidence for its use.</p> <p>Spatial management should continue to be discussed with stakeholders.</p>

<b>Engagement objective</b>	Seek input from the stakeholders on the draft marine park management objectives
<b>Engagement outcome</b>	Stakeholder views are reflected in the decision making.
<b>How outcomes and objectives were achieved</b>	Marine estate agencies used values and threats discussion to inform draft objectives. External agencies and the AC discussed the draft objectives in further workshops, enabling an iterative process and input from all stakeholders on the draft objectives.  Ultimately, the views of stakeholders and draft objectives identified will be used to inform the draft management plan and potential outcomes.
<b>Engagement objective</b>	Foster a sense of ownership of the process.
<b>Engagement outcome</b>	Stakeholder views are reflected in the decision making.
<b>How outcomes and objectives were achieved</b>	Conducting two workshops with the AC enabled thorough and informed engagement with the AC.  Continued consultation with this group, as well as the MEMA agencies and external agencies, will promote further buy in and ownership in the development of the management plan.

## 4.3 Lessons learnt

While the engagement process achieved its outcomes and objectives, there remain opportunities to improve the approach for future engagement.

Conducting the workshops in stages successfully enabled participants to build knowledge of the process without feeling that they were hearing the same information or repeating their views. This process also ensured gaps identified were confirmed or refuted by a different interest group.

Management of the marine park involves highly technical information. To support informed participation consideration should be given to using less academic and abstract language. For example, the breadth of information provided in the TARA should be summarised in plain English for participants to highlight what they feel is missing, incomplete and/or acceptable with respect to identified threats and values.

Similarly the language of “values” is quite esoteric and does not convey how a diverse community would characterise their use or enjoyment of the Marine Park and their connection to the marine environment. We believe that using a phrase such as: what is important to you about this place, would provide more authentic responses.

Similarly, a number of community members noted that the term “threat” is loaded and carries with it an implicit view that certain activities are in themselves bad for the park rather than focusing in on how well that activity is undertaken. This was seen as having the potential to alienate the broader community who felt that they are, in most cases, very responsible in their use and enjoyment of the park.

The approach used during the workshops suited Council and agency representatives given their broad knowledge and understanding of management approaches and considerations. This was reflected in their familiarity with the terms used and how environmental management plans are developed.

For the AC, an understanding of how management objectives influence day to day use of the Marine Park was of particular importance. They reflected issues from within the lens of their specific sector interest such as commercial fishing, charter boats and recreational fishing. It was necessary to quickly modify the agenda of the first workshop to meet their needs. The AC only wanted to talk about issues they thought were important such as how they interacted with the park and what the park means to them, rather than be shoe horned into the prescribed workshop agenda. Some of them felt that the agenda was neither relevant nor allowed enough time for honest discussion. The willingness of the project manager to adapt the workshop format was appreciated by all involved. Unfortunately this meant the second AC workshop didn't really extend the discussion further. There was some comment that the draft objectives were generic motherhood statements that didn't cut to the primary areas of community interest such as:

- » What do this mean for how people can use the park?
- » What does it mean for the environment?
- » What are the economic and social impacts of various management strategies for the Marine Park?

Another important difference which emerged from the workshops was between the expert and the local view of environmental and cultural values. It is important to note that, from the perspective of the AC, some locals see the Marine Park as an external imposition upon a pre-existing community resource and they feel increasingly disenfranchised from the park. Many AC members also question why the plan places so much emphasis on fishing practices as a threat to the marine environment rather than on pollution and run off into the ocean and waterways which they see as a far more urgent and critical threat.

Most community participants want the park to be well managed, recognise it as a public asset and share significant concerns for the ongoing health of the marine environment. They want the Plan of Management to be a practical and pragmatic document that brokers a new relationship with local stakeholders.

Local stakeholders also want to see more ongoing and grass roots dialogue between experts advising on the management of the park and the local community. They are keen to move beyond passive participation in an advisory committee and pursue on-going, active involvement through programs that promote citizen science and community stewardship of the park. They noted that local communication about the park needs to be more positive and provide:

- » very clear information about what you can and can't do in the park
- » an explanation of the reasons for adopting particular management strategies where they may not be consistent with how some in the community may want to use the park.

The importance of engagement with local government is a key take away from the workshops. Representatives believed that continued engagement (through a similar committee format with marine estate agencies) would ensure management efforts were complementary and information sharing was encouraged. It was felt some sort of engagement should occur at least annually.

# Appendices

- A Workshop agenda
- B Workshop attendees
- C Evaluation form

# A Workshop agenda

## Workshop 1 – Marine Estate Agencies

<b>MEMA Agencies Internal Scoping Workshop Monday 18 June</b>		
<b>Narooma Golf Club</b>		
<b>9.30: Welcome</b>	<b>Facilitator</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introductions</li> <li>Purpose and format of pilot workshop</li> </ul>		
<b>9.40: Background to Marine Estate Reforms</b>	<b>Peter Gallagher</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marine Estate Community Survey</li> <li>TARA, Strategy.</li> <li>Marine Park pilot process</li> </ul>		
<b>10.00: Parameters of today's workshop</b>	<b>Facilitator</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focusing on               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Values &amp; threats at the marine park scale</li> <li>✓ Development of management objectives to support values and address threats</li> </ul> </li> <li>Not looking at               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>× Revisiting Southern Region TARA</li> <li>× Identifying boundaries or sanctuary zones</li> <li>× Detailed management actions or responses</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
<b>10.10 Looking at Values</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Presentation</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Peter Gallagher</b></span></li> <li>Southern Region TARA               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– List of values</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Discussion session</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Facilitator</b></span></li> <li> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Understanding these regional values at the marine park scale.</li> <li>– Gaps – are there any additional values for us to consider</li> <li>– Evidence base required for additions</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
<i>Morning tea available in session</i>		
<b>11.20 Looking at Threats</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Presentation</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Peter Gallagher</b></span></li> <li>Southern Region TARA               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– List of threats</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Discussion session</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Facilitator</b></span></li> </ul>		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Understanding these regional threats at the marine park scale</li> <li>– Emerging issues ( high level)</li> <li>– Gaps - any additional threats for us to consider</li> <li>– Evidence base required for additions</li> </ul>
		<b>12.30 LUNCH</b>
		<b>1.00: Developing management objectives to support values</b>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Strategic Objectives derived from the Act <span style="float: right;">Matt/Peter</span></li> <li>– Approach to drafting management objectives <span style="float: right;">Matt/Peter</span></li> </ul>
		<b>1.15: Working sessions in 4 rotating small groups</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Facilitator</b></span>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Develop draft management objectives for each cluster</li> <li>– Prioritise top 4 most important management objectives for each cluster –why these are critical to supporting values and addressing threats</li> </ul>
		<b>2.45: Discussion: where have we got to and what's missing?</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Facilitator</b></span>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Cross-reference list of threats with objectives to ensure none missed.</li> </ul>
		<b>3.15: Homework</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Facilitator</b></span>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– to be completed by 26 June 2018</li> </ul>
		<b>3.30: Where to from here</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Peter Gallagher</b></span>
		<b>3.45 Close</b>
		<b>Info for attendees</b>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• one pager</li> <li>• FAQs</li> <li>• Glossary</li> <li>• List of values</li> <li>• List of threats</li> <li>• Draft objectives</li> <li>• Table to complete</li> </ul>

## Workshop 2 – External State Agencies and local government

Government Agencies Values and Objectives Workshop Wednesday 27 June	
Narooma Golf Club	
9.30: Welcome	Facilitator
Introductions	
Purpose and format of workshop	
9.40: About the Marine Estate Reforms	Peter Gallagher
Marine Estate Community Survey	
TARA Strategy	
Marine Park pilot process	
10.00: Parameters of today's workshop	Facilitator
Focusing on	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Values &amp; threats at the marine park scale</li> <li>✓ Development of management objectives to support values and address threats</li> </ul>	
Not looking at	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗ Revisiting Southern Region TARA</li> <li>✗ Identifying boundaries or sanctuary zones</li> <li>✗ Detailed management actions or responses</li> </ul>	
10.10: Looking at Values	
Presentation Peter Gallagher	
Southern Region TARA	
- List of values	
Discussion session Facilitator	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Understanding these regional values at the marine park scale.</li> <li>- Gaps – are there any additional values for us to consider</li> <li>- Evidence base required for additions - relevant policies, plans &amp; studies</li> </ul>	
<i>Morning tea available in session</i>	
10.55: Looking at Threats	
Presentation Peter Gallagher	
Southern Region TARA	
- List of threats	
Discussion session Facilitator	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Understanding these regional threats at the marine park scale</li> <li>- Emerging issues (high level)</li> <li>- Gaps - any additional threats for us to consider</li> <li>- Evidence base – relevant policies, plans &amp; studies</li> </ul>	
11.40: Introduce map exercise to identify local hotspots and areas of particular value	
11.45: Introducing draft management objectives	Matt
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Strategic Objectives derived from the Act</li> <li>- Approach to drafting management objectives</li> </ul>	
12.00: Working Session 1 in rotating small groups	Facilitator
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review and refine draft management objectives for each cluster</li> <li>- Develop additional management objectives where there are gaps</li> <li>- Prioritise top 4 most important management objectives for each cluster – why are these critical to supporting values and addressing threats</li> </ul>	
12.30: LUNCH	
1.15: Working Session 2	
1.40: Working Session 3	
2.05: Working Session 4	
2.30: Discussion: where have we got to and what's missing?	Facilitator
- Cross-reference list of threats with objectives	
3.00: Follow up work	Facilitator
- to be completed by 26 June 2018	
3.05: Where to from here	Peter Gallagher
3.15: Close	
Info for attendees	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• one pager</li> <li>• FAQs</li> <li>• Glossary</li> <li>• List of values</li> <li>• List of threats</li> <li>• Draft objectives</li> <li>• Table to complete</li> </ul>	

## Workshop 3 - Advisory Committee

Stakeholder Advisory Committee Values and Objectives Workshop	
Wednesday 11 July	
Narooma Golf Club	
9.30: Welcome	Facilitator
Introductions	
Purpose and format of workshop	
9.40: About the Marine Estate Reforms	Matt Carr
Marine Estate Community Survey	
TARA Strategy	
Marine Park pilot process	
10.00: Parameters of today's workshop	Facilitator
Focusing on	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Values &amp; threats at the marine park scale</li> <li>✓ Development of management objectives to support values and address threats</li> </ul>	
Not looking at	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗ Revisiting Southern Region TARA</li> <li>✗ Identifying boundaries or sanctuary zones</li> <li>✗ Detailed management actions or responses</li> </ul>	
10.10: Looking at Values	
Presentation Matt Carr	
Southern Region TARA	
- List of values	
Discussion session Facilitator	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Understanding these regional values at the marine park scale.</li> <li>- Gaps – are there any additional values for us to consider</li> <li>- Evidence base required for additions - relevant policies, plans &amp; studies</li> </ul>	
<i>Morning tea available in session</i>	

10.50: Looking at Threats	
Presentation Matt Carr	
Southern Region TARA	
- List of threats	
Discussion session Facilitator	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Understanding these regional threats at the marine park scale</li> <li>- Emerging issues (high level)</li> <li>- Gaps - any additional threats for us to consider</li> <li>- Evidence base – relevant policies, plans &amp; studies</li> </ul>	
11.30: Map exercise to identify local hotspots and areas of particular value	
11.35: Introducing draft management objectives	Matt Carr
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Strategic Objectives derived from the Act</li> <li>- Approach to drafting management objectives</li> </ul>	
11.50: Working Session 1 – Social and cultural values	Facilitator
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In rotating small groups, review and refine draft management objectives for each cluster</li> <li>- Develop additional management objectives where there are gaps</li> <li>- Prioritise top 4 most important management objectives for each cluster – why are these critical to supporting values and addressing threats</li> </ul>	
12.30: LUNCH	
1.00: Working Session 2 – Economic values	
1.40: Working Session 3 – Environmental values	
2.00: Working Session 4 – Environmental values	
2.20: Discussion: where have we got to and what's missing?	Facilitator
2.45: Follow up work	Facilitator
- to be completed by 26 June 2018	
2.50: Where to from here	Matt Carr
3.00: Close	



## Workshop 4 - Advisory Committee

Stakeholder Advisory Committee Objectives Workshop		
Monday 20 August		
Narooma Golf Club		
9.30: Welcome		Facilitator
Introductions		
Purpose and format of workshop		
9.35: Recap from last workshop		Matt Carr
Update on Marine Park pilot process		
Values/Threats – what we've done with the outcomes of previous workshops		
9.40: Parameters of today's workshop		Facilitator
Focusing on		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Management objectives to support values and address threats</li> <li>✓ Possible actions to support management objectives and responses</li> </ul>		
Not looking at		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>× Revisiting Southern Region TARA</li> <li>× Identifying boundaries or sanctuary zones</li> </ul>		
9.45: Where we got to in Workshop 1		Facilitator
Local values and threats		
9.55: Introducing draft management objectives		Matt Carr
Strategic Objectives derived from the Act		
Approach to drafting management objectives		
10.00: Working Session 1 – Social Objectives		Facilitator
Participation and Enjoyment		
In small groups:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review and refine draft management objectives for each cluster</li> <li>- Discuss and comment on the objectives and identify any possible management actions.</li> </ul>		
10.45: Working morning tea		
10.45: Working Session 2 – Economic Objectives		Facilitator
Economic Value and Viability of Business		
11.30: Working Session 3 – Cultural Objectives		Facilitator
Cultural Heritage and Use		
12.00: Lunch		
12.30: Working Session 4 – Environmental Objectives		Facilitator
Marine vegetation and associated fauna		
Biodiversity, species assemblages and protected species		
Ocean Environment		
Estuaries and Shorelines		
2.20: Where to from here		Matt Carr
2.30: Wrap Up		Facilitator

# B Workshop attendees

## Marine Estate Agencies

### Attendees:

Louisa Clark – OEH  
Peter Scanes – OEH  
Hannah Lloyd – OEH  
Amy Harris – NPWS  
Susan Crocetti – NPWS  
Nathan Foster – Planning  
Mick Gamble – DPI, Recreational Fisheries  
Jillian Keating – DPI, Fisheries Threatened Species Unit  
Allan Lugg – DPI, Aquatic Ecosystems  
Mathew Richardson – DPI, Compliance  
Arlo Ireland – RMS  
Shane Murtagh – RMS  
Deon Voyer – RMS

### DPI Staff:

Peter Gallagher  
Justin Gilligan  
Matt Carr  
Sham Eichmann  
Lesley Diver  
Rachel Mason  
Ian Kerr  
Kehani Manson

### Elton Consulting:

Brendan Blakeley  
Hannah Bubb

## External Agencies and local government

Sonia Bazzacco – LLS  
Aimee Beardsmore – OEH  
Daniel Wiecek – OEH  
Kyrán Crane – Bega Valley Shire Council  
Derek Van Bracht – BVSC  
Claire Evans – Lands and Water  
Kelly Lynch – Lands and Water  
Norm Lenehan – Eurobodalla Shire Council  
Deb Lensen – ESC  
Penelope Lumb – Shoalhaven Shire Council  
Matt Rizzuto – EPA  
Bec Beutel – EPA

### DPI Staff:

Justin Gilligan  
Matt Carr  
Lesley Diver  
Rachel Mason  
Ian Kerr  
Kehani Manson

### Elton Consulting:

Brendan Blakeley  
Hannah Bubb

## **Marine Park Stakeholder Advisory Committee Workshop 1**

Janette Neilson

Bill Barker

John Brierley

Stephen Bunney

Jane Elek

Vic Channell

Philip Creagh

Jack Tait

Christopher Fulton

Esmay Hropic

Norman Ingersole

Adam Martin

Apologies received from:

Mr Brian Coxon

Cr Jo Dodds

Cr Mark Kitchener

Cr Robert Pollock

Mr Josh Waterson

Dr Nicholas Yee

DPI Staff:

Peter Gallagher

Justin Gilligan

Matt Carr

Lesley Diver

Rachel Mason

Kehani Manson

Elton Consulting:

Brendan Blakeley

Hannah Bubb

## **Marine Park Stakeholder Advisory Committee Workshop 2**

Bill Barker

Esmay Hropic

John Brierley

Vic Channell

Nick Yee

Adam Martin

Robert Chrwyins

Maru Hitchener

Norman Incersole

Wally Steward

Apologies received from:

Max Castle

DPI Staff:

Matt Carr

Elton Consulting:

Brendan Blakeley

David Hwang

# C Evaluation form



## Feedback

### MARINE PARK PILOT WORKSHOP 20 August 2018

What was your experience participating in this workshop?  
Please rate the following aspects with a tick:

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
I have gained an understanding of the marine park pilot process					
I have a better understanding of the values relevant to the Batemans Marine Park					
I have a better understanding of the threats relevant to the Batemans Marine Park					
I was given the opportunity to make a useful contribution today					
The breakout sessions were useful to develop the marine park objectives					
The presentations were easy to understand					
I believe that the draft objectives developed will help achieve conservation of marine biodiversity					
I believe that the draft objectives developed will help manage economic, social and cultural values					
I understand how the input I have given today will be used					
I understand when I will be able to provide further feedback					

Do you have any further comments or suggestions on how this workshop was run?

Name (optional): .....

Organisation (optional): .....

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION**

[www.marine.nsw.gov.au](http://www.marine.nsw.gov.au)



[www.elton.com.au](http://www.elton.com.au)