

Great Sandy Marine Park

Zoning Plan review: FAQs

Following the release of a discussion paper, the Department of Environment and Science received a wide range of suggested changes to the management of the marine park. These are being assessed with input from an independent scientific reference group and advice from First Nations peoples whose traditional sea country incorporates large areas of the marine park. These assessments are being used to inform the preparation of a draft revised zoning plan which will be released for further broad public consultation, supported by a Regulatory Impact Statement. A final revised zoning plan to support the future management of the marine park will incorporate feedback received on the draft zoning plan.

For more information visit www.qld.gov.au/marineparks.

Where is the Great Sandy Marine Park?

The Great Sandy Marine Park was declared in 2006 and extends from Double Island Point in the south to Baffle Creek in the north. It covers an area of approximately 6000km² and includes Hervey Bay, the Great Sandy Strait, Tin Can Inlet and Queensland coastal waters (seaward to 3 nautical miles). The landward boundary of the marine park is aligned with the level of highest astronomical tide on the mainland and islands, but excludes all freehold and leasehold land.

What is a marine park zoning plan?

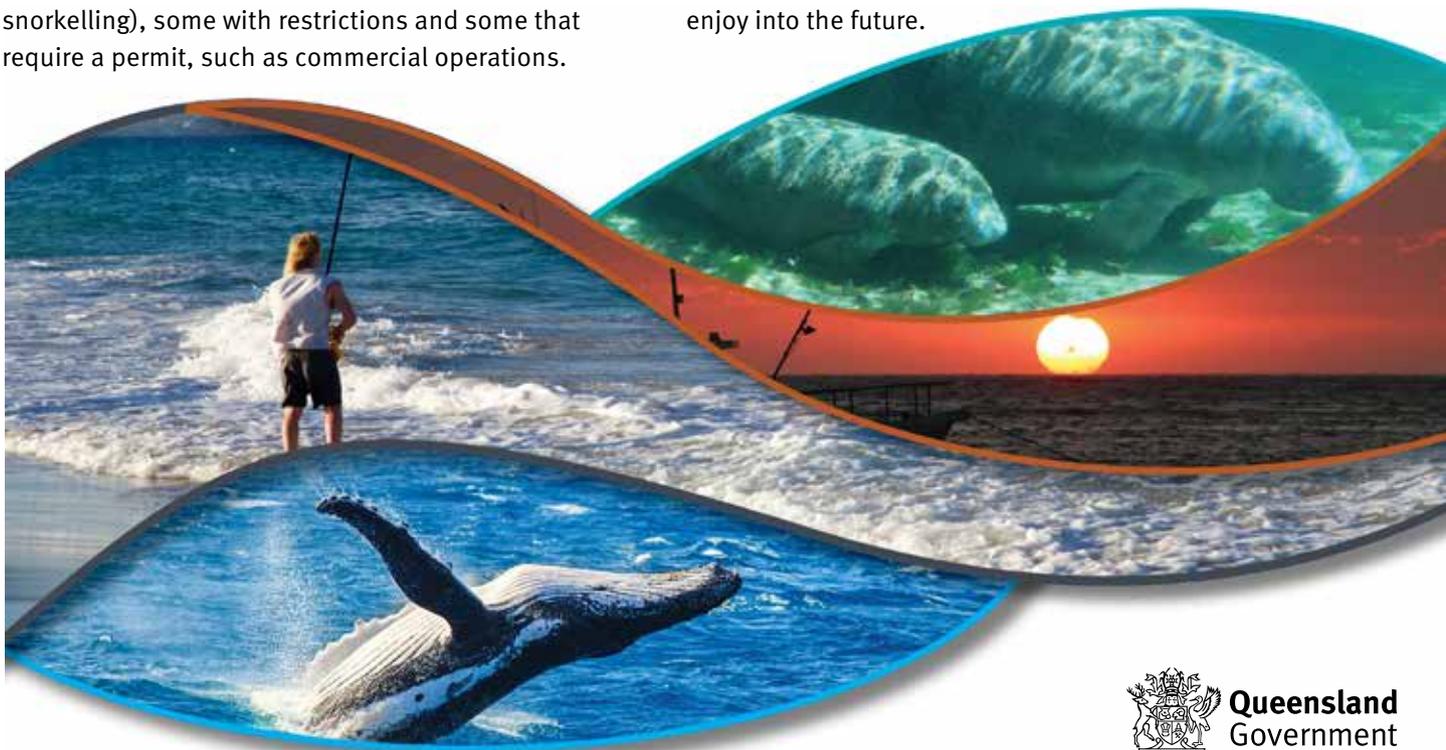
A zoning plan (like a town plan) identifies the different zones and designated areas and activities that can occur in a marine park. Each marine park has a zoning plan which is a legislative document that allows many different activities to occur 'as of right' (e.g. sailing, swimming, fishing, boating, snorkelling), some with restrictions and some that require a permit, such as commercial operations.

Why is the zoning plan being reviewed?

The *Statutory Instruments Act 1992* requires subordinate legislation (such as zoning plans) to be reviewed every 10 years. At this time each zoning plan is reviewed to determine whether any changes are required to ensure it remains efficient and effective at conserving the marine environment while also allowing for a variety of uses. The original Great Sandy Marine Park Zoning Plan was remade 'as is' in 2017, to allow time for the marine park's first comprehensive review to be undertaken.

What is the aim of the zoning plan review?

The aim of the review is to determine whether any changes are needed to the zoning plan to ensure it is best placed to conserve the unique values of Great Sandy Marine Park while providing for sustainable use, enjoyment and appreciation of the area conserving it for the community and stakeholders to enjoy into the future.



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What is the process for the review?

The review of the Great Sandy Marine Park Zoning Plan is being conducted in four stages:



How will the community be consulted and informed?

There will be public consultation on the draft zoning plan. Once the draft zoning plan has been prepared (stage 3), information will be released at the start of the consultation period inviting stakeholders and members of the public to provide feedback. All feedback provided on the draft revised zoning plan will be analysed before the zoning plan is finalised.

Will more areas be protected during this process?

The draft zoning plan will be created in stage 3 of the process. Any current or emerging global, national or Queensland targets for protection of the marine environment and associated biodiversity will be considered in developing the draft zoning plan. Any changes to the current zoning plan will consider the public feedback received during the stage 2 consultation period, as well as input from First Nations peoples and the independent scientific reference group. The need to appropriately balance conservation and use of the marine park is a key guiding principle for developing the draft zoning plan.

Will we still be able to fish in the marine park?

Absolutely, currently a large proportion of the Great Sandy Marine Park allows some form of fishing to occur. The purpose of a marine park is to allow for multiple uses. The zoning plan identifies five zones and nine designated areas that allow for different levels of conservation and use. Check out the zone and designated area maps for more information.

Will all stakeholders concerns be considered equally?

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Where can I find more information?

Visit our website:

www.qld.gov.au/marineparks

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