

CHAPTER 6 Marine Environmental Protection

6.1 Marine Protected Areas

1. The Australian Government identifies, declares and manages marine parks in Commonwealth waters. Commonwealth waters are those waters that start where State and Territory jurisdiction ends and extend out to the boundary of Australia's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), typically 200 nautical miles from the low water line. State and Territory waters generally cover waters from the low water line out to three nautical miles.

6.1.1 Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas

1. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) declared the Great Barrier Reef region a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA) in 1990. This was extended to the Torres Strait in 2005 and to the South West Coral Sea in 2015. The PSSA designation recognises that these areas are vulnerable to damage by international shipping activities. Special protection measures including Australia's system of pilotage, ship routing measures and ship reporting requirements apply to shipping activities in areas of the PSSA. For further information regarding the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park see 6.3.

6.1.2 Environmentally Sensitive Sea Areas

1. These seas have specific environmental protective measures that apply for domestic commercial activities including tourism, fishing, mining, as well as scientific and recreational purposes. To undertake these activities in an ESSA, an authorisation must be obtained from the Director of National Parks. ESSA are marked upon electronic and paper nautical charts, however there are no restrictions upon international shipping activities or commercial vessel when transit undertaking voyages in conformance with MARPOL and SOLAS. Vessels should note the environmental significance of ESSA and take extra care while transiting through these areas. For further information regarding the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park see 6.3.

6.1.3 Depiction of marine protected areas on Australian nautical charts

1. Where appropriate and practical, marine protected areas are charted as ESSA or Antarctic Specially Protected Areas (ASPA). Australian charts include the outer limits of the area, the outer limits of navigation restrictions, and chart notes. Mariners are advised to seek guidance on the specific restrictions within these areas from the responsible agency.




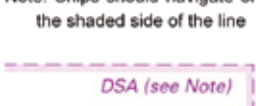



NP 5011 Reference	Description	Encoded in an ENC as:	Display on ECDIS (traditional symbology)	Display on paper chart
N 22	Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (declared by IMO)	Administration Area		
N 1.2	Designated Shipping Area (defined area for normal transit through the GBR)	Administration Area		Note: Ships should navigate on the shaded side of the line 
M 28.2	Two Way Route	Two-Way Route Part		

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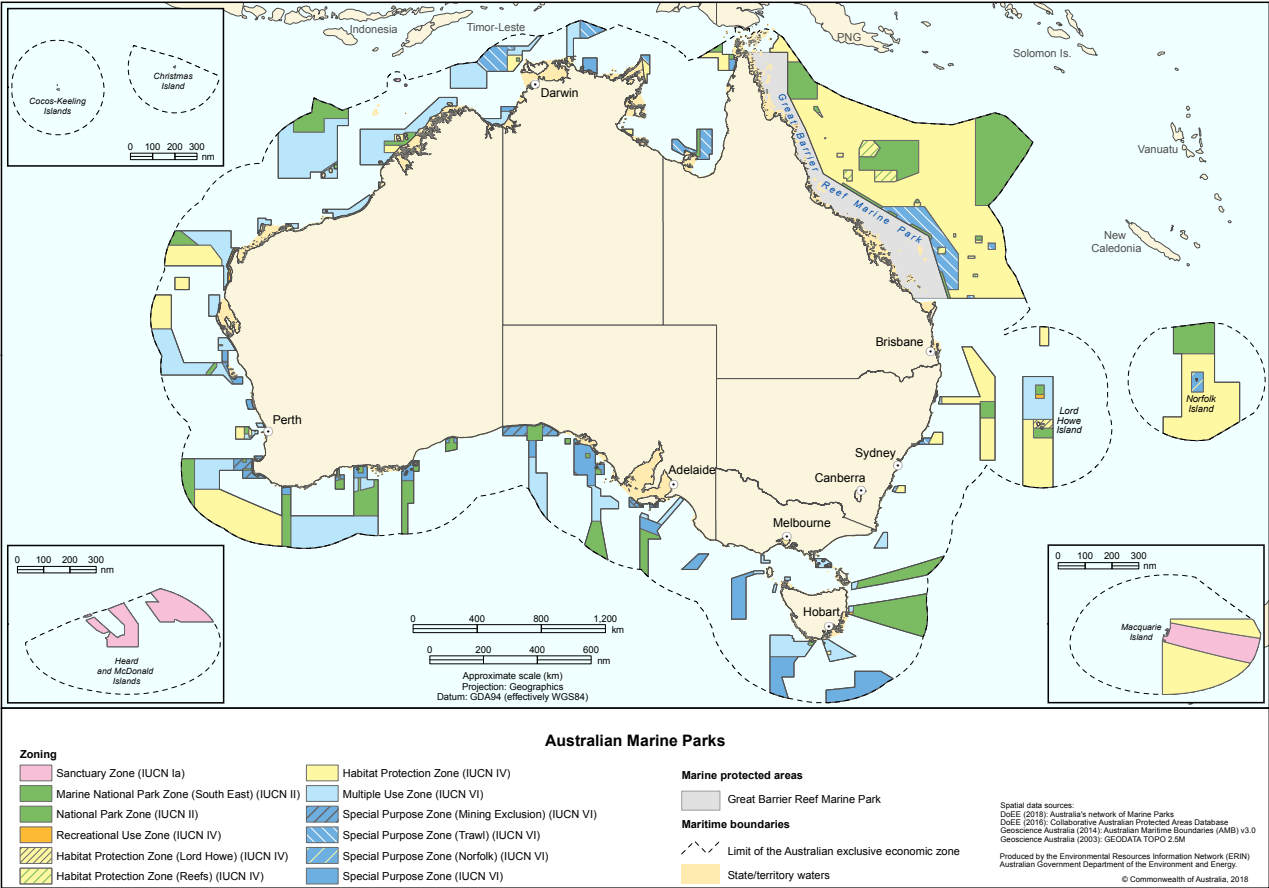
N 22	Environmentally Sensitive Sea Area (Great Barrier Reef Marine Park)	Administration Area		GBRMP (see Note)
N 22	Environmentally Sensitive Sea Area (Other areas)	Restricted Area		ESSA (see Note)
N 22	Marine Reserve (an area where one or more additional levels of restrictions upon activities exists within an ESSA)	Restricted Area		Note: Not shown on paper charts

For examples of depiction of the various overlapping zones affecting shipping in the Great Barrier Reef, see 6.3.

6.2 Marine Parks in Commonwealth waters

1. This section provides information related to the 58 Australian Marine Parks (AMPs) and Heard and McDonald Islands Marine Reserve. For information regarding the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park see 6.3.
2. An authorisation is not generally required for transiting in marine parks in Commonwealth waters, but there may be restrictions on transiting in some sensitive areas. An authorisation, however, may be required for some commercial operations in AMPs and Heard and McDonald Islands Marine Reserve. For instance, disembarking passengers in AMPs is deemed to be a commercial operation and would require approval. Mariners are advised that anchoring and discharge of waste is restricted in marine parks in Commonwealth waters. For details about the rules applying to AMPs, mariners need to contact Parks Australia in the Department of the Environment and Energy or visit Parks Australia’s website at the address listed below.

Website: parksaustralia.gov.au/marine/



- Information on all AMPs can be found on Parks Australia's website, including current Determinations and Approvals issued by the Director of National Parks. Users active in AMPs will need to keep up to date on management arrangements for AMPs.
- Generally vessel transit is allowed in AMPs without a permit. In cases where transit is not allowed this is encoded in the Electronic Navigational Charts (ENC).

6.2.1 Organisations responsible for Marine Parks in Commonwealth waters

1. Commonwealth Government organisations responsible for declaring and managing marine parks in Commonwealth waters in their jurisdictions are listed below.

COMMONWEALTH Parks Australia	Telephone: +61 419 293 465 Website: parksaustralia.gov.au/marine/
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority	Telephone: + 61 7 4750 0700 Email: info@gbmpa.gov.au Website: www.gbmpa.gov.au
Australian Antarctic Division	Telephone: +61 3 6232 3209 Website: www.antarctica.gov.au

6.2.2 Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act permits

1. There are numerous activities, for which permits are required under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act), including:
 - activities on Commonwealth land or in the Commonwealth Marine Area (see Ch.5) that may affect a member of a listed or threatened species or ecological community, a listed migratory species, or a listed marine species. It is an offense to kill, injure, take, trade, keep or move a member of a listed species without a permit. However the results of an unavoidable accident is not an offense provided the person responsible reports the accident to the Department of the Environment within seven days.
 - whale watching (this includes whales, dolphins and porpoises)
 - other activities which may affect whales, dolphins or porpoises inside or outside the Australian Whale Sanctuary. It is an offense to kill, injure, take, trade, keep, move or interfere with whales, dolphins or porpoises without a permit
 - activities involving the movement of wildlife or product made from wildlife, into or out of Australia

Website:	www.environment.gov.au (Permits and Assessments Tab)
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6.2.3 Marine components of Commonwealth National Parks

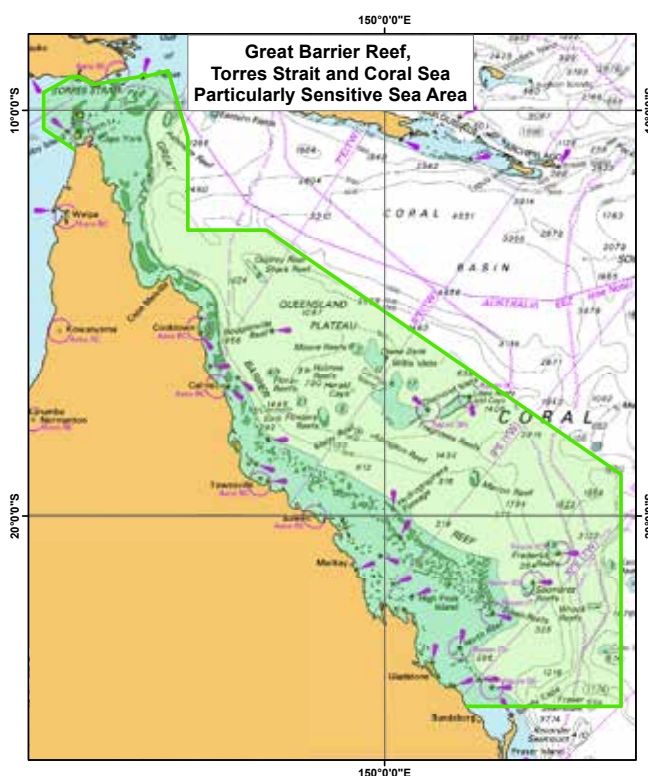
1. The Director of National Parks (through Parks Australia) is responsible for the management of the following terrestrial Commonwealth national parks established under the EPBC Act, which include a marine component:
 - Booderee National Park
 - Christmas Island National Park
 - Norfolk Island National Park
 - Pulu Keeling National Park

- Information is available on the website below about the marine components of these parks, including activities that are permitted/prohibited within the areas, protected area management, permit requirements, and processes for controlled activities.

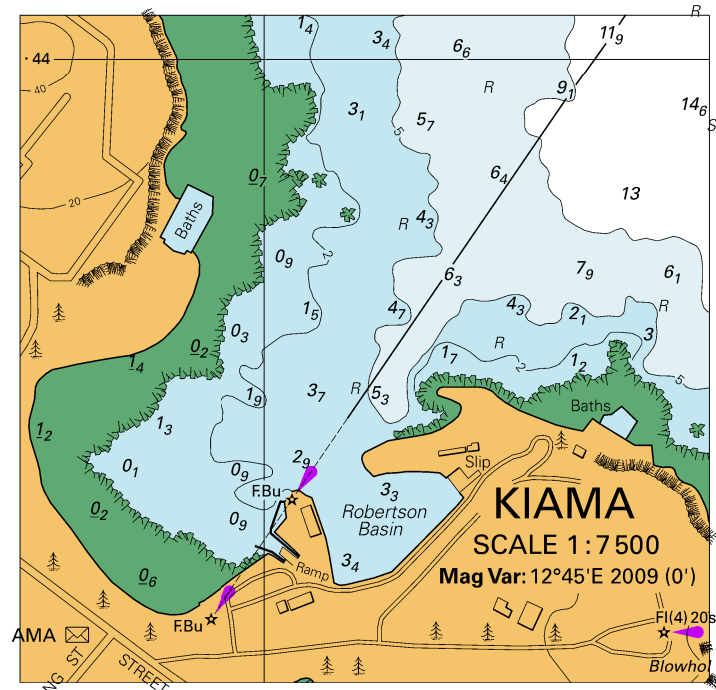
Website:	www.environment.gov.au/topic/national-parks
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6.3 The Great Barrier Reef and Torres Strait

- The Great Barrier Reef (GBR) is the largest coral reef ecosystem and the world's largest living structure. It stretches 2300 kilometres from Lady Elliot Island in the south to the tip of Cape York Peninsula in the north, spanning 14 degrees of latitude. Contrary to its name, the Great Barrier Reef is not one long continuous reef, but a complex of some 2900 reefs, 900 islands, lagoons, seagrass meadows and mangrove forests. It hosts approximately 1500 species of fish, 360 species of hard corals, over one third of the world's soft coral species, 5000 mollusc species, six of the world's seven marine turtle species, and more than 30 species of marine mammals.
- Many activities take place within the reef including commercial and recreational fishing, scientific research, tourism, commercial shipping, recreational boating and traditional use.
- Due to its international importance, the GBR is both a Marine Park and World Heritage Area. Under the World Heritage Convention, Australia has an international obligation to protect and conserve the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area for future generations. Included in the World Heritage Area (348 000 square kilometres) are all islands, regardless of tenure, and Queensland internal waters. Over much of the Great Barrier Reef and Torres Strait area discharges are prohibited under the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) see 6.7.
- The GBRMP is a Commonwealth Marine Park, covering 98.96 percent of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.
- The GBRMP was established under the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975 (Cth)* (GBRMP Act). The GBRMP Act confers responsibility for the management of the GBRMP upon the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA), an Australian Government statutory agency.
- A combination of legislative and educational mechanisms are used to manage the Marine Park. These include:
 - Legislative provisions under the GBRMP Act and Regulations - including compulsory pilotage requirements for certain ships within prescribed areas, restrictions on certain activities (e.g. waste discharge, illegal fishing, negligent shipping) and offences and penalties for causing environmental damage to the GBRMP.
 - The *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plan, 2003* (Zoning Plan) defines certain activities which are allowed 'as of right' and where activities are allowed with a permit. Under the Zoning Plan, ships may only navigate within the Designated Shipping Area (DSA) and the General Use Zone (GUZ). The DSA has been put in place to help minimise impacts from shipping, while having regard for the shipping industry and Australia's international obligations.



To accompany Australian Notice to Mariners 508/2018



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Block for Chart Aus 191

(91.1 x 88.2mm)