



Marion Scrymgour
MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES

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NT Marine Parks Strategy

The Northern Territory Government is one step closer to creating a bigger, better world class parks system with the development of a strategy to establish a system of Marine Parks in the NT.

Environment Minister Marion Scrymgour said it was a Labor Government pre-election commitment to build and improve on our reserve system – including the commencement of a comprehensive marine planning process.

The Northern Territory Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Advisory Committee will meet today for the first time to provide input on the development of a draft NT MPA Strategy.

Ms Scrymgour said the newly established committee comprises a wide range of stakeholders, including Indigenous interests, recreational fishing, commercial fishing, fishing tourism, aquaculture, mining, conservation, sailing and SCUBA diving, as well as the Northern Territory and Australian governments.

“This Government went to the 2005 election with a clear plan to extend our world class parks systems for the enjoyment of all Territorians – now and into the future,” she said.

“Today is a significant day as it signals the first meeting of this committee, set up to draft a Strategy that will define the ‘roadmap’ for implementing a system of Marine Protected Areas in the Territory.

“In particular, identifying the scientific and consultation processes required to establish such a system.

Ms Scrymgour said the draft Strategy would recognise the significant social, ecological, fishing and economic benefits of establishing Marine Protected Areas.

“The draft Strategy is a key step in ensuring that we develop a system of Marine Parks that will protect marine ecosystems and biodiversity for all Territorians into the future,” Ms Scrymgour said.

“It will also ensure that this system is science-based and significantly, that all Territorians have a clear say in that process.

“During this six month period, we will also be developing a public education program to help raise awareness of the many potential ecological and economic benefits of Marine Parks– particularly conservation, tourism, fisheries and regional employment.”

The committee will be independently chaired by Charles Darwin University Professor Bob Wasson.

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