

## Activities within Commonwealth Marine Reserves

### Core concepts

- The Commonwealth Marine Area (CMA) is a matter of national environmental significance protected under Part 3 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).
- Commonwealth marine reserves (CMR) are areas within the CMA that are proclaimed under the EPBC Act for the purpose of protecting and maintaining biological diversity and which contribute to a national representative system of marine protected areas. There are five networks of CMRs plus the stand-alone Coral Sea CMR (but for the purposes of this Guidance Note the Coral Sea is treated as the sixth CMR network). Activities within the CMRs are governed by the EPBC Act and CMR management plans created under that Act.
- The EPBC Act defines 'mining operations'. Offshore petroleum activities are within the definition of mining operations.
- During the preparation of an Environment Plan (EP), titleholders must demonstrate that impacts and risks on the CMA more broadly and relevant CMRs from both planned petroleum activities and emergency response activities will be reduced to As Low As Reasonably Practicable (ALARP) and will not result in unacceptable impacts to the environment of the CMA, including CMRs.
- Titleholders must continue to demonstrate throughout an activity that impacts and risks to CMRs are not unacceptable, reduced to ALARP and consistent with relevant CMR management plans and any associated requirements.
- If there is no CMR management plan in place, titleholders should ensure that their activities are consistent with the Australian IUCN reserve management principles for the IUCN category to which the reserve or reserve zone was assigned by the proclamation.
- The Australian Government commissioned an independent review of the new CMR networks established in 2012. Until this review is complete and new management plans come into effect, transitional management arrangements are in place.
- Transitional arrangements and the 'no changes on the water' policy means that offshore petroleum activity is not restricted in new reserves first proclaimed in November 2012. In these newly proclaimed reserves, any restrictions according to zone type will start once management plans come into effect, following completion of the independent review.
- In reserve areas that predated the 2012 proclamation and where transitional management arrangements apply, 'no changes on the water' means that the management arrangements that used to apply before November 2012 continue to be applied now. This is to ensure that the reserve's long-term protection is maintained.
- This guidance note has been prepared by NOPSEMA in consultation with the Director of National Parks, the Australian Government authority responsible for managing Commonwealth reserves under the EPBC Act.

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## Abbreviations/acronyms

ALARP	As Low As Reasonably Practicable
CMA	Commonwealth Marine Area
CMR	Commonwealth Marine Reserve
CMRs	Commonwealth Marine Reserves
DNP	Director of National Parks
DoE	Department of the Environment
EP	Environment Plan
EPBC Act	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
EPBC	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation
Emergency response	Actions taken in accordance with the accepted EP/OPEP, including environmental monitoring and remediation, to respond to an oil pollution incident resulting from a petroleum activity
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
NOPSEMA	National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority
OPEP	Oil Pollution Emergency Plan
Program	NOPSEMA Program endorsed under part 10 of the EPBC Act for streamlining offshore petroleum environmental approvals

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Intent and purpose

The purpose of this guidance note is to outline the management status of Commonwealth Marine Reserves (CMRs) and the implications of this for the management of petroleum activities in and around CMRs. Guidance is also provided regarding other approvals that may be required from the Director of National Parks (DNP) to assist in the preparation of environment plans (EPs). This guidance note remains current until management plans come into effect for the new CMR Networks.

## 1.2 Background

Commonwealth Marine Reserves are areas established by proclamation under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) for the purpose of protecting and maintaining biological diversity in the reserves and contributing to the objectives of the national representative system of marine protected areas. Australia has six CMR networks that contain proclaimed marine reserves (Figure 1). The DNP is the statutory authority responsible for the administration, management and control of Commonwealth reserves under the EPBC Act.

The Australian Government has adopted the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) protected area categories for defining the broad management principles relevant to each CMR. At the time of proclamation, the reserves are assigned an IUCN category. These categories have been given legal effect in relation to CMRs under the EPBC Act<sup>1</sup> and management must be in accordance with the Australian IUCN reserve management principles in the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000* (EPBC Regulations).<sup>2</sup> CMRs can be divided into two or more zones with an IUCN protected area category applied to each zone. For further information on IUCN categories, please refer to the EPBC Regulations 2000 (Schedule 8) and Australian Reserve Management Principles for Commonwealth Marine Protected Areas (<http://www.environment.gov.au/resource/australian-iucn-reserve-management-principles-commonwealth-marine-protected-areas>).

Specific management requirements for CMRs are detailed in management plans made under the EPBC Act. These plans give effect to the broad reserve management principles and define what activities are allowed to occur without the need for authorisation from the DNP, allowed to occur following authorisation by the DNP, or not allowed, within the CMR. Each CMR must have a management plan in operation as soon as practicable after the reserve is declared.<sup>3</sup> The content of the management plan is prescribed in the EPBC Act<sup>4</sup>. Among other things, the Act requires that management plans detail how each zone of the reserve is to be managed and include specifications for any 'mining operations' that may be carried out in the reserve, as well as the conditions under which these operations may be carried out. A management plan comes into effect after it has been approved by the Minister and registered on the Federal Register of Legislative Instruments (or on a later date specified in the plan approved by the Minister).<sup>5</sup> The DNP and other Commonwealth agencies must act consistently with the in force management plan<sup>6</sup>.

The EPBC Act defines 'mining operations.'<sup>7</sup> This terminology is used in CMR management plans and approvals issued by the DNP. The definition of mining operations under the Act includes all petroleum activities, including associated emergency response activities.

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<sup>1</sup> EPBC Act, section 346.

<sup>2</sup> EPBC Regulations, schedule 8

<sup>3</sup> EPBC Act, section 366

<sup>4</sup> EPBC Act, section 367

<sup>5</sup> EPBC Act, section 370 and *Legislative Instruments Act 2003*, section 12

<sup>6</sup> EPBC Act, section 362

<sup>7</sup> EPBC Act section 355

The establishment of CMRs, and the EPBC Act requirements for activities in CMRs, do not affect activities under a seabed 'usage right' issued prior to their establishment, but renewal or extension of the term of the 'right' requires consent from the Minister for the Environment<sup>8</sup>.

Australia's system of marine reserves includes six CMR networks, comprising the South-east network, proclaimed in 2007, and five new networks being the South-west, North-west, North, Coral Sea and Temperate East. The Australian Government set aside management plans for the new CMRs that were due to come into effect in July 2014 and commissioned an independent review of the new CMRs that were first proclaimed under the EPBC Act) in 2012 and re-proclaimed in 2013. While this review is underway, and until management plans for the new reserves are in operation, there are 'transitional management arrangements' in place for these CMRs.

Transitional management arrangements are described in further detail in Section 2.2 of this document and further information on the marine reserves review is available at <http://www.environment.gov.au/marinereservesreview/home>.

The South-east CMR Network has a current management plan in place and is not subject to the review or transitional management arrangements.

The EPBC Act requires that when a management plan is not in operation for a CMR, the DNP must manage the CMR, and zones within the CMR, in accordance with the Australian IUCN reserve management principles for the IUCN category assigned to the CMR/zone. Mining operations proposed to occur in the CMRs between proclamation of the reserve and implementation of a management plan, require DNP approval issued under section 359B of the EPBC Act. In addition, other Commonwealth agencies including NOPSEMA, must not exercise their powers or functions in relation to the CMR or zone of the reserve inconsistently with the applicable Australian IUCN reserve management principles<sup>9</sup>.

## 2 Current management status and transitional arrangements

### 2.1 Current management status of CMRs

To provide guidance to petroleum titleholders and for this document only, CMRs have been categorised into three broad 'types', based on the management arrangements in place at the time this guidance note was prepared. Attachment 1 lists CMRs adjacent to the Australian mainland by network, 'type', their management status and information regarding DNP approval of petroleum activities in CMRs. The reserves and their type are also shown in Figure 1.

**Type A:** CMRs that form part of the South-East Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network proclaimed in 2007.

These CMRs are operating as per the requirements of the current management plan and are not included in the current Government CMR review or subject to transitional management arrangements.

**Type B:** New CMRs that were first proclaimed in 2012 and then re-proclaimed in 2013.

These CMRs do not have a management plan in place. They are subject to transitional management arrangements and are part of the Government review. Some Type B CMRs (e.g. the new Great Australian Bight CMR) include a Type C CMR area (e.g. the former Great Australian Bight Marine Park (Commonwealth Waters)) within their boundaries. The description of Type C CMRs below further explains this arrangement.

**Type C:** CMRs that were proclaimed before 2012 and re-proclaimed in 2013.

Type C CMRs consist both of reserves that have continued, being:

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<sup>8</sup> EPBC Act, sections 350(7) and 359

<sup>9</sup> EPBC Act, section 357

- Ningaloo
- Mermaid Reef
- Ashmore Reef
- Cartier Island

and the areas of the following reserves and conservation zone that had been declared before 2012 but were revoked and the areas incorporated in one of the new (Type B) reserves:

- the former Great Australian Bight Marine Park (Commonwealth Waters) – incorporated into the new Great Australian Bight CMR
- the former Coringa-Herald National Nature Reserve, Lihou Reef National Nature Reserve and the former Coral Sea Conservation Zone - incorporated into the new Coral Sea CMR
- the former Lord Howe Island Marine Park (Commonwealth Waters) and Elizabeth and Middleton Reefs Marine National Nature Reserve – incorporated into the new Lord Howe CMR
- the former Solitary Islands Marine Reserve (Commonwealth Waters) – incorporated into the new Solitary Islands CMR
- the former Cod Grounds Commonwealth Marine Reserve – incorporated into new Cod Grounds CMR.

All of the Type C CMRs, except the former Cod Grounds CMR and Coral Sea Conservation Zone, had management plans, which had expired before they were incorporated in a Type B reserve in 2012. The Cod Grounds CMR and Coral Sea Conservation Zone never had a management plan. The transitional management arrangements for these CMRs continue the pre-2012 arrangements.

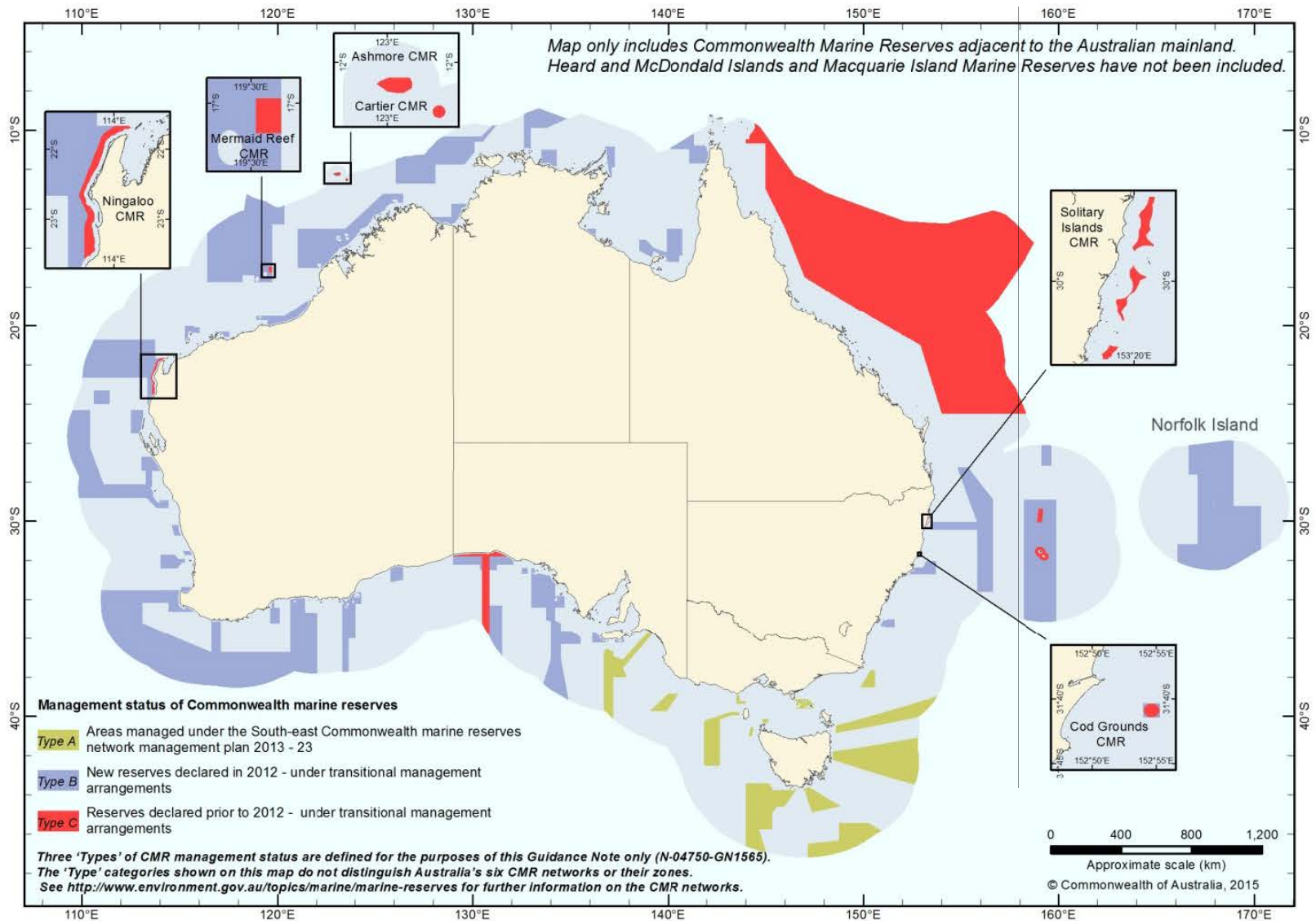


Figure 1: Commonwealth marine reserves adjacent to the Australian mainland and their 'type'.

## 2.2 Transitional management arrangements

As part of the transitional arrangements for **Type B** CMRs, the DNP has issued a general approval under section 359B of the EPBC Act allowing a range of activities, including mining operations. The approval does not replace the need for titleholders to have an accepted EP for all petroleum activities, including those activities that may occur in or potentially impact on a CMR, but it does not place any additional requirements on titleholders such as securing individual DNP approvals. The general approval will cease when management plans come into effect for Type B CMRs.

**Type C** CMRs are being managed, and section 359B approvals issued, in accordance with the pre-existing management arrangements (and for administrative consistency, the same way as under the last management plan for any of those CMRs).

## 3 Implications for petroleum titleholders

For all petroleum activities, titleholders are required to ensure that the EP for the activity demonstrates that the environmental impacts and risks of the activity (including emergency response activities) will be reduced to ALARP and to an acceptable level before NOPSEMA can accept the EP. This includes specific consideration of relevant matters of national environmental significance, including the CMA. This requirement also applies to revisions of existing EPs submitted to NOPSEMA.

When establishing the external context used to define acceptable levels of impact and risk to the environment in CMRs and when selecting management measures, titleholders should describe the environmental management arrangements that exist for these areas. They should also demonstrate in their EPs how they reflect relevant management plans, or act consistent with management principles if there is no plan, and have regard to the representative values of the reserves and other information published by the DoE that is relevant to the reserve. Titleholders must also describe relevant DNP approvals and how they will ensure the requirements of these are met.

For ongoing activities that have an EP in place, titleholders are required to ensure that impacts and risks to the marine environment, and to CMRs, continue to be managed to an acceptable level and reduced to ALARP for the life of the activity. Titleholders should monitor progress of the CMR review and be prepared for any potential implications associated with the commencement of new management plans for CMRs. Updates from the Government's independent CMR review, can be received through a subscription service at <http://www.environment.gov.au/marinereservesreview/marine-reserves-updates/subscribe>. Once management plans come into effect, activities being carried out under accepted EPs will need to be consistent with the requirements of those plans, unless the petroleum activities are authorised by titles issued before 14 December 2013. The process by which titleholders will manage potential implications of any change to CMR management that may occur during the life of the activity should be detailed in the implementation strategy of the EP.

Some specific considerations for each 'type' of CMR are outlined below and summarised along with the DNP approval requirements in Attachment 1.

**Type A:** Titleholders preparing EPs that involve activities within, or with potential to impact on this type of CMR should have regard to the management plan that is in effect and ensure that their EP is not inconsistent with the management plan. Class Approvals have been issued by the DNP under the South-east Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network management plan allowing mining operations in zones with IUCN category VI, where the operations are assessed and approved as 'controlled actions' under Part 9 of the EPBC Act (including EPs accepted by NOPSEMA under the Program) and those that are authorised to be undertaken in a particular manner under Part 7 of the EPBC Act.<sup>10</sup> Emergency response activities that may be required in other zones will be accepted by the DNP if conducted in the same manner as described in the s359B approval for emergency response for the Type C North-west, South-west and Temperate East CMRs.

**Type B:** General approvals have been issued by the DNP allowing mining activities in these reserves until management plans come into effect. Titleholders preparing EPs that involve planned or emergency response activities within, or with potential to impact on, this CMR type should have regard to the

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<sup>10</sup> <http://www.environment.gov.au/resource/class-approval-mining>

Australian IUCN reserve management principles relevant to each zone within the CMR. They should also consider their activity impacts and risks in the context of the representative values of the reserve and information contained in relevant marine bioregional plans, conservation advice(s) and other relevant documentation on the DoE website. No additional DNP approvals are required.

**Type C:** Titleholders preparing EPs that involve planned petroleum activities within this type of CMR [with the exception of the Benthic Protection Zone of the former Great Australian Bight Marine Park (Commonwealth Waters) and the general use zone of the Solitary Islands CMR] should be aware that these EPs cannot be accepted by NOPSEMA (as 'mining operations' are not approved in these CMRs).

Titleholders preparing EPs that involve planned activities outside of the boundary but with potential impacts on this CMR type, or emergency response activities that may be required inside the boundary, should have regard to the Australian IUCN reserve management principles relevant to each zone within the CMR that may be affected by the activity. They should also consider their activity impacts and risks in the context of the representative values of the reserve and information contained in relevant marine bioregional plans, conservation advice(s) and other relevant documentation on the DoE website. Only emergency response activities inside the CMRs are approved if carried out in accordance with the s359B approval (for emergency response) issued for the North-west, South-west and Temperate East CMRs. Titleholders should note the approval requires observing any requirements advised by DNP about minimising potential impacts of emergency response activities on CMR values.

Titleholders preparing EPs that involve activities within, or with the potential to impact on, the former Great Australian Bight Marine Park (Commonwealth Waters) or the general use zone of the Solitary Islands CMR should have regard to the Australian IUCN reserve management principles relevant to the area. They should also consider information contained in the former Great Australian Bight Marine Park management plan, as these management arrangements continue to be applied as part of the transitional arrangements. Activities may be allowed in the Benthic Protection Zone of the former GAB CMR under an individual approval issued by the DNP under section 359B of the EPBC Act.

Early consultation with the DNP<sup>11</sup> in the event that an approval for petroleum activities is required may assist titleholders to ensure that all relevant documentation is considered.

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<sup>11</sup> The Director of National Parks may be contacted via email at [marinereserves@environment.gov.au](mailto:marinereserves@environment.gov.au)



## Attachment 1 – Overview of existing CMRs by ‘Type’ and requirements for DNP approval

The following table summarises the current arrangements for CMRs in the CMR networks. See <http://www.environment.gov.au/topics/marine/marine-reserves> and NOPSEMA EP Content Requirements Guidance Note (<http://www.nopsema.gov.au/environmental-management/environment-plans/>) for other information that may be relevant to the management of CMRs and the preparation of an EP.

In a number of places, the table below refers to DNP approvals. Where titleholders determine that these approvals are relevant to their activity, they should review the approval and any conditions that apply by visiting the website for the reserve of interest or contacting the DNP, and demonstrate in the EP how the requirements will be met.

Network	Commonwealth marine reserve	Current status of CMRs and their zoning	Management plan status	Status of, and requirements for, DNP approvals relevant to petroleum activities
<b>SOUTH EAST CMR NETWORK</b>	Apollo; Beagle; Boags; East Gippsland; Flinders; Franklin; Freycinet; Huon; Macquarie Island; Murray; Nelson; South Tasman Rise; Tasman Fracture; Zeehan	<p><b>CMR Type A</b> – CMRs declared 2007, boundaries in place</p> <p><b>Current zoning:</b> IUCN Categories 1a (Sanctuary), II (Marine National Park), IV (Habitat Protection, Recreational Use), and VI (Special Purpose, Multiple Use).</p>	<p><b>Current management plan:</b> in effect</p> <p>South-east Commonwealth Marine Reserve Network Management Plan 2013-23</p>	<p>Class approvals have been issued by the DNP under the management plan for mining operations in IUCN category VI network management zones where the operations are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. carried on in accordance with approval given under Part 9 of the EPBC Act (including under the endorsed NOPSEMA Program)</li> <li>b. carried on in accordance with a specified manner decision notice under Part 7 of the EPBC Act; or</li> <li>c. subject to a not controlled action decision under section 75 of the EPBC Act.</li> </ol> <p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mining operations not covered by the class approvals may be carried on in IUCN category VI network management zones in accordance with a permit issued by the DNP.</li> <li>• Mining operations other than emergency response and environmental monitoring activities are not allowed in IUCN category 1a, II and IV network management zones under the management plan.</li> <li>• Emergency response activities that may be required in IUCN category 1a, II and IV network management zones will be accepted by the DNP if conducted in the manner described in the s359B approval issued for emergency response in the Type C North-west, South-west and Temperate East CMRs.</li> </ul>

Network	Commonwealth marine reserve	Current status of CMRs and their zoning	Management plan status	Status of, and requirements for, DNP approvals relevant to petroleum activities
NORTH WEST CMR NETWORK	Carnarvon Canyon; Shark Bay; Gascoyne; Montebello; Dampier; Eighty Mile Beach; Argo-Rowley Terrace; Roebuck; Kimberley	<p><b>CMR Type B</b> – New CMR boundaries and zoning reproclaimed</p> <p><b>Current zoning:</b> IUCN Categories II (Marine National Park &amp; Recreational Use ), IV (Habitat Protection) &amp;, VI (Multiple Use)</p>	<p><b>No current management plan:</b> refer to IUCN reserve management principles</p>	<p>General approval has been issued by the DNP allowing mining operations.</p>
	Mermaid Reef	<p><b>CMR Type C</b> – CMR boundaries and prior zoning has been re-proclaimed</p> <p><b>Current zoning:</b> IUCN category Ia – (Sanctuary)</p>	<p><b>Expired management plan:</b> Zoning and approach from last management plan applies</p> <p>Mermaid Reef Marine National Nature Reserve Plan of Management 2000-2007</p>	<p>A general approval is provided for emergency response activities. Approval will not be issued for planned mining operations within the CMR.</p>
	Ashmore Reef and Cartier Island	<p><b>CMR Type C</b> – CMR boundaries and prior zoning has been re-proclaimed</p> <p><b>Current zoning:</b> IUCN Category Ia, (Sanctuary) and II (Recreational Use Zone)</p>	<p><b>Expired management plan:</b> Zoning and approach from last management plan applies</p> <p>Ashmore Reef National Nature Reserve and Cartier Island Marine Reserve Management Plans 2002 (expired 2009)</p>	<p>A general approval is provided for emergency response activities. Approval will not be issued for planned mining operations within the CMR.</p>

Network	Commonwealth marine reserve	Current status of CMRs and their zoning	Management plan status	Status of, and requirements for, DNP approvals relevant to petroleum activities
	Ningaloo	<p><b>CMR Type C</b> – CMR boundaries and prior zoning has been re-proclaimed</p> <p><b>Current zoning:</b> IUCN Category II (Recreational Use Zone)</p>	<p><b>Expired management plan:</b> Zoning and approach of last management plan applies</p> <p>Ningaloo Marine Park (Commonwealth Waters) Plan of management 2002 (expired 2009)</p>	A general approval is provided for emergency response activities. Approval will not be issued for planned mining operations within the CMR.
<b>SOUTH WEST CMR NETWORK</b>	Great Australian Bight	<p><b>CMR Type B and C</b> – New CMR that includes the area of the former Great Australian Bight Marine Park (Commonwealth Waters)</p> <p><b>Current zoning:</b> IUCN categories II (Marine National Park), VI (Multiple Use and Special Purpose Zones)</p>	<p><b>Expired management plan:</b> zoning and approach of former plan of management applies</p> <p>Great Australian Bight Marine Park (Commonwealth Waters) Management Plan 2005-2012</p>	<p>Type B areas – general approval has been issued by DNP allowing mining operations in these areas.</p> <p>Type C areas – individual approval required in Benthic Protection Zone. Mining activities prohibited in the area corresponding to the former Marine Mammal Protection Zone and the area is closed to all access from 1 May to 31 October.</p> <p>DNP manages in accordance with the Australian IUCN reserve management principles and referring to specific provisions in last in-force management plan for guidance when interpreting the intent of the principles as they relate to the reserve or zone of interest. A general approval is provided for emergency response activities.</p>

Network	Commonwealth marine reserve	Current status of CMRs and their zoning	Management plan status	Status of, and requirements for, DNP approvals relevant to petroleum activities
	Abrolhos; Jurien; Two Rocks; Perth canyon; Geographe; South-west Corner; Eastern Recherche; Twilight; Bremer; Murat; Western Eyre; Western Kangaroo Island; Southern Kangaroo Island	<p><b>CMR Type B</b> – New CMR, boundaries and zoning re-proclaimed</p> <p><b>Current zoning:</b> IUCN categories II (Marine National Park), IV (Habitat Protection) and VI (Special purpose, Special Purpose (Oil and Gas Exclusion) &amp; Multiple Use).</p>	<p><b>No current management plan:</b> refer to IUCN reserve management principles</p>	<p>General approval has been issued by DNP allowing mining operations.</p>
<b>NORTH CMR NETWORK</b>	Arafura; Arnhem; Gulf of Carpentaria; Limmen; Joseph Bonaparte Gulf; Oceanic Shoals; Wessel; West Cape York	<p><b>CMR Type B</b> – New CMR, boundaries and zoning re-proclaimed</p> <p><b>Current zoning:</b> various including IUCN Categories II, VI (Special Purpose) and VI (Multiple Use)</p>	<p><b>No current management plan:</b> refer to IUCN reserve management principles</p>	<p>General approval has been issued by DNP allowing mining operations.</p>
<b>CORAL SEA CMR</b>	Coral Sea Conservation Zone	<p><b>CMR Type C</b> – Boundaries revoked and the area incorporated into the Coral Sea CMR</p>	<p><b>No current management plan:</b> Zoning and former management arrangements applies</p>	<p>All mining operations are prohibited in the area of the former zone. An approval is required for emergency response activities.</p>

Network	Commonwealth marine reserve	Current status of CMRs and their zoning	Management plan status	Status of, and requirements for, DNP approvals relevant to petroleum activities
	Coringa-Herald National Nature Reserve	<b>CMR Type C</b> –CMR boundaries and zoning has been revoked and the areas incorporated into the Coral Sea CMR	<b>Expired management plan:</b> zoning and approach of former plan of management applies  Coringa-Herald National Nature Reserve and Lihou National Nature Reserve Management Plan (2001-2008)	All mining operations are prohibited in the area of the former reserve. An approval is required for emergency response activities.
	Lihou Reef National Nature Reserve	<b>CMR Type C</b> – CMR boundaries and zoning has been revoked and the areas incorporated into the Coral Sea CMR	<b>Expired management plan:</b> zoning and former plan of management applies  Coringa-Herald National Nature Reserve and Lihou National Nature Reserve Management Plan (2001-2008)	All mining operations are prohibited in the area of the former reserve. An approval is required for emergency response activities.
<b>TEMPERATE EAST</b>	Gifford; Norfolk, Central Eastern; Hunter; Jervis	<b>CMR Type B</b> – New CMR, no statutory plan of management in place  <b>Current Zoning:</b> various including IUCN Categories II (Marine National Park Zone), IV (Habitat Protection Zone), VI (Multiple Use Zone, Special Purpose Zone)	<b>No current management plan:</b> refer to IUCN reserve management principles  <b>Relevant bioregional plan:</b> Temperate East Marine Bioregional Plan	General approval has been issued by DNP allowing mining operation.

Network	Commonwealth marine reserve	Current status of CMRs and their zoning	Management plan status	Status of, and requirements for, DNP approvals relevant to petroleum activities
	Elizabeth and Middleton Reefs	<p><b>CMR Type C</b> – CMR boundaries and zoning has been re-proclaimed</p> <p><b>Current zoning:</b> IUCN Category 1a (Sanctuary Zone) and IUCN II (Habitat Protection Zone)</p>	<p><b>Expired management plan:</b> zoning and former plan of management applies</p> <p>Elizabeth and Middleton Reefs Marine National Nature reserve Management Plan 2006 - 2013</p>	<p>All mining operations are prohibited in the Reserve. A general approval is provided for emergency response activities.</p>
	Lord Howe	<p><b>CMR Type C</b> – CMR boundaries and zoning has been re-proclaimed</p> <p><b>Current zoning:</b> IUCN Category 1a (Sanctuary Zone) and IUCN II (Habitat Protection Zone)</p>	<p><b>Expired management plan:</b> zoning and former plan of management applies</p> <p>Lord Howe Island Marine Park (Commonwealth Waters) Management Plan 2002-2009</p>	<p>All mining operations are prohibited in the Reserve. A general approval is provided for emergency response activities.</p>
	Solitary Islands	<p><b>CMR Type C</b> – CMR boundaries and zoning has been re-proclaimed</p> <p><b>Current zoning:</b> IUCN Category 1a (Sanctuary Zone); IUCN IV (Habitat Protection Zone); IUCN VI (General Use Zone)</p>	<p><b>Expired management plan:</b> zoning and former plan of management applies</p> <p>Solitary Islands Marine Reserve (Commonwealth Waters) Management Plan 2001 - 2008</p>	<p>Mining operations are prohibited within IUCN 1a and IUCN IV zones of the reserve.</p> <p>Approval must be sought from the DNP for any mining operation proposed within the IUCN VI. A general approval is provided for emergency response activities.</p>

Network	Commonwealth marine reserve	Current status of CMRs and their zoning	Management plan status	Status of, and requirements for, DNP approvals relevant to petroleum activities
	Cod Grounds	<p><b>CMR Type B and C</b> – New CMR that includes area of the former Cod Grounds CMR</p> <p><b>Current zoning:</b> IUCN Category 1a (Sanctuary Zone)</p>	<p><b>Expired management plan:</b> Zoning and former management arrangements applies</p>	<p>Type B areas – general approval has been issued by DNP.</p> <p>Type C areas – All mining operations are prohibited in the Reserve. A general approval is provided for emergency response activities.</p>