



A Call for a Marine Reserve

Surfrider Foundation Australia supports the development and creation of multi use marine-park for Sydney

The protection of marine life is crucial for a healthy ocean and the pressures a city the size of Sydney now places on the inshore ocean off its coast demands prudent management of water quality and biodiversity.

Surfrider Foundation exists to celebrate and protect the world's oceans waves and beaches and has been operating in Australia for 25 years this year.

Marine sanctuaries improve ocean health.

Healthy oceans help create healthy happy humans. Every surfer will attest to the joy of spotting a fairy penguin or turtle bobbing to the surface nearby and a civilised city would place a very high value on such creatures enduring all the assaults that a population the size of Sydney's has delivered. That these creatures still inhabit our waters is amazing and every effort must be pursued to ensure they continue to survive here.

The design of a marine park for the Sydney region should be science based and include a comprehensive, adequate and representative network of marine sanctuaries.

Engagement of recreational fishers is crucial to the success of a large-scale, multi-use marine park for Sydney. Sanctuaries are likely to be resited by fishers in the early stages of consultation until such time as they come to understand the ongoing scientifically proven benefits of no take zones (and/or times of year) into the future.

There is overwhelming scientific evidence that marine sanctuaries improve ocean health, protect feeding and breeding areas for marine life, allow fish and marine life to recover and rebuild, improve ecosystem resilience and recovery in the face of climate change and extreme weather events and boost tourism and regional business.

Surfrider knows popular support exists for a large scale marine park for Sydney and with strategic engagement a smooth consultative process and real stakeholder input a Sydney Marine Park can become a reality sooner rather than later as its time has come.

Please count this as a submission to the Hawkesbury Shelf marine bioregion

SURFRIDER FOUNDATION AUSTRALIA PO BOX 968 MONA VALE NSW AUSTRALIA

assessment.

Sincerely,

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in blue ink. The signature is written in a cursive style and reads "Brendan Donohoe".

Brendan Donohoe

Surfrider Foundation Australia