

## Co-Chairs' Update 27 April 2015

We have now finished our listening tour around the country, hearing a wide range of views on all the Commonwealth Marine Reserves and how they might be zoned and managed.

### **Regional meetings overview**

We travelled to 14 locations and held over 165 smaller meetings with individuals and groups and eight larger multi-sector forums around Australia covering the five Bioregional Advisory Panel areas (Temperate East, South-west, North-west, North and Coral Sea regions).

Last week in Melbourne we held our second meeting with national stakeholders who provided valuable feedback regarding national issues for the review.

Throughout our consultations we have spoken to individuals, members and representatives of conservation councils, Indigenous groups and traditional owners, tourism authorities, fishing clubs, local governments, port authorities, commercial fishers and their representative associations, national parks associations, conservation groups, game fishing associations, charter operators, researchers from a number of universities, state and territory governments and natural resource management groups.

### **Feedback we received**

Now that our submission process has closed, we have collated all the feedback and are evaluating the input from over 13000 submissions, 1800 survey responses and all that we have heard over the two months of our regional meetings.

As soon as possible we will put the submissions and a summary of the survey results up on the Commonwealth Marine Reserves Review website.

### **What's next for the Panels**

Over the next month we will reconvene each of the five Bioregional Advisory Panels to work through all these inputs to consider the feasible options to address the issues raised.

We have now identified a significant number of issues for the Expert Scientific Panel to work on, so they can help us with the evidence and science that might assist our consideration of potential options for zoning changes.

We have heard and seen a genuine willingness from stakeholders to collaborate to find workable solutions and we anticipate further targeted meetings with stakeholders as we work on finding solutions to the concerns raised.

We are appreciative of the time and effort of individuals to participate in meetings and provide submissions to the review.

Please contact the Review Secretariat via email ([cmrreview@environment.gov.au](mailto:cmrreview@environment.gov.au)) if you have any questions or queries about the review and its progress.

### **Further information:**

For more information about the Commonwealth Marine Reserves Review and the Panels, please visit:  
[www.marinereservesreview.gov.au](http://www.marinereservesreview.gov.au)

If you have a question, or would like an article for your organisations newsletter or magazine please email  
[cmrreview@environment.gov.au](mailto:cmrreview@environment.gov.au)

**Prof. Colin Buxton**      **Mr Peter Cochrane**  
Co-Chairs of the Bioregional Advisory Panels