



Emeritus Professor Nick Harvey
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Dear Emeritus Professor Harvey

Thank you for your correspondence of 14 October 2022 to Ms Belinda Jago, Principal Director, Ocean Office, concerning management of ocean sustainability matters within the 3 nautical mile zone. I apologise for the delay in responding.

I understand you have spoken with Ms Jago and Ms Patty McMahon (Director, Sustainable Ocean Planning), regarding the importance of coastal management issues in state waters.

Sustainable Ocean Plan

As highlighted in the 2021 State of the Environment Report, a key gap in the management of the marine environment is national coordination across sectors and jurisdictions. A national Sustainable Ocean Plan is currently being scoped by the Sustainable Ocean Planning team within the Ocean Office. Development of the Plan provides an opportunity for the Australian Government to work collectively with the states and Northern Territory governments, other stakeholders and First Nations peoples to address this gap and identify actions to create a more sustainable future for the ocean.

The plan is expected to cover all Australian waters to 200 nautical miles, including the 3 nautical mile zone under state and territory jurisdiction. However, the specific activities included within the plan will be the outcome of collaborative discussions with states and the Northern Territory over the course of 2023.

Ocean Office

I note your interest in the current Australian Government arrangements for managing the ocean, and that we have previously advised that the Ocean Office was established last year to support improved coordination of ocean matters within the department. In addition to leading the development of the Sustainable Ocean Plan and supporting Australia's sustainable ocean agenda more broadly, the Office also supports the government's international ocean engagement including through the High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy and other key global ocean forums.

We look forward to working with groups such as the Australian Coastal Society, on development of the Sustainable Ocean Plan and would be happy to meet to discuss with you further.

Yours sincerely

Adam Clark
Acting Principal Director, Ocean Office
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