



Environmental
Defender's
Office

Western Australia (Inc)

Telephone (08) 9221 3030 Facsimile (08) 9221 3070
Level 2 Kings Office Tower, 533 Hay St, Perth WA 6000
email: edowa@edowa.org.au www.edowa.org.au
Freecall for non-metropolitan callers: 1800 175 542

31 May 2006

Chris Smyth
Marine Campaign Coordinator
ACF
Floor One, 60 Leicester Street
CARLTON VIC 3053

By email: C.Smyth@acfonline.org.au

Dear Chris

Response to *Out of the Blue*

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above discussion paper.

The EDO WA supports the ACF's *Marine Legislative Review* finding that marine management in Australia takes place in the context of an inadequate, disintegrated, multi-jurisdictional framework.

We also strongly support the key conclusion reached by the ACF's *Out of the Blue* discussion paper, namely that both stronger legislative direction and institutional reform are required for Australia to fulfil its international obligations relating to the ocean, and to effectively implement Oceans Policy.

The EDO WA thus goes on to also support:

1. the creation of an Australian Oceans Act and an Australian Oceans Authority, with the latter responsible for regional marine planning, a key component of which will be a comprehensive, adequate and representative system of marine national parks;
2. the establishment of ecosystem-based and enforceable regional marine planning processes;
3. the proper recognition and incorporation of Indigenous rights and responsibilities in the regional marine planning process;
4. the signing of an Intergovernmental Agreement on Australia's Oceans through COAG, through which it will be agreed that all States will pass complementary

Australian Oceans Authority legislation, and as part of which State title to the first three nautical miles will remain intact; and

5. establishment of the Australian Oceans Fund to resource the above measures.

I apologise that we cannot provide more detailed comment on the above proposals at this stage but we would be keen to be involved in subsequent consultations on this issue; an area which is in critical need of reform

Yours sincerely

CAMERON POUSTIE
Principal Solicitor