22nd September 2026

The Director of National Parks
Marine Planning Section
Parks Australia Division
PO Box 385
KINGSTON
TAS 7050

Email – marineparksreview@dcceew.gov.au

Dear Madam/Sir,

Submission regarding the Coral Sea Marine Park management plan

Outdoors Queensland is the peak body for the outdoor sector in Queensland.

We represent outdoor organisations and individuals in Queensland, consisting of a range of outdoor industry stakeholders, covering the five broad pillars of outdoor activities:

- outdoor and environmental education,
- outdoor health (including adventure therapy),
- outdoor tourism (adventure/ nature-based tourism), and
- associated support services (e.g. land and water management, infrastructure, sector training and development, other support services, retail sales).

The mission of Outdoors Queensland is to ensure that Queensland's outdoor sector is empowered, supported and valued. Our vision that everyone can enjoy the health and well-being benefits of the outdoors through a thriving Queensland outdoor sector.

Outdoors Queensland appreciates the opportunity to contribute to the review of the Coral Sea Marine Park Management Plan.

Outdoors Queensland supports a substantial increase in highly protected National Park Zones in the Coral Sea Marine Park, while maintaining access for sustainable, low-impact outdoor activities including diving, snorkelling, wildlife viewing, boating, paddling, fishing, education and scientific activities.

We understand that the Coral Sea Marine Park lies off the coast of Queensland beyond the Great Barrier Reef, and that it is one of the world's largest marine parks, covering almost 1 million square kilometres, with a depth range from 0 to 6,000m.

We note that the Coral Sea Marine Park is internationally recognised for its exceptionally high biodiversity, significant reef systems, seabird colonies, migratory species, ocean predators, seamounts and deep-water habitats. These

amazing features support a world-class tourism destination, provide opportunities for environmental and outdoor education, and are a significant place for outdoor activities.

Healthy marine ecosystems support the quality and safety of these experiences, regional jobs and communities, and Queensland's reputation as a place where people can connect with nature through outdoor recreation, education, nature-based health, and tourism experiences.

We support science-based zoning that protects important marine habitats, builds resilience to pressures such as coral bleaching, and safeguards places valued for outdoor recreation, education, tourism, wildlife and research. Well-designed National Park Zones allow sustainable, low-impact activities such as diving, snorkelling, wildlife viewing, boating, paddling, outdoor education and scientific activities to continue while protecting the ecological values people come to experience.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park demonstrates that strong protection can coexist with a diverse outdoor economy, including recreation, nature-based tourism and sustainable fishing. The Coral Sea Marine Park should build on this experience through well-designed and well-managed zoning. We suggest that particular attention should be given to strengthening protection for dive/snorkel tourism priorities, including the Osprey Group, Bougainville, Holmes, South Flinders, Boot and Ashmore Reefs.

Outdoors Queensland supports meaningful Traditional Owner participation in planning, management, monitoring and interpretation of Sea Country, together with sustained investment in science, education, management, surveillance and compliance.

We suggest that this next management plan (and all future management plans) should protect the Coral Sea's ecological integrity while enabling people to safely and responsibly connect with this extraordinary marine environment for generations to come. Outdoors Queensland strongly supports appropriate outdoor activities in appropriate places, and believes that the management planning process is a prime opportunity to determine appropriateness.

Outdoors Queensland looks forward to further involvement in this process. We would be pleased to provide additional detail regarding this submission.

We understand that this submission may be published as part of the consultation process. If you have any queries, please contact Executive Officer, Dom Courtney, on 0419 976 800 or eo@outdoorsqueensland.com.au.

Yours sincerely,



Dom Courtney
Executive Officer / Company Secretary