



# Moreton Bay Report Card 2007

4 December 2007

The Australian Marine Conservation Society, the Queensland Conservation Council and the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland have collaborated to produce the Moreton Bay Report Card 2007. The Report Card grades the Queensland Government's efforts to protect Moreton Bay Marine Park through its draft Moreton Bay Zoning Plan 2008 which is currently on public display for comment.

The Report Card rates 40 sites in total - 33 sites are proposed by the Queensland Government as 'Marine National Park' zones. An additional 7 sites were rates as they are of high conservation value yet have not been included in the draft zoning plan. Conservationists are asking the Queensland Government to include these additional sites in the final zoning plan for Moreton Bay.

## OVERALL GRADE: C+

Considerable amount of changes are needed to meet expectations

### KEY

- A – Fully meets expectations**
- B – Falls short of expectations - Some modification is needed**
- C – Substantial changes needed to be acceptable**
- D – Fails to meet expectations**

Proposed Marine National Park	GRADE	Comments
<b>WESTAWAYS CREEK (MNP01)</b> Habitat for Green turtles and nursery area for fish Ramsar site (internationally significant and important area for migratory shorebirds)	<b>A</b>	<b>Fully meets expectations</b>
<b>TRIPCONY BIGHT (MNP02)</b> Habitat for dugongs, green turtles and wader birds Important habitat for commercially fished species Nursery area for fish, invertebrates, sharks and rays	<b>A</b>	<b>Fully meets expectations</b>
<b>NORTHERN WEDGE (MNP03)</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>Fully meets expectations</b>
<b>FLINDERS REEF (MNP04)</b> Highest coral abundance in the Marine Park with over 120 species	<b>C</b>	<b>Substantial changes needed to be acceptable</b>  Significant amendment required. Needs extension north to Hutchison Shoal and south to Smith Rock - along the reef. (include the wreck of the Marietta Dal)
<b>CAPE MORETON (MNP05)</b> Rocky headland Whale/dolphin area Important for tourism	<b>D FAIL</b>	Problem – edge effect is too high and will offset any conservation benefits for green zones. Area needs to be at least doubled in size and extended to the north and east to reduce the edge effect.

<b>HEATH ISLAND</b> (MNP06) Shorebird habitat	<b>B</b>	<b><i>Falls short of expectations - Some modification is needed</i></b>  Needs to be extended
<b>BRAYDON BEACH</b> (MNP07)	<b>A</b>	<b><i>Fully meets expectations</i></b>
<b>DEEP OFFSHORE</b> (MNP08) Offshore reefs	<b>B</b>	<b><i>Falls short of expectations - Some modification is needed</i></b>  To receive an A rating it would need to be extended or replicated elsewhere as it does not meet bare minimum overall targets of 10%
<b>DECEPTION BAY</b> (MNP09) Nursery area for juvenile fish and invertebrates	<b>B</b>	<b><i>Falls short of expectations - Some modification is needed</i></b>  Needs to extend south to the mouth of Caboolture River as the northern shores are an important shorebird site.
<b>CHERUB'S CAVE/HENDERSON ROCK</b> (MNP10) Grey nurse shark habitat Habitat for hawksbill turtles and bottlenose dolphins	<b>B</b>	<b><i>Falls short of expectations - Some modification is needed</i></b>  Needs to encompass China Wall to the north to accommodate potential Grey Nurse Shark critical habitat. Could also be contiguous with Moreton Island National Park.
<b>HAYS INLET</b> (MNP11) Nursery area for fish and invertebrates Critical habitat for shorebirds Ramsar site	<b>A</b>	<b><i>Fully meets expectations</i></b>
<b>SCOTT'S POINT</b> (MNP12) Rocky shore Important habitat for shorebirds and Indo-Pacific Humpback dolphins	<b>A</b>	<b><i>Fully meets expectations</i></b>
<b>BRAMBLE BAY</b> (MNP13) Near Boondal Wetlands Important habitat for shorebirds and Indo-Pacific Humpback dolphins habitat	<b>A</b>	<b><i>Fully meets expectations</i></b>
<b>MIDDLE MORETON BAY</b> (MNP14) (Part of Eastern Banks) Protecting bioturbated sand, mud and seagrass (very deep 15-20m)	<b>B</b>	<b><i>Falls short of expectations - Some modification is needed</i></b>  Should extend east include the shallow water habitats around Crab Is (to link shallow and deep water communities)
<b>CRAB ISLAND</b> (MNP15) Mangroves only protected	<b>C</b>	<b><i>Substantial changes needed to be acceptable</i></b>  Area fails to include the seagrass meadows, shorebird feeding sites and nursery areas for sting rays. Needs to include Blue Hole to the north, Henderson's Gutter to the East (excluding current oyster leases, anchorage and township of Koorungal), Coonungai Bank to the west, Moreton Bank to the south. Crab Island is at the heart of the jewel of Moreton Bay and needs to be massively expanded to pick up the range of biological features in the area. Eg: extensive seagrass meadows, fish nursery areas, shorebird roosting and feedings sites (Ramsar values)
<b>MIRRAPOOL ISLANDS &amp; OFFSHORE AREA</b> (MNP16) Shorebirds Ramsar	<b>B</b>	<b><i>Falls short of expectations - Some modification is needed</i></b>  Mirrapool protection, but inclusion of the South Passage Bar has questionable conservation benefit. Area east of South Passage Bar has some conservation benefit.
<b>ST. HELENA ISLAND</b> (MNP17) Critical shorebird habitat. Indo-Pacific humpback dolphins, dugongs, 6 habitat types, turtle area on western side. Compliments the National Park	<b>A</b>	<b><i>Fully meets expectations</i></b>
<b>FLAT ROCK</b> (MNP18) Endangered grey nurse critical habitat, Hawksbill turtle habitat.	<b>B</b>	<b><i>Falls short of expectations - Some modification is needed</i></b>

		Needs an extra 500m extension in radius to meet minimum critical habitat requirements for GNS
<b>WANGA WALLEN BANKS</b> (MNP19) Shorebirds, nursery area for juvenile fish and invertebrates, inc prawns. Important habitat for green and loggerhead turtles.	<b>C</b>	<b><i>Substantial changes needed to be acceptable</i></b>  Area was originally proposed as Myora Wanga Wallen Banks and should connect to Myora Point to the south to take in the high value shallow seagrass meadows (excluding current oyster leases). The split of MNP 19 and 21 has weakened the integrity of both proposals.
<b>AMITY BANKS (MNP20)</b> Very important turtle and dugong area	<b>C</b>	<b><i>Substantial changes needed to be acceptable</i></b>  Insufficient protection and needs to be extended east to include all of Amity Banks (to the western side of the Rainbow Channel), south to the Douglas light, north to include the Warragamba Bank, Rous Channel and Moreton Banks. The eastern Banks complex is the 'jewel in the crown' with the highest diversity of turtles, dugongs, the healthiest seagrass meadows, and diversity of seabed fauna in the Marine Park.
<b>MYORA REEF (MNP21)</b>	<b>C</b>	<b><i>Substantial changes needed to be acceptable</i></b>  The shape of this MNP is impractical and vulnerable to edge effects, particularly around the anchorage. Boundary is too close to the corals and should be extended north to the Western Cardinal, taking in the anchorage. This proposed area needs to be connected with Wanga Wallen Banks and Amity MNP proposal to the north (as per original EPA proposal). This proposal would take in the high value shallow seagrass meadows (excluding current oyster leases). The split of MNP 19 and 21 has weakened the integrity of both proposals.
<b>PEEL ISLAND (MNP22)</b> Important coral habitat. Green turtle, dugong and bottle nose dolphin habitat. Important habitat for shorebirds.	<b>C</b>	<b><i>Substantial changes needed to be acceptable</i></b>  Peel Island is the jewel in the crown for inshore coral reefs. The zoning needs to be extended to the south-west and south between the Spit, around South-West Rocks, and north to the southern end of Horseshoe Bay. These areas are very high in coral cover and are offered no protection in the draft plan. The integrity of the MNP zone is compromised by the exclusion of the Lazarete Gutter on the north side of the island, allowing fishing intrusion into the heart of the MNP zone.
<b>COX BANK (MNP23)</b> Shorebird habitat, inshore algae sponge habitat, mangrove, river, estuarine	<b>A</b>	<b><i>Fully meets expectations</i></b>
<b>PRICE ANCHORAGE</b> (MNP24) dugong, green turtle, indo-Pacific humpback dolphin habitat, Ramsar site	<b>B</b>	<b><i>Falls short of expectations - Some modification is needed</i></b>  Needs to include Pelican Banks to the west, as per original EPA proposal. Pelican Banks is important turtle habitat.
<b>OFFSHORE NORTH STRADBROKE (MNP25)</b> offshore sandy	<b>C</b>	<b><i>Substantial changes needed to be acceptable</i></b>  This MNP is a large size but the exclusion of active shoreline zone and the intertidal wildlife and surf zone (which is part of the same sandy habitat) compromises the integrity of this proposal.
<b>LAMB ISLAND (MNP26)</b> habitat for dugongs and green turtles. Mangrove areas and sandy channels, Ramsar site	<b>A</b>	<b><i>Fully meets expectations</i></b>
<b>PANNIKIN ISLAND (MNP27)</b> mangrove island habitat. Important area for dugong	<b>A</b>	<b><i>Fully meets expectations</i></b>
<b>WILLES ISLAND (MNP28)</b> black mangrove, which is at the southern most limit of its distribution, nursery habitat for fish and invertebrates, green turtle habitat, Ramsar site	<b>A</b>	<b><i>Fully meets expectations</i></b>

<p><b>COBBY COBBY ISLAND</b> (MNP29) habitat for juvenile and adult fish and invertebrates, Ramsar site, compliments the national park</p>	<p><b>B</b></p>	<p><b><i>Falls short of expectations - Some modification is needed</i></b></p> <p>This proposal would be greatly enhanced by including the relatively inaccessible Mosquito and Short Islands to the south. These are significant mangrove and shorebird feeding and roosting habitats. As the draft plan offers very little protection for channels between islands (where turtles retreat to in low tides), the inclusion of the Cobby Passage in this MNP would be of immense ecological value.</p>
<p><b>SWAN BAY/ NEVER NEVER CREEK</b> (MNP30) mangrove and sandy channels, critical habitat for waders, nursery area for fish, invertebrates, and habitat for commercially important fish species, Ramsar site.</p>	<p><b>A</b></p>	<p><b><i>Fully meets expectations</i></b></p>
<p><b>McCOYS CREEK</b> (MNP31) riverine estuarine, nursery area,</p>	<p><b>A</b></p>	<p><b><i>Fully meets expectations</i></b></p>
<p><b>OFFSHORE SOUTH STRADBROKE</b> (MNP32) high energy coastal habitat, nesting grounds for loggerhead turtle</p>	<p><b>A</b></p>	<p><b><i>Fully meets expectations</i></b></p>
<p><b>COOMBABAH LAKE</b> (MNP33) important habitat for migratory shorebirds, imp habitat for juvenile fish and invertebrates, formed at least 5.5 - 6 000 yrs ago, so geologically important. Ramsar site.</p>	<p><b>A</b></p>	<p><b><i>Fully meets expectations</i></b></p>
<p><b>EASTERN BANKS (aka TURTLE BANKS)</b> Includes Amity Banks – east Moreton Banks Warrangamba Bank Boolong Bank Coonungah Bank Rous Channel</p>	<p><b>D</b></p>	<p><b><i>FAIL - Is not protected in draft plan</i></b></p> <p>This is the ‘jewel in the crown’ and the most critical habitat for turtles and dugongs in Moreton Bay Marine Park. It has very high Ramsar values for migratory and resident wader birds. The area is of incredibly high ecological value. The Government’s own Healthy Waterways program rates this area very highly.</p>
<p><b>MANTA RAY BOMMIES</b> North-east of Point Lookout, Stradbroke Is, adjacent to Dune Rock (north of Frenchman’s Bay)</p>	<p><b>D</b></p>	<p><b><i>FAIL - Is not protected in draft plan</i></b></p> <p>Aggregation area and cleaning station for manta rays (which are threatened in many parts of the world). Habitat for a variety of shark species including shovel-nose sharks and other rays. Habitat for large fish species such as groper, sweet lips and snapper. Manta Ray Bommies are also incredibly important to Brisbane’s commercial and recreational dive community. It is also an internationally recognised tourist destination during the manta ray festival and is an important education site for local school snorkelling groups.</p>
<p><b>FLINDERS REEF NORTH AND SOUTH</b> Important coral habitat</p>	<p><b>D</b></p>	<p><b><i>FAIL - Is not protected in draft plan</i></b></p> <p>The current Flinders Reef MNP proposal (MNP04) needs extension north to Hutchison Shoal and south to Smith Rock - along the reef (including the wreck of the Marietta Dal)</p>
<p><b>PEEL ISLAND CORALS</b> Important coral habitat. Green turtle, dugong and bottle nose dolpin habitat. Imp habitat for shorebirds.</p>	<p><b>D</b></p>	<p><b><i>FAIL - Is not protected in draft plan</i></b></p> <p>Peel Island is a jewel in the crown for inshore coral reefs. The zoning needs to be extended to the south-west and south between the Spit, around South-West Rocks, and north to the southern end of Horseshoe Bay. These areas are very high in coral cover and are offered no protection in the draft plan.</p>
<p><b>BIRD AND GOAT ISLANDS</b> Important shorebird roosting site, coral habitat</p>	<p><b>D</b></p>	<p><b><i>FAIL - Is not protected in draft plan</i></b></p> <p>Important coral communities that need protection in the face of climate change</p>
<p><b>WATERLOO BAY</b> South of Manly, north of Wellington Point.</p>	<p><b>D</b></p>	<p><b><i>FAIL - Is not protected in draft plan</i></b></p> <p>Waterloo Bay is the only embayment on the western side of Moreton Bay that supports corals, macro-algae and extensive, healthy seagrass beds. Dugongs also frequent this area from time to time. It is one of the healthiest embayments on the western</p>

		side of the Park
<p><b>ORMISTON</b>  North of Raby Bay, including Empire Point, Hilliards Creek, and the Geoff Skinner Wetlands  Contains mangrove/intertidal habitat, relic fringing reef, seagrass, riverine/estuarine  Shorebird feeding site and critical shorebird habitat.</p>	<b>D</b>	<p><b><i>FAIL - Is not protected in draft plan</i></b></p> <p>The relic reef at Ormiston foreshore is of significant geological interest and ecological importance, representing a significant fringing reef that existed 3000-6000 yrs ago and today is a site of a developing coral community. The area is also known as an intensive dugong feeding area, particularly from Empire Point to the mouth of Hilliards Creek.</p>