

MEDIA RELEASE

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Conservationists commend Caloundra City Council over Moreton Bay Protection Support

The Australian Marine Conservation Society today commended the Caloundra City Council for supporting increased protection of Moreton Bay Marine Park as part of the Queensland Government's current review of the Park's zoning plan.

The Council today announced that it supports the QLD Government's proposal to protect Westerway's Creek in the upper reaches of Pumistone Passage as a Marine National Park.

Craig Bohm, Campaigns Director with Australian Marine Conservation Society said "It is commendable that Caloundra City Council has indicated support for more Marine National Parks (green zones) to be established. The council obviously sees that Marine National Parks benefits our local communities".

The Council has also committed to supporting better protection of Moreton Bay's shorebird roosting and feeding sites, which are being degraded at an alarming rate due to human impacts such as cars on beaches, boat traffic, pollution and coastal development.

Bohm continued "Shorebirds helped give Moreton Bay its international status as a RAMSAR listed wetland of special importance to the world's migratory shorebirds. We welcome council's commitment to helping protect shorebird roosting and feeding sites wherever they are found."

Most interesting, is the Council's call to the QLD Government, asking them to extend the northern boundary of Moreton Bay Marine Park even further north to include Moffats Head.

Bohm concluded, "The Caloundra Council recognizes that marine protection is good for business in Caloundra. Wherever marine parks are found, tourism flourishes and local economies benefit. Caloundra's stance represents the new wave of thinking in south east Queensland— caring for our seas and marine life is good for business."

ENDS

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