

Yaringa Marine National Park

This marine national park is one of three in Western Port. It protects intertidal mudflats as well as significant extensive mangroves and saltmarsh areas in one of the least disturbed and least accessible parts of the bay.

The park contains areas of national zoological significance for water birds and waders and is part of the internationally-listed Western Port Ramsar wetlands.

Victoria's new marine national parks

The Victorian Government is meeting its commitment to establish a comprehensive, adequate and representative marine national parks and reserves system by creating 12 new marine national parks and 10 smaller new marine sanctuaries on 16 November 2001.

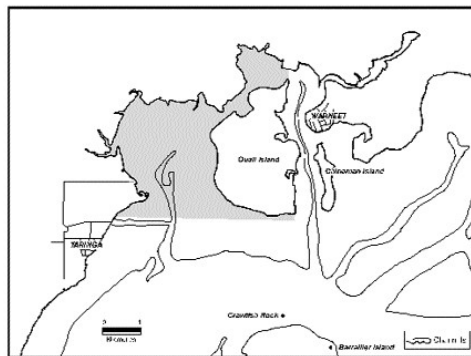
These parks will preserve Victoria's distinctive marine ecosystems for current and future generations to enjoy. The creation of marine national parks and sanctuaries ensures a high level of protection for these areas. It will help Victoria have a marine national parks system to match our magnificent parks on land.

Victoria's marine national parks system will be unrivalled in Australia for its comprehensiveness and diversity, and will be the most progressive system in the world for highly protected marine areas.

Location

Yaringa Marine National Park is one of five marine national parks in Victoria's Embayments biophysical region.

It is approximately 980 hectares in size and is located in Western Port, about 9 km south-west of Tooradin, and adjacent to Quail Island Nature Conservation Reserve. The park extends along the coastline north of Yaringa private marina to the eastern coastline of Quail Island.



Marine National Park

Features

The park includes mangroves, sheltered intertidal mudflats and saltmarsh. The relatively undisturbed mangrove and saltmarsh habitats of Watson Inlet and Quail Island are of State geomorphological significance. Mangroves are a vital part of the bay ecosystem and provide an important habitat for a number of invertebrates, marine snails and bivalves and adult and juvenile fish.

The intertidal mudflats are of national zoological significance as roosting and foraging areas for waders and water birds. The area is part of the internationally-listed Western Port Ramsar wetlands.



The adjacent coast supports sand heathland, coastal saltmarsh and low woodland dominated by manna gums. Quail and Chinaman Islands are of State botanical and zoological significance and are managed as a nature conservation reserve.

What can I do in the Yaringa Marine National Park?

Activity	Is it allowed?
Recreational activities	
• nature observation and sightseeing	✓
• snorkelling and scuba diving	✓
• swimming, surfing	✓
• windsurfing, sailing, non-motorised boating	✓
• boating using motorised craft	✓ ¹
Recreational fishing and harvesting	
• line fishing and spearfishing	✗
• shellfish collection, including abalone and rock lobster collection	✗
• bait collection	✗
• catch and release fishing	✗
Commercial fishing and marine aquaculture	
• abalone fishing	✗
• rock lobster fishing	✗
• netting, line fishing and trapping	✗
• marine aquaculture	✗
Education and research	
• educational excursions	✓
• scientific research	✓ ²
Other Uses³	
• removal or disturbance of plants and animals	✗
• dredging and spoil disposal	✗
• activities that disturb the seafloor	✗

1 Restrictions may apply to high speed boating or the use of personal watercraft where there is a conflict with natural values or other users.

2 Subject to permit.

3 This is not an exhaustive list – see full Government response available at www.nre.vic.gov.au for further details.

What happens now?

Legislation is required to establish marine national parks and sanctuaries and was recently introduced into the Victorian Parliament. Following passage of the legislation the marine national parks and sanctuaries will be established on 16 November 2001, preceded by widespread distribution of information to ensure that visitors to the areas are aware of changes in rules.

Further information

For more information about the Yaringa Marine National Park or any of the other new marine national parks and sanctuaries, please contact the Department of Natural Resources and Environment's Customer Service Centre on 136186 or visit the website at www.nre.vic.gov.au

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