



**Australian Government**  
**Parks Australia**

Senator Karen Grogan  
Chair  
Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Grogan,

On 13 February 2023 Jason Mundy appeared as a witness before the Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee Estimates hearing as part of the Director of National Parks contingent.

**During the hearing Senator Duniam said in relation to marine parks:**

*“Preparing to conduct the review’---what does that entail?” There’s a consultation. I understand there’s a little bit of nervousness on the part of some stakeholders particularly in the fisheries sector. Is that nervousness misplaced because we’re not even at the starting line yet for the consultation process?”*

In response Jason Mundy described the process of statutory consultation required to make new management plans for Commonwealth reserves and said:

*“Following that first round, the director, under the EPBC Act, considers the comments and makes recommendations to the minister on the proposed changes, if any, to the management plan. Those are considered by the minister, and a draft management plan is released. That’s the second stage of statutory consultation. At that point people get to see what, if any, changes are proposed to the management plan and make their comments on those. That period runs, I think, for a minimum of 60 days, and it feeds into another recommendation to the minister, who finally will approve any changes to the management plan and issue a new one.”*

I wish to correct this answer. The minimum period for the second round of public consultations on a management plan for a Commonwealth reserve is 30 days.

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