



Department of **Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions**
Office of the Director General

Your ref:
Our ref: CEO693/18; 2017/005212
Enquiries: Kathleen Lowry
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Mr Ross McKim
Chief Executive Officer
City of Greater Geraldton
PO Box 101
GERALDTON WA 6531

Dear Mr McKim

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED CREATION OF HOUTMAN ABROLHOS ISLANDS NATIONAL PARK

On 6 October 2017, the Premier, Hon Mark McGowan MLA announced that the McGowan Government would pursue the establishment of the Houtman Abrolhos Islands National Park. The national park is proposed to be created by July 2019 to commemorate the first sighting of the Abrolhos Islands by Captain Frederick de Houtman on 29 July 1619.

The Departments of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) and Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA), have been tasked to create a Class A national park from islands included in the existing Houtman Abrolhos Nature Reserve, Class A, Reserve no. 20253. The islands to be included in the proposed national park are listed at Attachment 1 and depicted on the maps at Attachment 2.

The creation of the national park is intended to protect environmental and heritage values of the islands, whilst providing for tourism to the islands and creating economic development opportunities for the Midwest. The fishing industries, aquaculture and other marine focused primary industries will continue on the islands that remain part of the Houtman Abrolhos Nature Reserve. The nature reserve will remain under the care, control and management of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD).

The City of Greater Geraldton (COGG) is an important stakeholder for the creation of the National Park. Consultation commenced with key stakeholders at the Tourism Summit hosted by the COGG in March 2018. Additional consultation occurred on 23 October at the COGG offices to key stakeholders by DBCA, DPIRD and the WA Museum. I would like to thank your staff for their support in providing valuable information on the proposed national park planning process.

An interagency committee has been established between DBCA and DPIRD to ensure agreement on the national park boundary and operational management of the islands post creation of the national park. Discussions have commenced with DPLH in relation to the registration of the Houtman Abrolhos Islands as part of the State Heritage Register. It was agreed this process will commence with DPIRD, DBCA and the Commercial Fishing Industry as part of a future lease



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planning process for the islands. National Heritage sites on the islands will become part of the national park and managed by DBCA in partnership with the Western Australian Museum.

Recreation planning has commenced with relevant stakeholders for the planning for recreation activities and facilities (a recreation master plan) and a management plan that will provide guidance on future management of the national park when it is created.

I ask that you assist this process by providing:

- relevant comments on the proposed national park, tourism, conservation, economic, heritage and other activities you would like this area to provide;
- your support for the creation of the proposed Class A national park as described at Attachment 1; and
- your consent to a public access easement on Rat Island in the Easter Group over a portion of Reserve 20253 between the public jetty and the proposed national park to ensure legal public access between the water and the airstrip (Map F).

National parks are areas of land set aside for the protection of conservation values, the facilitation and management of recreational activities (including tourism) and the interpretation of cultural and historic values. These areas are managed to balance the need for conservation whilst allowing some economic activities that are compatible with the conservation values of the land. Management of the national park will be conducted by DBCA in accordance with the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (CALM Act) in consultation with DPLH, DPRID, the fishing industry and other stakeholders. Where appropriate, leases and licences could be granted in accordance with the CALM Act to allow tourism ventures and other appropriate economic activities.

To assist DPLH and DBCA with completing this proposal within a condensed timeframe, can you please provide any comment on the proposed national park and the activities this park may offer. Given the condensed timeframe for national park creation, it would be appreciated if comments can be provided by 30 November 2018 as these will be provided to DPLH for review and consideration in actioning the above.

I look forward to receiving your comment on and support for the national park. Should you require further information about this proposal, please contact Ms Kathleen Lowry on (08) 9219 9109 or kathleen.lowry@dbca.wa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



✓ Mark Webb
DIRECTOR GENERAL

8 November 2018

Att

Attachment 1. Proposed Houtman Abrolhos Islands National Park Area and Boundary

As agreed by DBCA and DPIRD 25 October 2018

Island Group and Map	Island	Comments	Actual watermark boundary of the national park	Current title and plan
NORTH ISLAND Map A	North	1. Land leased to the Wallabi Group Body Corporate is to be excluded from the national park;	High water mark	LR 3112/263, Lot 12279 on Plan 193982
		2. Lease area H612370 around the lighthouse will be included in the national park and the existing MOU between DPIRD and AMSA to be transferred to DBCA possibly as a lease under the CALM Act		LR 3079/256, Lot 11785 on Plan 188937
WALLABI Map B Map C- Jetty Map D- Jetty	East Wallabi	Uninhabited. Include in the national park DBCA proposes to include in the national park an area of water extending 150 m seaward and 150 m wide that includes the existing jetty and allows for future upgrades. (Map C)	High water mark	LR 3157/32, Lot 12623 on Plan 28084
	West Wallabi	Land leased to the Wallabi Group Body Corporate is to be excluded from the national park. Remainder included in the national park	High water mark	LR 3157/32, Lot 12623 on Plan 28084
	Long	Uninhabited. Include in the national park	High water mark	LR 3157/32, Lot 12623 on Plan 28084
	Little Pigeon	Whole island not included in the national park	N/A	N/A
	Alcatraz	Whole island not included in the national park	N/A	N/A
	Pigeon	Whole island not included in national park	N/A	N/A
	Beacon	Uninhabited. Include in the national park DBCA proposes to include in the national park an area of water extending around 100 m seaward and 100 m wide that includes the existing jetty and allows for future upgrades. A MOU will be established with the WA Museum under the <i>Maritime Archaeology Act 1973</i> for appropriate protection of heritage values of the island	High water mark	LR 3157/32, Lot 12623 on Plan 28084

EASTER Map E Map F- Rat Island	Leo	Land leased to the Easter Group Body Corporate is to be excluded from the national park. Include remainder in the national park	High water mark	LR 3157/32, Lot 12623 on Plan 28084
	Rat	A. Land leased to the Easter Group Body Corporate is to be excluded from the national park B. The land of the Reserve east of a line between 28 42.903S 113 47.219E and 28 42.925S 113 47.218E that is not within the Body Corporate lease is to be excluded from the national park (contains DPIRD research station). A public access easement is proposed between the public jetty and the proposed national park to ensure legal access between the water and the public airstrip. C. DPIRD aquaculture sites are to be excluded from the national park Remainder included in the national park	High water mark	LR 3157/32, Lot 12623 on Plan 28084
	Little Rat	Whole island not included in national park	N/A	N/A
	Roma	Whole island not included in national park	N/A	N/A
	Bushby	Whole island not included in national park	N/A	N/A
PELSAERT Maps G-I	Post Office	Whole island not included in national park	N/A	N/A
	Coronation Island	Whole island not included in national park	N/A	N/A
	Newman	Land leased to the Southern Group Body Corporate is to be excluded from the national park. Include remainder in the national park	High water mark	LR 3157/32, Lot 12623 on Plan 28084
	Burnett	Whole island not included in national park	N/A	N/A

	Basile	Whole island not included in national park	N/A	N/A
	Foale	Whole island not included in national park	N/A	N/A
	Jackson	Whole island not included in national park	N/A	N/A
	Nook	Whole island not included in national park	N/A	N/A
	Robertson	Whole island not included in national park	N/A	N/A
	Newbold	Whole island not included in national park	N/A	N/A
	Rotondella	Whole island not included in national park	N/A	N/A
	Uncle Margie (Mangrove)	Whole island not included in national park	N/A	N/A
	Pelsaert	All areas included in the national park, including lease area H612369 around the lighthouse and MOU transferred from DPIRD to DBCA with AMSA possibly as a lease under the CALM Act	High water mark	LR 3112/264, Lot 12280 on Plan 193981 LR 3086/988, Lot on Plan 93490
ALL GROUPS	All non-body corporate lands on all other islands	To be included in the national park	High water mark	N/A
	Terrestrial navigational Aids (excluding lighthouses)	All existing terrestrial navigational aids excluding lighthouses to remain under the management of the Department of Transport	N/A	N/A
	All other uninhabited islands and Small Emergent Rocks	There are a large number of very small to small islands and emergent rocks in the Abrolhos Groups of Islands to be included in the national park	High water mark	N/A

Abbreviations:

DPIRD-Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (Former Fisheries)

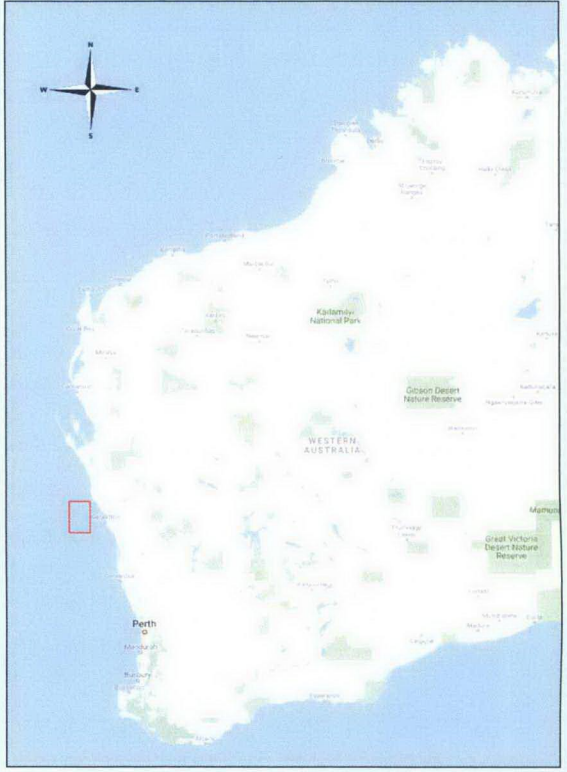
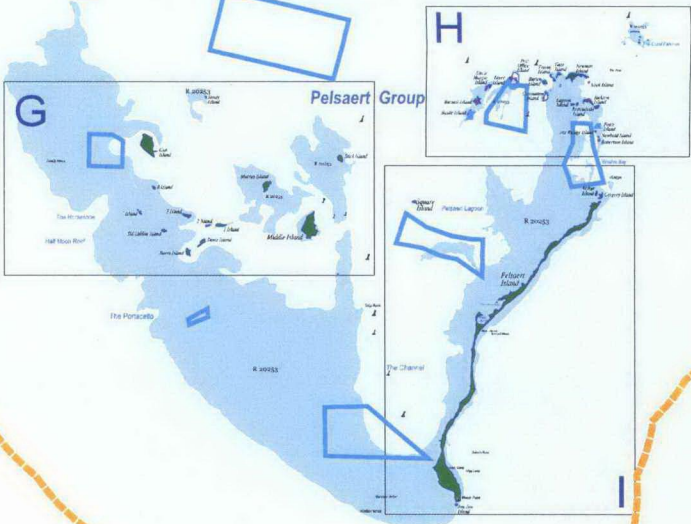
DBCA-Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (Former Parks and Wildlife)

MOU-Memorandum of Understanding

AMSA-Australian Maritime Safety Authority

CALM Act – *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*

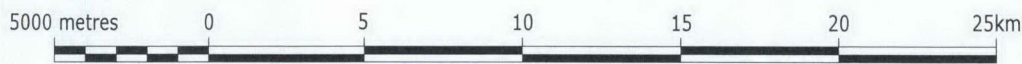
Attachment 2



Proposed Houtman Abrolhos Islands National Park

Legend

- Proposed National Park - DBCA
- Houtman Abrolhos Nature Reserve R20253 (DPIRD)
- Body Corporate excluded from National Park
- Existing Leases
- Aquaculture Sites DPIRD
- Proposed Jetty Area and National Park
- National Heritage Area - Batavia Shipwreck Site and Survivor Camps
- Mid-West Aquaculture Development Zone
- Fish Habitat Protection Areas DPIRD



Projection: Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) adopting the Map Grid of Australia (MGA); Horizontal datum: Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994 (GDA94)
 Projection: UTM Zone 49 (108 to 114 degrees East longitude)

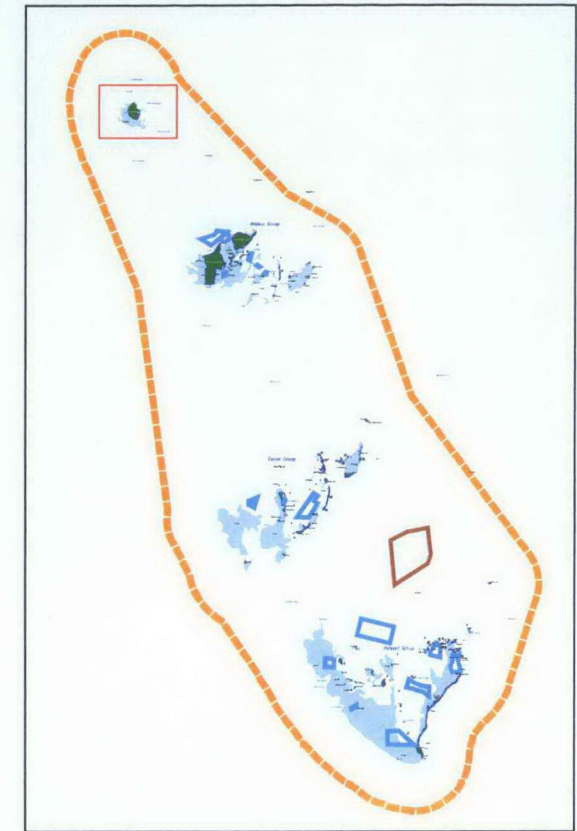
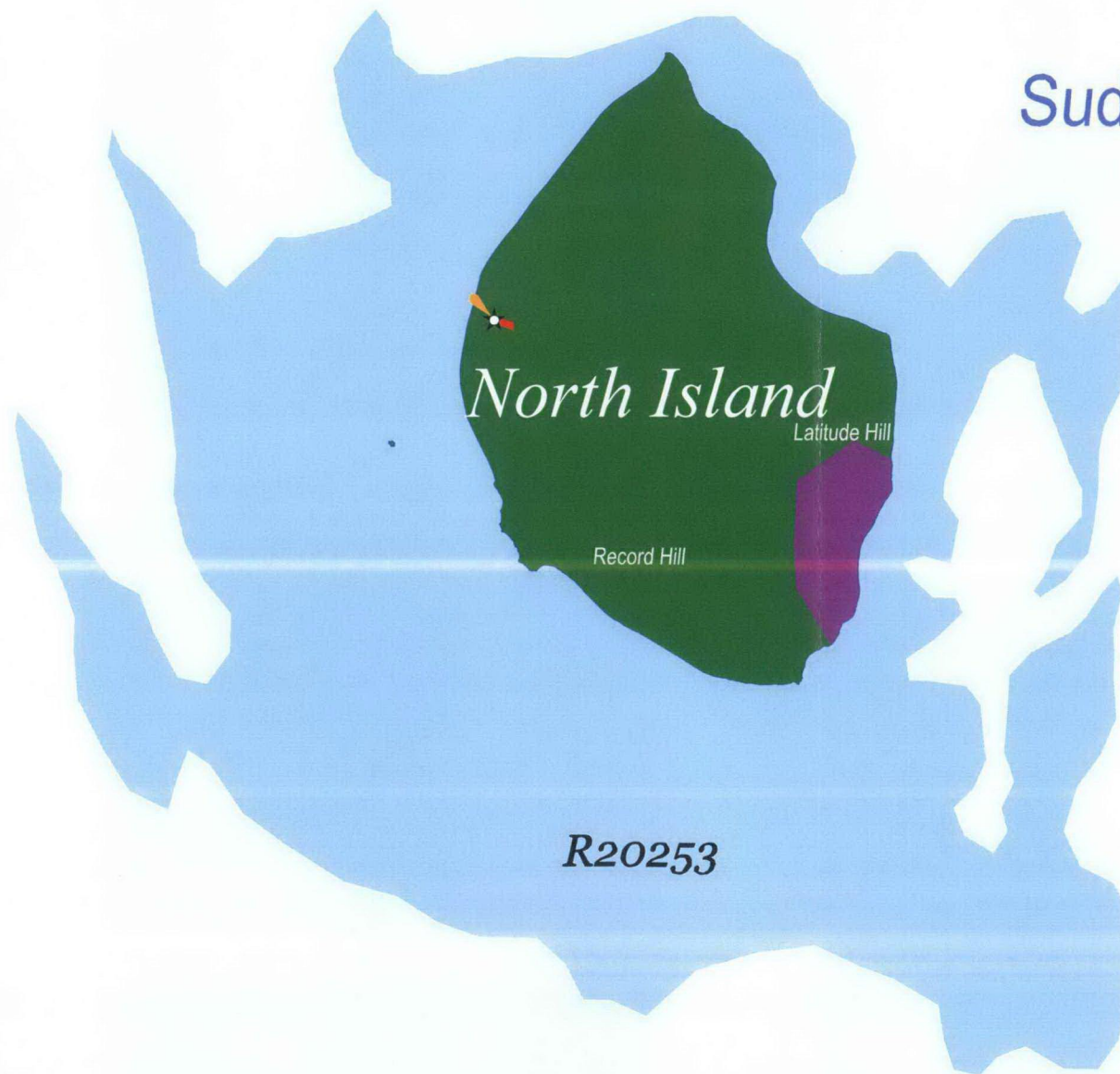


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Map A: North Island

The Flat

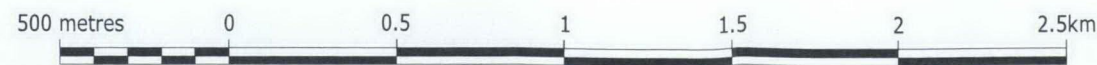
Suda Bay Passage



Barker Passage

Proposed Houtman Abrolhos Islands National Park
Legend

- Proposed National Park - DBCA
- Houtman Abrolhos Nature Reserve R20253 (DPIRD)
- Body Corporate excluded from National Park
- Existing Leases
- Aquaculture Sites DPIRD
- Proposed Jetty Area and National Park
- Mid-West Aquaculture Development Zone
- Fish Habitat Protection Areas DPIRD



Projection: Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) adopting the Map Grid of Australia (MGA); Horizontal datum: Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994 (GDA94)
 Projection: UTM Zone 49 (108 to 114 degrees East longitude)

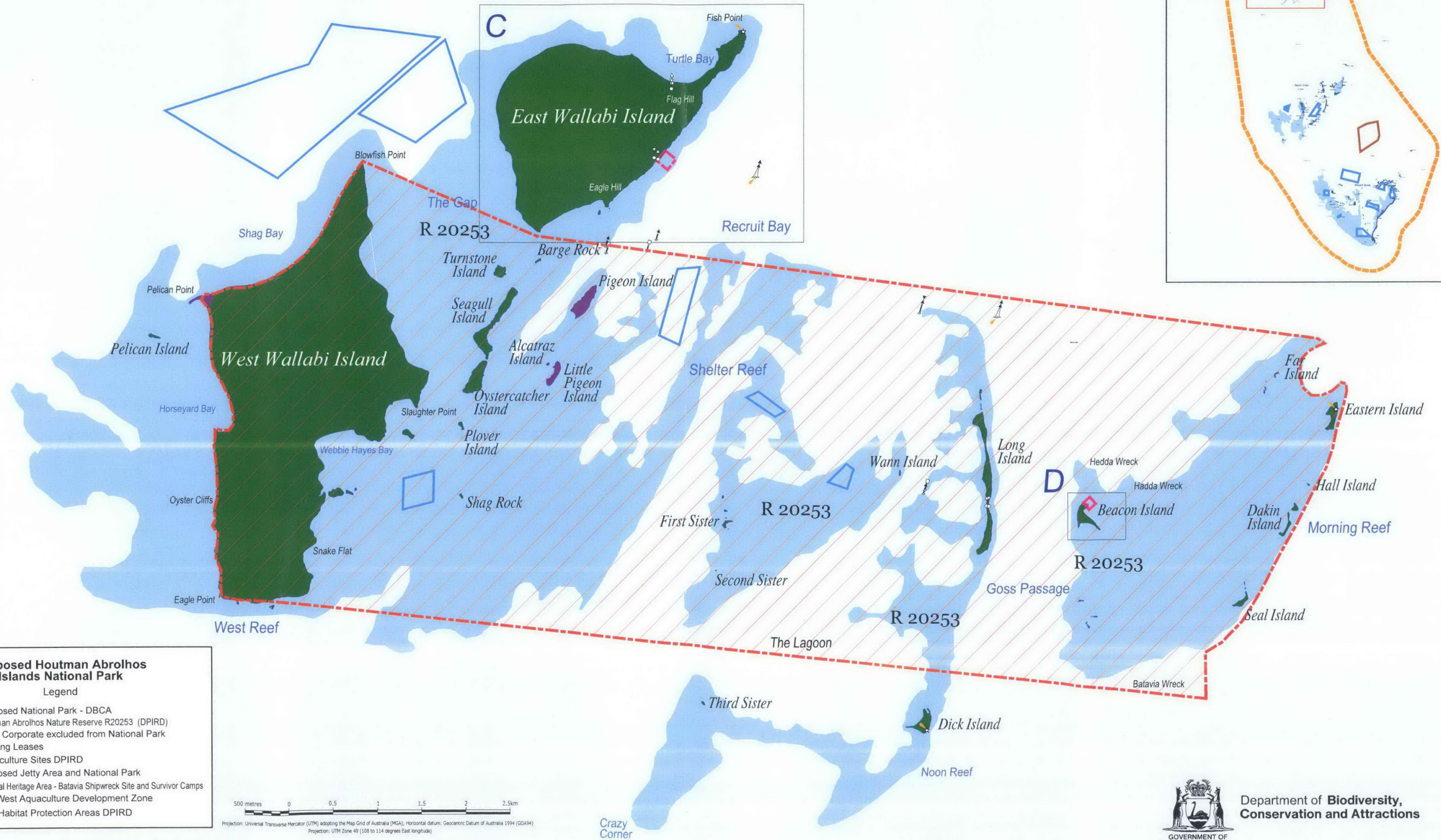
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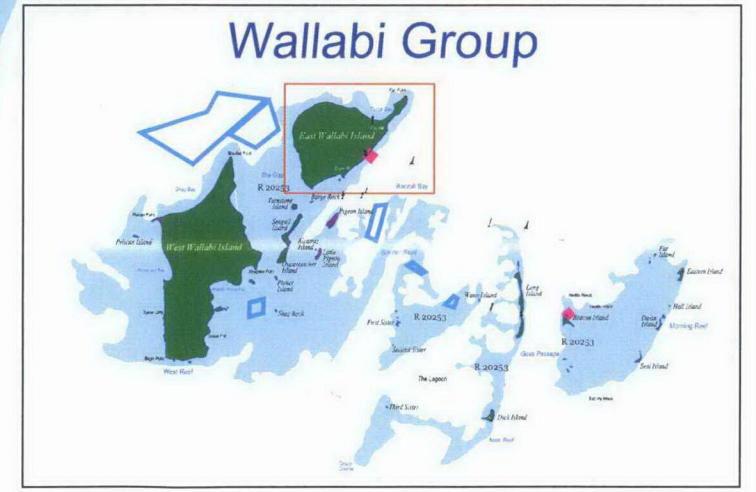
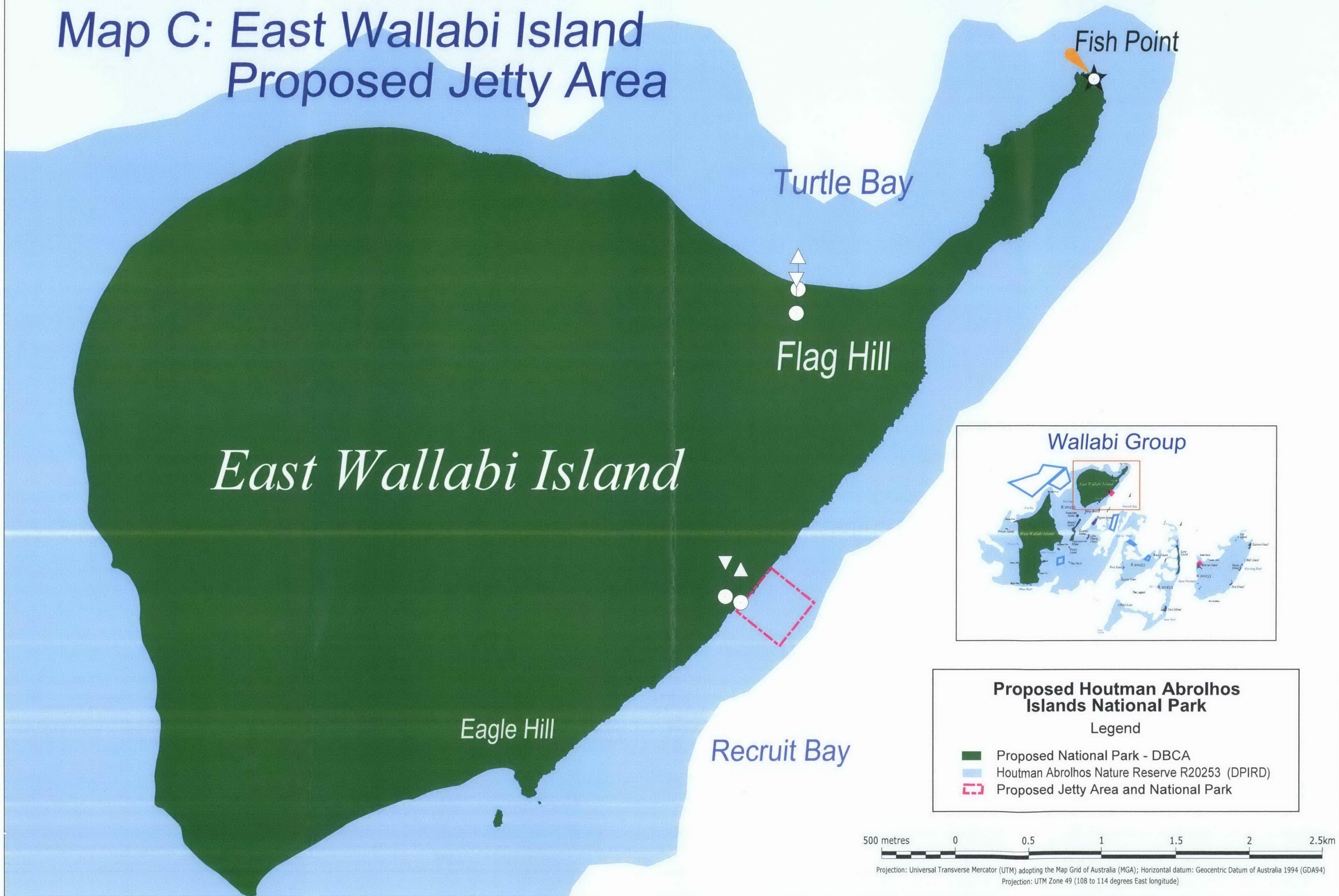
GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Map B: Wallabi Group



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Map C: East Wallabi Island Proposed Jetty Area



Proposed Houtman Abrolhos Islands National Park
Legend

- Proposed National Park - DBCA
- Houtman Abrolhos Nature Reserve R20253 (DPIRD)
- Proposed Jetty Area and National Park

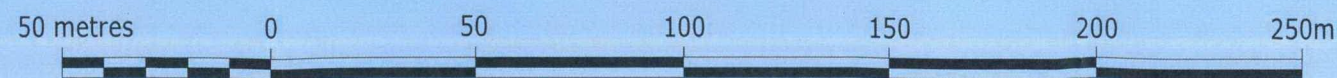
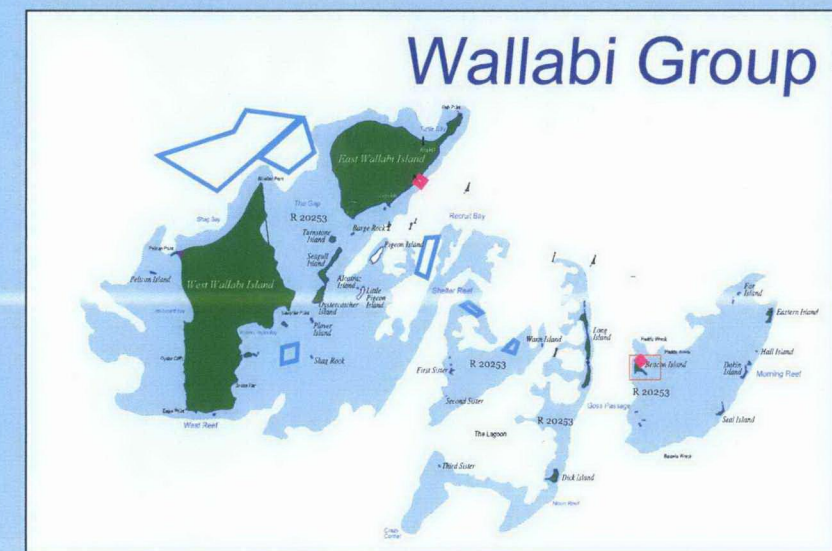
500 metres 0 0.5 1 1.5 2 2.5km
 Projection: Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) adopting the Map Grid of Australia (MGA); Horizontal datum: Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994 (GDA94)
 Projection: UTM Zone 49 (108 to 114 degrees East longitude)

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Map D: Beacon Island Proposed Jetty Area



Beacon Island



Projection: Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) adopting the Map Grid of Australia (MGA); Horizontal datum: Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994 (GDA94)
 Projection: UTM Zone 49 (108 to 114 degrees East longitude)

Proposed Houtman Abrolhos Islands National Park
Legend

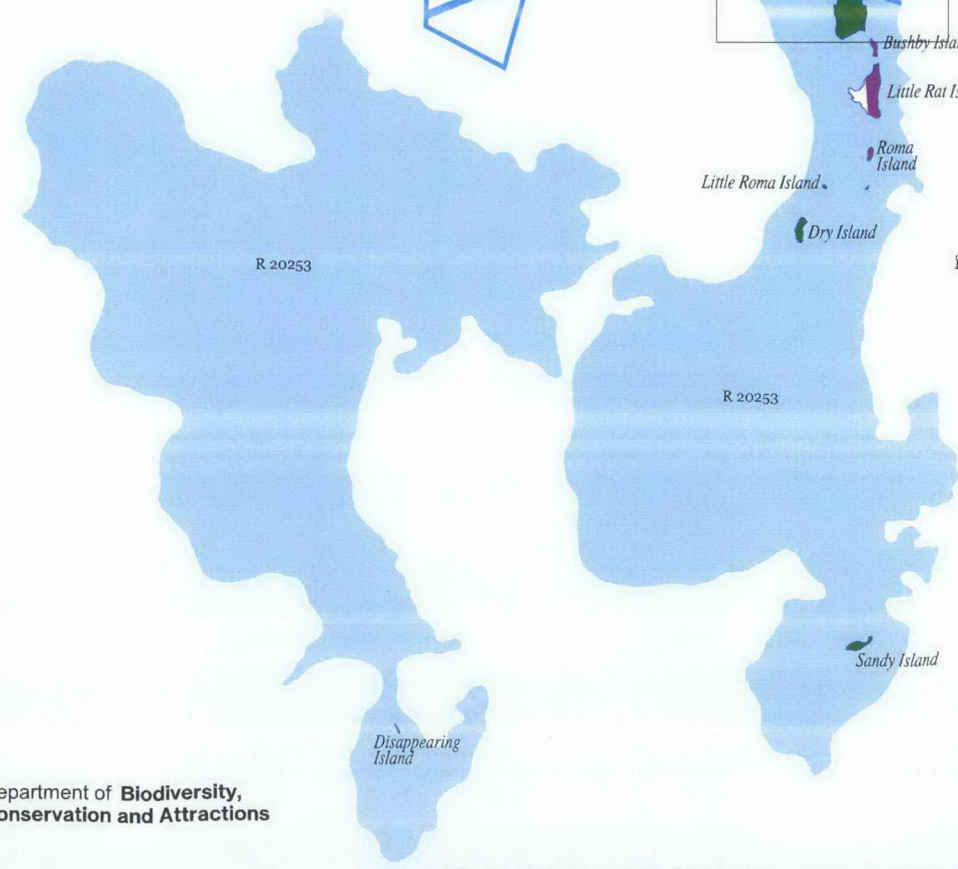
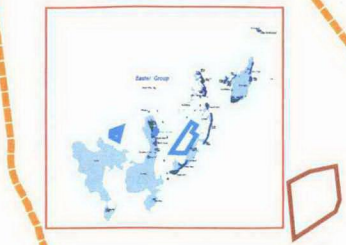
- Proposed National Park - DBCA
- Houtman Abrolhos Nature Reserve R20253 (DPIRD)
- Proposed Jetty Area and National Park

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Map E: Easter Group

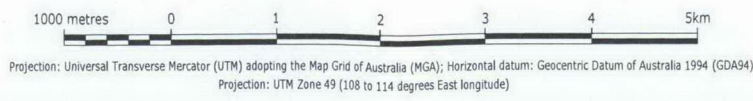


R 20253
Little North Island



Proposed Houtman Abrolhos Islands National Park
Legend

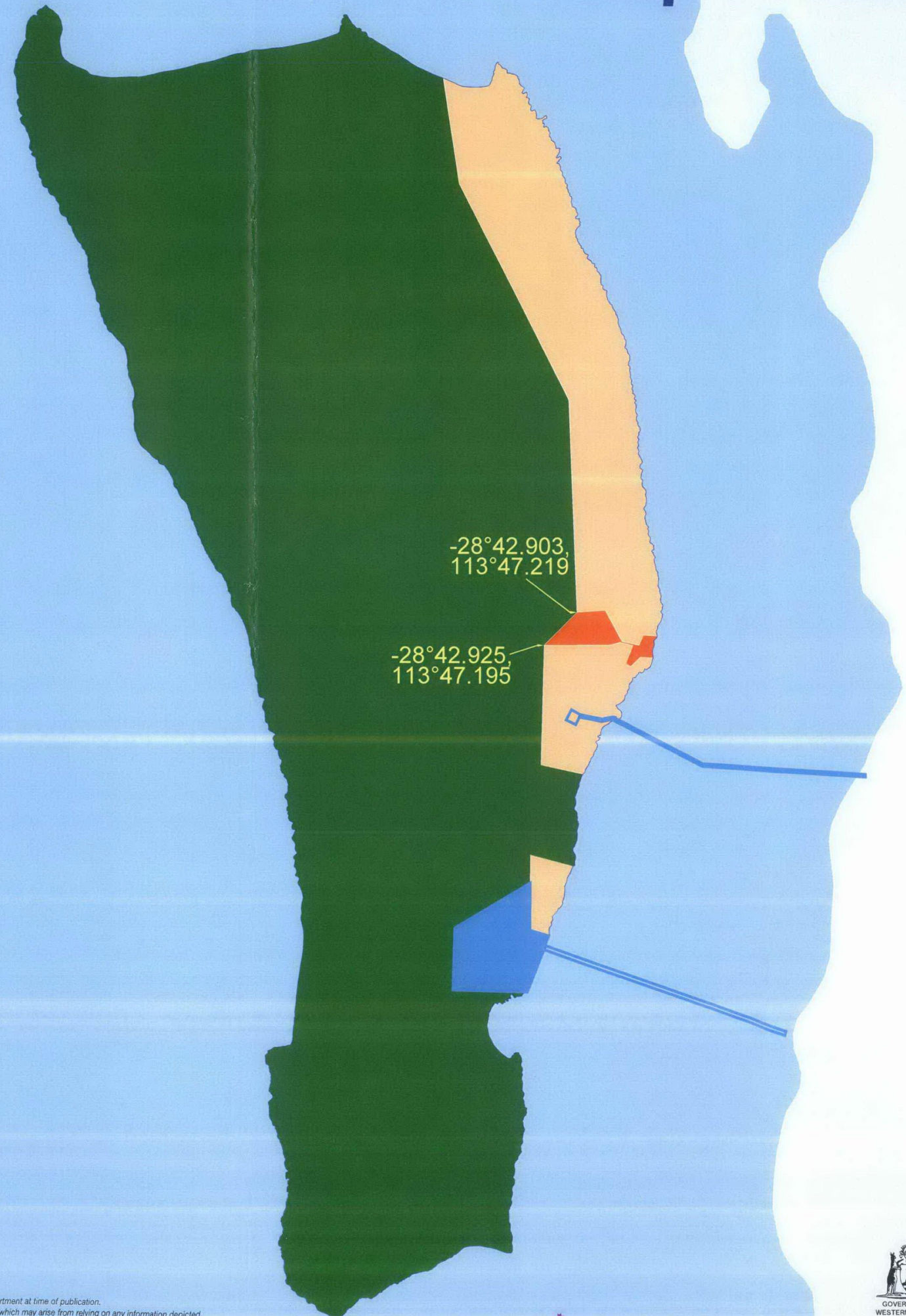
- Proposed National Park - DBCA
- Houtman Abrolhos Nature Reserve R20253 (DPIRD)
- Body Corporate and other land excluded from National Park
- Existing Leases
- Aquaculture Sites DPIRD
- Mid-West Aquaculture Development Zone
- Fish Habitat Protection Areas DPIRD



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Map F: Rat Island



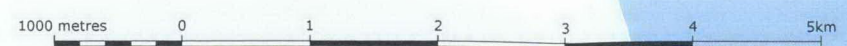
-28°42.903,
113°47.219

-28°42.925,
113°47.195

Proposed Houtman Abrolhos Islands National Park

Legend

- Proposed National Park - DBCA
- Easter Group Body Corporate lands (A)
- Excluded from National Park, Proposed Public Access Easement (B)
- Aquaculture Sites - DPIRD (C)



Projection: Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) adopting the Map Grid of Australia (MGA); Horizontal datum: Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994 (GDA94)
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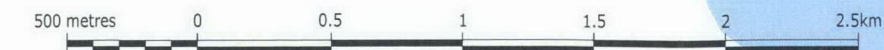
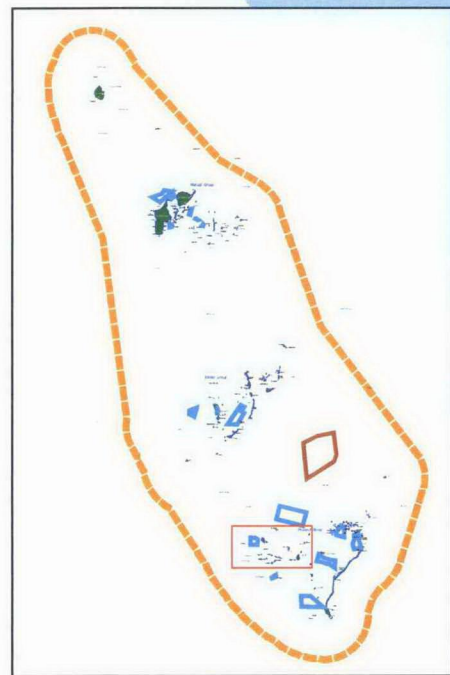


Map G: Pelsaert Group West

Proposed Houtman Abrolhos Islands National Park

Legend

- Proposed National Park - DBCA
- Houtman Abrolhos Nature Reserve R20253 (DPIRD)
- Body Corporate excluded from National Park
- Existing Leases
- Aquaculture Sites DPIRD
- Mid-West Aquaculture Development Zone
- Fish Habitat Protection Areas DPIRD



Projection: Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) adopting the Map Grid of Australia (MGA); Horizontal datum: Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994 (GDA94)
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Map H: Pelsaert Group East

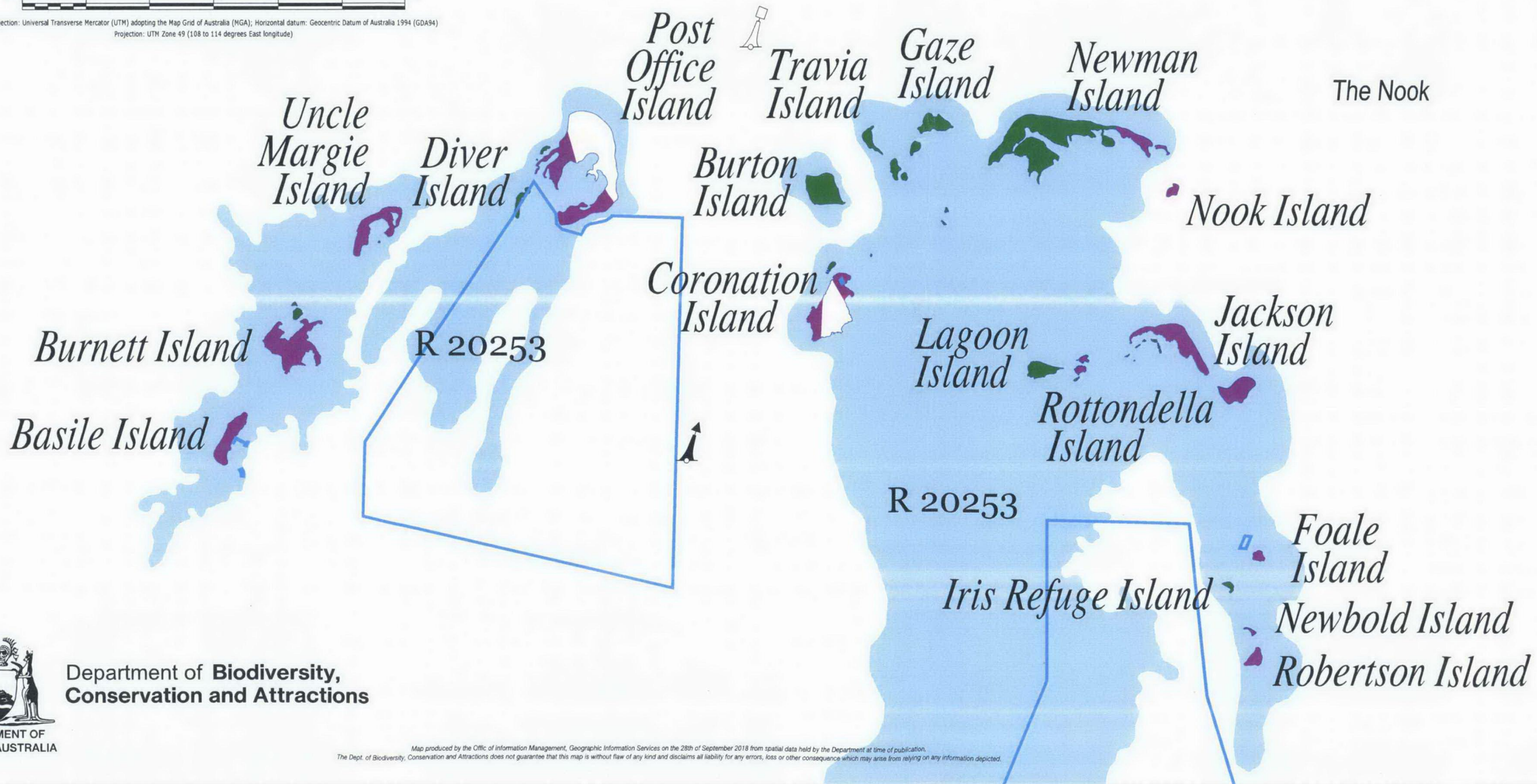
Proposed Houtman Abrolhos Islands National Park

Legend

- Proposed National Park - DBCA
- Houtman Abrolhos Nature Reserve R20253 (DPIRD)
- Body Corporate excluded from National Park
- Existing Leases
- Aquaculture Sites DPIRD
- Mid-West Aquaculture Development Zone
- Fish Habitat Protection Areas DPIRD

250 metres 0 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 1.25km

Projection: Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) adopting the Map Grid of Australia (MGA); Horizontal datum: Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994 (GDA94)
Projection: UTM Zone 49 (108 to 114 degrees East longitude)



Map I: Pelsaert Island



Proposed Houtman Abrolhos Islands National Park
Legend

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- Existing Leases
- Aquaculture Sites DPIRD
- Mid-West Aquaculture Development Zone
- Fish Habitat Protection Areas DPIRD