

## Bruny Bioregion MPAs

The Tasmanian Government today announced the creation of 14 Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) within the Bruny bioregion.

The Primary Industries and Water Minister, David Llewellyn said the Government intends to establish a comprehensive network of Marine Protected Areas.

Mr Llewellyn said this will insure the management of the region's biodiversity and also allow sustainable commercial and recreational fishing to continue.

"Recreational and commercial fishing therefore will not be adversely affected by the new MPAs," Mr Llewellyn said.

"I accept the Resource Planning and Development Commission recommendations that the 'no take' boundaries of the existing marine Nature Reserves at Tinderbox and Zone A Ninepin Point be extended.

"All other areas recommended by the RPDC will be proclaimed under the Nature Conservation Act as conservation areas and will be subject to management prescriptions that most closely correspond to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) status Category VI.

"This means that the conservation areas will be managed to ensure long term protection and maintenance of biological diversity, while providing at the same time a sustainable flow of natural products and services to the community."

Management of all fish, crustaceans and shellfish will be through the application of the Living Marine Resources Management Act 1995 which is very effective legislation containing all the tools needed to maintain fisheries on a sustainable basis.

"Our current sustainable commercial and recreational fisheries will continue to operate in the new MPAs in the future without damaging their biodiversity, just as they do now."

Mr Llewellyn said that, in addition, minor adjustments will be made to the boundaries of the Fortesque Bay, Tinderbox, Roberts Point and Waterfall Bay MPAs as recommended by the RPDC.

"These simply establish straight-line boundaries to help ease of management," Mr Llewellyn said.

"The 14 new MPAs capture the region's unique biodiversity and are based upon sound, evidence-based science.

"The Government recognises that the development of a generic management plan and baseline assessments of biodiversity should be undertaken on all MPAs in Tasmania, including the 14 new MPAs to facilitate the ongoing assessment of the performance of them in meeting the objectives for which they were declared.

"The specific habitat of fish species, the undersea flora and the collective marine ecosystems are extremely important in maintaining biodiversity and need to be protected by both sustainable fishing rules and with appropriately classified marine protected areas."