

## Notice of Investigation Marine Investigation

The Minister for Environment and Climate Change has requested the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council (VEAC) to carry out an investigation into the outcomes of the establishment of Victoria's existing marine protected areas<sup>1</sup>.

The purpose of the marine investigation is to examine and provide assessment of:

- (a) the performance and management of existing marine protected areas in meeting the purposes for which they were established, particularly the protection of the natural environment, indigenous flora and fauna and other natural and historic values; and
- (b) any ongoing threats or challenges to the effective management of existing marine protected areas, particularly in relation to the biodiversity and ecological outcomes.

Three public submission periods are to be held and a discussion paper and a draft proposals paper are to be prepared. The Council must report on the completed investigation by February 2014.

The Minister's request including the full terms of reference is available from [www.veac.vic.gov.au](http://www.veac.vic.gov.au) or by phoning VEAC on 1800 134 803 (toll free).

### **SUBMISSIONS AND REGISTRATIONS OF INTEREST INVITED**

Written submissions are invited from interested groups and individuals for consideration in the development of the discussion paper. You may make an online submission via VEAC's website at [www.veac.vic.gov.au](http://www.veac.vic.gov.au) or send your written submission to VEAC by post or by email to:

Victorian Environmental Assessment Council  
Level 6, 8 Nicholson St, East Melbourne, Victoria 3002.  
email: [marine.investigation@veac.vic.gov.au](mailto:marine.investigation@veac.vic.gov.au)

### **This submission period closes Monday 25 June 2012.**

Submissions will be posted on the VEAC website after the close of the submission period. All submissions will be acknowledged.

People not wishing to make a submission at this stage can register their interest in the investigation online or by phoning VEAC. There will be a further opportunity to make submissions following publication of the discussion paper.

<sup>1</sup> For this investigation, marine protected areas means the 13 marine national parks, 11 marine sanctuaries, and 6 marine parks, marine reserves or marine and coastal parks established under schedules seven, eight and four respectively of the *National Parks Act 1975*.