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Hon Paul Caica MP
Minister for Environment and Conservation
Minister for River Murray and Minister for Water
GPO Box 1047
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30/04/2011

Support for Marine Parks and Sanctuary Zones in South Australia

Dear Minister,

The Friends of Gulf St Vincent join with other organisations and individuals to support, fully, the South Australian Government's proposed Marine Sanctuaries.

Marine protection is a logical and timely response to the continuing threat to our marine environment, and an extension of the commitment shown by the current Government following the Adelaide Coastal Waters Study.

We urge the Government to stand firm on its resolve to establish Marine Parks – to ensure that future generations ARE able to enjoy the wonders of this State's diverse and unique marine life.

The Friends of Gulf St Vincent are aware of objections raised by some users of our Marine waters, however it is of great concern that the very-much-bigger picture is being lost due to short-sighted attitudes.

We are fortunate in South Australia to have an active and dedicated marine research community and have confidence that world class science underpins the choice of localities for protection.

Despite long term management of fisheries in South Australia there is known to be an alarming decline in the status of several commercial species. Recreational fishing contributes to this decline and we must acknowledge that this will not change without action.

Among issues raised by members of the Friends relating to the Marine Parks were multi-lingual signage and improved surveillance when Parks are declared. We suggest that the Government must support Marine Parks by increasing the level of support required to inform fishing, boating and other communities of their new responsibilities.

Whilst we expect that the vast majority of people will observe and enjoy Marine Parks and Sanctuary Zones, it is imperative that the Government continues to support the process of consultation with communities of interest to ensure that all South Australians are engaged and supportive.

Angela Gackle

Secretary, Friends of Gulf St Vincent

*The Friends' principal objective is to foster a unified community approach
to the protection and wise use of Gulf St Vincent*