

Australia's input to the concept papers on the Ocean Action Panel themes for the 2025 UN Ocean Conference

Overarching input

Australia welcomes the continued efforts made by the UN to address the challenges of implementing Sustainable Development Goal 14, in the lead up to the 2025 UN Ocean Conference.

Australia encourages the concept papers to recognise the perspectives, knowledge, expertise and rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, given the role that traditional and local knowledge, innovation and practices held by Indigenous Peoples and local communities plays in sustainable ocean management. Furthermore, Australia also considers all concept papers would benefit including perspectives from relevant youth representatives.

With five years remaining until the 2030 Agenda is set to be achieved, we think it's important for the concept papers (and the associated panels) to celebrate successes and talk about the things that have worked, but also identify barriers to success and how we might course correct.

Specific questions to guide concept papers

Australia would like to offer a select series of questions to guide the development of the Ocean Action Panel concept papers.

For Panel B, *'Conserving, sustainably managing and restoring marine and coastal ecosystems including deep-sea ecosystems'* Australia recommends considering:

- How can we reconcile competing uses of ocean resources to facilitate the effective adaptation, mitigation and restoration of marine environments?
- What have we learnt from restoration efforts to date – what works and doesn't work?

For Panel F, *'Advancing sustainable ocean-based economies, sustainable maritime transport and coastal community resilience leaving no one behind'* Australia recommends considering:

- What are some of the key economic and social opportunities that would be created by increasing sustainable ocean activities?
- What are some examples where the knowledge and perspectives of Indigenous Peoples and local communities have been central to sustainable ocean planning?

For Panel H, *'Increasing ocean-related scientific cooperation, knowledge, capacity building, marine technology and education to strengthen the science-policy interface for ocean health'* Australia recommends considering:

- How can we incorporate the perspectives of young people?
- What are the barriers to information sharing and capacity building?

For Panel I, *'Enhancing the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in the UNCLOS'* Australia recommends considering:

- What mechanisms for cross-sectoral cooperation should be established to implement the high seas biodiversity treaty (BBNJ), including with sectors such as fisheries and shipping?

For Panel J, *'Mobilizing finance for ocean actions in the support of SDG14'* Australia recommends considering:

- How can governments and the private sector work better together to lower the barriers to investment and ocean finance opportunities?
- Why is SDG14 the least funded goal? How do we address this?