



PULU KEELING NATIONAL PARK



SCUBA Diving Strategy

People intending to dive in the Park, both snorkellers and SCUBA divers, are urged to adopt the practices below. They are designed with three things in mind - personal safety, as well as enjoyment and protection of the marine environment. The Park offers spectacular diving opportunities but divers must be vigilant because dangerous sea conditions can develop unexpectedly. The underwater environment is easily abused by careless or indulgent activity - which may seem harmless at the time.

1. SCUBA diving and snorkelling will only be allowed in the company of licensed tour operators, as per section 2.4.3 (e) of the Pulu Keeling National Park Plan of Management.
2. Entry into the Protected Zone surrounding the *SMS Emden* is only allowed after a permit has been issued by the Minister for Communications and the Arts under Section 15 of the Commonwealth *Historic Shipwrecks Act 1976*.
3. SCUBA divers are urged to follow standard diving procedures including the following;
 - * be qualified
 - * be medically fit
 - * avoid repetitive dives
 - * dive with a buddy
 - * display a diving flag while diving
 - * use a depth gauge, contents gauge, buoyancy compensator and a watch or dive computer
 - * stay within decompression limits
 - * plan and record each dive
4. Keep an eye on the weather and remember that the sea can be very turbulent near the reef.
5. Divers are reminded that recreational fishing in the Park is allowed subject to the conditions laid down in the recreational fishing strategy for Pulu Keeling National Park. In conformity with the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. Regulation 12.35 (4) and (a). A person who is fishing in an area of water must not: use equipment that allows the person to breathe under the surface of the water.
6. Live fish may not be removed from the Park for aquaria or any other purpose.
7. Take special care not to injure corals or other delicate organisms. Even the slightest contact with corals can kill them.

8. Resist the temptation to feed or touch curious animals.
9. Taming, frightening or otherwise interfering with animals is incompatible with the purpose of the Park which is to protect nature in every sense possible. It is for this reason that interfering with wildlife (for example hitching rides on turtles) is an offence.
10. Respect regulation 12.14 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. Which makes it an offence to deposit in a Commonwealth reserve any rubbish (eg. old fishing lines, empty containers), or any substance that could harm people or animals.
11. Resist the temptation to collect shells, corals, fossils and artefacts from wrecks. Do not remove any object of any sort from the National Park.
12. No decompression dives.
13. No night dives.