



## Management planning for the Dampier Archipelago

### Draft joint management plan in preparation

The Dampier Archipelago is made up of 41 islands, islets and rocks located within a 50-kilometre radius of Dampier and Karratha in Western Australia's Pilbara Region.

Twenty-eight of the islands, islets and rocks are part of Western Australia's conservation reserve system. This includes the major islands of Dolphin, Angel, Gidley, Malus, West Lewis, East Lewis, Enderby, Delambre, Eaglehawk and Rosemary islands.

#### Current management

All of the conservation reserve islands are vested in the Conservation and Parks Commission of Western Australia and are managed by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) under the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (CALM Act).

Currently, the nature reserves are managed as per the [Dampier Archipelago Nature Reserves Management Plan \(CALM 1990\)](#). West and East Lewis islands and part of Malus Island are not covered under the existing plan.

#### A new management plan

DBCA is seeking to partner with Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation (MAC) to protect and conserve the value of the lands and waters to the culture and heritage of Aboriginal people through a new joint management plan for the reserves.

The new joint management plan will update information on the cultural, natural and

recreational values of the islands and include the conservation and recreation reserves of Malus, West Lewis and East Lewis islands. Long-standing tenure recommendations and proposed additions to the conservation estate will also be evaluated.

The new joint management plan will provide direction to work together to care for country over the life of the management plan. It will outline strategies to maintain the key values including the nature-based recreation experiences whilst welcoming and encouraging visitors to enjoy, understand and respect the cultural and natural values of the area.

#### Joint management

Joint management is a partnership between traditional owners and custodians and DBCA to work together to care for country. It is an extension of the recognition of traditional owners and custodians' role in managing and caring for country and that Aboriginal knowledge and western science together can better protect country.

#### Joint Management Agreement

A Joint Management Agreement (JMA) is a document prepared between joint management partners which outlines the terms of the partnership and sets up the framework for a Joint Management Body (JMB).



The role of the JMB, which is made up of both DBCA senior staff and traditional owners and custodians (as nominated by MAC) is to make decisions as part of implementing the management plan.

An example of a JMA is the one between DBCA and MAC to manage Murujuga National Park via the JMB known as the Murujuga Park Council. The JMA will be attached to the joint management plan.

### What are the benefits of joint management?

Joint management can provide significant benefits, including to:

- foster and facilitate Aboriginal involvement in the planning and management of lands and waters managed under the CALM Act
- protect and conserve the value of the land to the culture and heritage of Aboriginal people
- utilise the combined knowledge and skills of joint management partners for improved land/water management
- develop the capacity of DBCA and Aboriginal partners for effective joint management of CALM Act lands/waters
- support Aboriginal people to be on country
- provide opportunities for Aboriginal people to achieve economic and social benefits through the joint management of lands and waters
- provides funding for Aboriginal corporations to participate in joint management bodies
- provide opportunities for visitors to experience and learn about the culture, history and aspirations of Aboriginal people.

Further information on joint management is available on the [DBCA website](#).

### What is the joint planning process?

MAC and DBCA will work together to prepare the joint management plan. Traditional owner and custodian aspirations, values and concerns for country will be integral to the joint management plan.

MAC will be asked to review and endorse the draft joint management plan prior to it being released for a minimum two-month public consultation period. MAC will also be involved in considering public comments and finalising the plan.

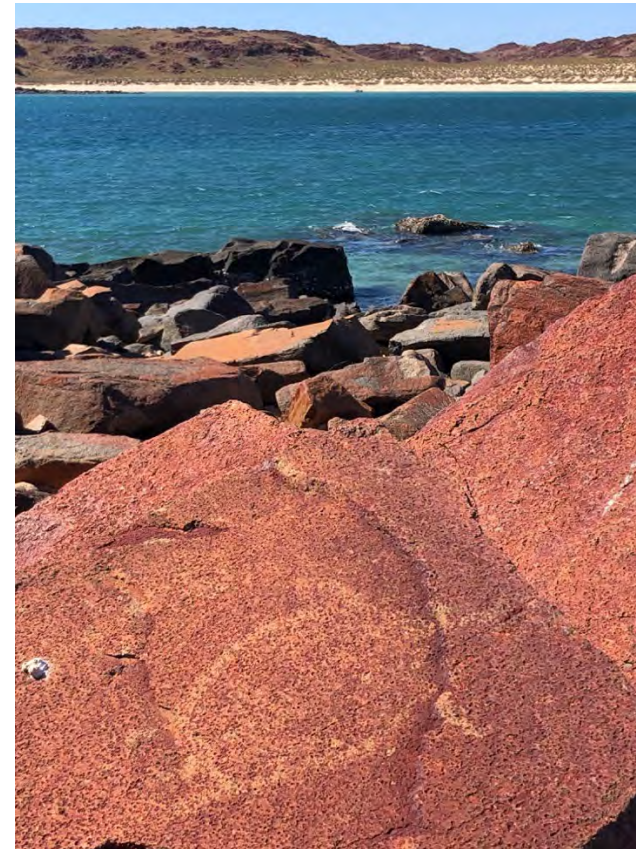
Cultural information will not be shared without consent from the appropriate people and all traditional knowledge will remain the property of the traditional custodians.

### Will management of Murujuga National Park and Dampier Archipelago be the same?

Management of both areas will be complementary but each will be managed according to their separate management plans.

### What about cultural safety?

DBCA will be guided by MAC in how they wish to be involved throughout the joint management process, in particular when, where and how to access country and how to protect the area's cultural values.



### Many significant values of the islands

The islands of the Dampier Archipelago have many outstanding values. The Murujuga cultural landscape has the largest, densest and most diverse collections of rock art, or petroglyphs, in the world. For the traditional owners and custodians the rock art is a living landscape with an important link to stories, customs and knowledge of the land and connects them to the events and people of the past and their beliefs today.

The islands are also important refuges for plants and animals once more widespread on the mainland where they are largely protected from development and introduced plants and animals. The islands are also significant breeding sites for three of the six species of turtles in Western Australia, significant breeding and roosting areas for seabirds and internationally important feeding and resting sites for migratory shorebirds.

There is also a rich diversity and complexity of terrestrial and intertidal communities and habitats across the islands including mangroves, intertidal reef systems, mudflats and salt marshes.

The islands with their beaches, protected bays and surrounding waters provide a valuable recreational resource for the local community as well as an increasingly significant drawcard within the wider Pilbara and State.

The purpose of the management plan is to protect these values.



### Protecting values

During the planning process the latest knowledge of cultural, natural and recreation values will be considered and management strategies developed to ensure these values are being maintained into the future.

The joint management plan will demonstrate management and protection of the National Heritage and the potential outstanding universal values of the area to be nominated to the World Heritage List. Read more on the [Murujuga World Heritage Nomination](#) on the DBCA website.

The community will have an opportunity to contribute to the process in which all values including nature-based recreation are considered in the joint management plan.





## Will I still be able to visit the islands?

DBCA and MAC will be managing the islands for everyone to visit and enjoy.

Noting that current management of the islands includes restricted areas and zoning for camping and day use. Key management strategies will continue to protect areas such as sensitive cultural sites, turtle, seabird and shorebird breeding, roosting and feeding areas.

Increased visitor education regarding the protection of values will also be important.

The plan will identify opportunities for visitors to enjoy, understand and respect the cultural and natural values of the area. Recreation masterplanning will occur concurrently to facilitate this.



## Will there be a marine park?

A marine park for the Dampier Archipelago is currently not being progressed. There are many marine values that will be protected through the joint management plan for the islands, such as turtles and their breeding and resting beaches, seabird and shorebird breeding areas and roosts, mangroves and intertidal areas.

## How will joint management affect CALM Act leases and licences?

There are a number of shacks that are leased to various groups under the CALM Act. The new plan and joint management will not affect these existing leases.

Any future leases and licenses, including renewals, such as for commercial tour operations will be assessed against the new plan and considered by the JMB in addition to the normal departmental assessment and regulatory processes.

## Get involved

Your views are important to us. You are invited to register your interest to be kept informed of opportunities during the planning process. This may be via newsletter articles, fact sheets, stakeholder meetings, community workshops or an online survey during the planning process. You will also be notified when the draft joint management plan is released for public comment. Planning for the joint management plan will occur throughout 2022 and into 2023.

Please register your interest here <https://forms.office.com/r/er98VEtJvJ>.

## I am a member of MAC, what does this mean for me?

MAC are directly involved in the planning process, please approach MAC as your representative body to ask how you can be involved in these processes. You can also register your interest through the link above.

## Where can I find more information?

For further information, please check DBCA's website [www.dbcwa.gov.au/parks-and-wildlife-service/dampier-archipelago](http://www.dbcwa.gov.au/parks-and-wildlife-service/dampier-archipelago) or contact the DBCA's Pilbara Office (Karratha) on (08) 9182 2000.