
Meeting 7 Communiqué

The seventh meeting for the Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Advisory Committee was held in Carnarvon, 20-21 September 2016. The committee held discussions on the following items:

Planning Activities

The committee discussed a range of planning initiatives in and adjacent to the Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area (NCWHA), that have the potential to affect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property:

1. Exmouth Shire's Local Planning Strategy 2016 (LPS1) and Local Planning Scheme #4 (LPS4) released for public comment on Thursday, 2 June 2016. The committee agreed to make a submission.
2. Department of Parks and Wildlife's Seascapes planning project. The committee plans to make a submission on this proposal.
3. Planning for the Ningaloo Coast (Department of Parks and Wildlife, Carnarvon Shire). The committee will receive updates on this process at future meetings.

Potential risks to the Outstanding Universal Value

The committee discussed a range of issues that have the potential to impact the OUV of the NCWHA:

1. The committee discussed the potential impact introduced fish species (such as feral guppies) may have on obligate subterranean fauna (cave dwelling species such as blind eels and fish) a key reason for the World Heritage listing.
2. The committee received a comprehensive briefing from the Department of Water on the management of water resources in the Exmouth region. The briefing emphasised the potential effects of groundwater pollution on the OUV of the World Heritage property, particularly the anchialine cave systems and associated aquatic subterranean fauna within the Cape Range Karst System.

Oil and Gas Industry

1. The committee noted the many proposals for seismic surveys adjacent to the NCWHA, and the potential for adverse impacts on the OUV. The committee agreed to make a submission to the PGS Rollo Seismic Survey amended proposal. The committee agreed to make a submission to the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA) on processes for stakeholder engagement by titleholders and seismic consultants.
2. The committee discussed industry oil spill contingency planning and agreed to make this a focus for the next meeting. Invitations would be extended to oil and gas industry representatives to brief the committee on industry preparedness.

Fisheries Matters

1. The committee was briefed by the Department of Fisheries on the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification review of the Exmouth Gulf Prawn Trawl Fishery. The committee had made an earlier submission to the first review in 2015. The committee



agreed to make a further submission concerning possible effects on the OUV from fishery operations in the North West corner of the Exmouth Gulf.

2. The committee decided to continue to make recommendations to the Department of Fisheries and to Recfishwest concerning bag limits for recreational fishing and to encourage research into “shark bite-offs” affecting recreational line fishers. The committee was informed about a current PhD research project that is documenting the experiences of recreational fishers with “shark bite-offs” within Ningaloo Marine Park.

Research

The Department of Parks and Wildlife briefed the committee on research being undertaken in the NCWHA and recent analyses of data concerning the status and trends for Spangled Emperor populations within the Ningaloo Marine Park.

Joint Meeting with Shark Bay World Heritage Advisory Committee

The committee met for the first time with the members of the Shark Bay World Heritage Advisory Committee. Matters of mutual interest were discussed including the effects of climate change on the two World Heritage property’s, fisheries issues, website development, “wilderness” definitions, funding and support for the committees.

Attendance:	
<p>Committee members:</p> <p>Mr Simon Woodley (Chairperson)</p> <p>Ms Ann Preest</p> <p>Prof Bill Humphreys</p> <p>Mr Tony Dowling</p> <p>Mr Frazer McGregor</p> <p>Mr Tony Evans</p> <p>Ms Hazel Walgar</p> <p>Ms Jacqueline Hine</p> <p>Mr Karl Brandenburg</p>	<p>Government Observers:</p> <p>Mr Arvid Hogstrom (DPaW)</p> <p>Mr Todd Quartermaine (DPaW)</p> <p>Mr Tom Holmes (DPaW)</p> <p>Ms Shannon Hassell (DPaW)</p> <p>Representative (Exmouth Shire Council)</p> <p>Executive Officer and Support Staff:</p> <p>Ms Heather Barnes (DPaW)</p> <p>Ms Tegan Gourlay (DPaW)</p> <p>Mr Ethan Cooyou (DPaW)</p> <p>Shark Bay World Heritage Advisory Committee</p>
<p>Guest speakers:</p> <p>Mr Darryl Abbott (DoW)</p> <p>Mr Patrick Cavalli (DoF)</p>	

Note: Guest speakers present at meeting for relevant items only.



Further Information:

If you require further information on any of the above topics please contact Tegan Gourlay, Executive Officer, Ningaloo World Heritage Advisory Committee tegan.gourlay@dbca.wa.gov.au or (08) 9947 8023

Alternatively, please contact one of the Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Advisory Committee members listed below:

Members	Stakeholder Affiliation	Contact Information
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Mrs D. Ann Preest	Indigenous Heritage Exmouth	preestann@bigpond.com
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Mr Simon Woodley (Committee Chair)	Scientific research (Marine)	sjwoodley@inet.net.au

**Ningaloo World Heritage Advisory Committee membership as at October 2016.*

