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## Meeting 8 Communiqué

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The eighth meeting for the Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Advisory Committee was held in Exmouth, 21- 23 February 2017. A field trip to South Muiron Island was undertaken on 21 February. Members were accompanied by staff from the Department of Parks and Wildlife. 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 may affect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property:

1. Department of Parks and Wildlife's Draft Pilbara Inshore Islands Management Plan. The committee agreed to discuss the submission, if appropriate, at a future meeting. The committee noted that the OUV of the World Heritage area needs to be recognised in the draft management plan. The committee endorsed the management planning approach for the islands proposed by Parks and Wildlife.
2. Department of Planning Draft Gascoyne Coast Sub-Regional Planning. The committee noted the potential for increased recreational use, particularly in the southern section. The committee agreed to advise the department of its interest in such planning.
3. Department of Parks and Wildlife Planning for the Ningaloo Coast Update. The committee will be kept informed of the progress and the development of ILUA for management of the coastal strip adjacent to the World Heritage area.

### 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 was briefed on general light pollution issues and those that may apply adjacent and within the NCWHA e.g. offshore and onshore development, fisheries, and shipping. The committee endorsed research into visitor perceptions of light pollution within the World Heritage area and agreed to develop a policy on light pollution as a potential threat to the OUV to incorporate into planning, and to encourage environmentally appropriate lighting standards.
2. The committee discussed the management of potential human impacts on manta rays within the World Heritage area - e.g. in-water interactions at cleaning stations and impacts on manta ray habitat from tourism and recreational fishing. The committee agreed to provide comment to Parks and Wildlife and collaborate with Shark Bay World Heritage Advisory Committee on manta ray behavior and distribution between the two World Heritage properties.
3. The committee continued discussions on the potential impacts from the Coral Bay Boat Launch Facility constructed as a solid causeway instead of the initial proposed piled bridge /open causeway. The committee agreed to follow up with the Department of



Transport for clarification on previous correspondence to the committee regarding future works.

## Oil and Gas Industry

The committee discussed current oil and gas activities adjacent to the NCWHA that have the potential to impact on the OUV. The committee discussed vulnerable locations to potential oil spills within the NCWHA. The committee also discussed industry oil spill response preparedness and agreed to have industry present on this topic at a future meeting.

## Research

The committee discussed current research within the NCWHA. The committee also discussed collaborating with the Ningaloo Alliance to provide advice on the OUV, research topics and in communication and education materials.

## Fisheries Matters

The committee discussed the Department of Fisheries Gascoyne Demersal Scalefish Fishery Risk Assessment noting the assessment did not acknowledge the OUV of the NCWHA or the potential risks. The committee agreed to make a submission on the risk assessment.

Attendance:	
<p>Committee Members:</p> <p>Mr Simon Woodley (Chairperson)</p> <p>Prof Bill Humphreys</p> <p>Mr Frazer McGregor</p> <p>Ms Hazel Walgar</p> <p>Ms Jacqueline Hine</p> <p>Ms Leonie McLeod</p> <p>Mr Tony Evans</p> <p>Ms Ann Preest</p> <p>Mr Tony Dowling</p> <p>Mr Karl Brandenburg</p>	<p>Government Observers</p> <p>Mr Mathew Kuhn (DoF)</p> <p>Mr Arvid Hogstrom (DPaW)</p> <p>Mr Mark Sweetman (DoD)</p> <p>Mr Peter Sharp (DPaW)</p> <p>Mr Allisdair MacDonald (DPaW)</p> <p>Ms Shannon Hassell (DPaW)</p> <p>Executive support:</p> <p>Ms Tegan Gourlay (DPaW)</p>
<p>Guest Speakers:</p> <p>David Newsome (Murdoch University)</p> <p>Carolyn Williams (DPaW)</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](mailto: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:

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\* Ningaloo World Heritage Advisory Committee membership as at February 2017.

