
Meeting 11 Communiqué

The eleventh meeting for the Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Advisory Committee was held in Exmouth 24 – 26 May 2018. Committee members undertook a field trip on the 24 May across Cape Range accompanied by a local speleologist and DBCA's Parks and Wildlife Service staff. The purpose was to inspect components of the Cape Range karst system and terrestrial parts of Cape Range to increase understanding of the terrestrial component of the World Heritage property.

The Minister for Environment Hon Stephen Dawson was scheduled to meet the committee on 25 May but was unable to do so through unforeseen delays to his schedule. 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. The committee discussed recent consultation with Tourism WA and agreed to establish links currently lacking with Tourism WA to raise awareness of the OUV of the NCWHA. The committee agreed to develop a strategy for engaging with the tourism industry and the requirement for conserving the OUV at a higher level through Tourism WA and other government agencies.
2. The committee discussed its disappointment with the final outcome of the Australian Marine Parks network released in 2017, particularly in relation to the Gascoyne region. After extensive stakeholder engagement during the consultative phase, and indications of improved protection for offshore canyon systems, the final plans substantially reduced the national park zoning and increased the habitat protection zoning, reducing protection from fisheries in the offshore Gascoyne region. A small green zone was included without consultation to complement the Cloates sanctuary zoning in Ningaloo Marine Park (State).
3. The committee discussed Shire of Carnarvon Local Planning Strategy LPS 13 to respond to a request to provide feedback in relation to increasing the overnight visitor caps at the tourism/minor tourism nodes within Coral Bay. The committee discussed whether it should provide reference information about the OUV so future planning activities in or adjacent to the World Heritage area are aware of the OUV and can demonstrate they won't impact the OUV.

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:

1. The committee agreed to request stakeholder engagement with proponent of the proposed Learmonth Bundle Supply Base (Subsea 7) and to familiarise themselves with the potential



impacts of the development proposal prior to the October meeting. The committee agreed to write to the Minister about activities adjacent to the World Heritage area that are impacting or have potential to impact the OUV. The Shire of Exmouth briefed the committee on additional information about the proposal and offered to introduce the Chair to the development manager of Subsea 7. The committee agreed to meet with the proponent to obtain information on the proposal and introduce itself as a key stakeholder. The committee agreed to make submission to EPA when report is open for public comment, expected to be early 2019. The committee reiterated its interest to the Shire of Exmouth on activities that have the potential to impact the OUV.

2. The committee discussed guidelines developed by the Shark Bay World Heritage Advisory Committee (SBWHAC) for assessment of development proposals. The committee agreed to develop its own set of guidelines for development proposals. The committee noted that SBWHAC refers potential activities direct to the commonwealth and that at the discretion of the committee can refer proposals under the EPBC Act to the Commonwealth for consideration.

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 continued discussions on the management of manta ray in water and its recent correspondence with DBCA's Parks and Wildlife Service. The department advised they will consider the recommendations raised and work collaboratively with the committee in the future on these matters.
2. The committee was briefed on DBCA's Parks and Wildlife Service the licensing system process used, the type of licences available and current number of licence holders within the World Heritage property.

Fisheries Matters

1. The committee raised the issue of shark fishing within the NCWHA at meeting 9. The committee has been in discussions with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPRID) Fisheries on this matter. The committee agreed to follow up with RecFishWest in regard to shark fishing within the NCWHA.
2. The committee continued discussions on the Fish Aggregating Device (FADs) proposal within the Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area. The committee provided feedback to DBCA's Parks and Wildlife Service advising it does not support the FADs proposal. The committee is waiting for a response and agreed to follow-up on FADs and to ensure RecFishWest are aware of the committee as a key stakeholder for the NCWHA.

Promotion and presentation of the Outstanding Universal Value

The committee discussed recent promotional opportunities to enhance the OUV of the NCWHA:



1. The committee discussed the excursion over Cape Range which focused on the terrestrial component of the WHA. The committee reiterated the value of the excursion to gain an understanding of the Cape Range karst system and coastal plain and discuss issues that have the potential to impact the OUV by allowing access and promoting other visitor opportunities within the area. The committee discussed the imbalance between marine and terrestrial information within NCWHA and supported the funding opportunity for the Bush Blitz to gain further understanding of the biology and ecology of the terrestrial component of the NCWHA.
2. The committee delivered presentations prepared for the Minister to DBCA's Director General Mark Webb as well as state and local government representatives. The presentations included a summary and management of the OUV and the role of the committee. Additional presentations on current issues with the potential to affect the OUV of the NCWHA included topics such as recreational fishing pressures; oil and gas industry risks; terrestrial issues and the in-water humpback whale interaction trial

Research

The committee were provided with a summary of on-going recent research projects within the NCWHA.

Stakeholder engagement

The committee were briefed by key government representatives on current planning activities and items of interest relevant to the World Heritage area: The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions Parks and Wildlife Service; the Department of the Environment and Energy; the Department of Defence; the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development – Fisheries; the Shire of Exmouth; and the Shire of Carnarvon.

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>Mr Tony Dowling</p>	<p>Government Observers:</p> <p>Mr Mark Webb (DBCA)</p> <p>Mr Cameron Woods (Shire of Exmouth)</p> <p>Mr Mark Sweetman (DOD)</p> <p>Mr Allisdair MacDonald (DBCA)</p> <p>Mr Arvid Hogstrom (DBCA)</p> <p>Executive support:</p> <p>Ms Tegan Gourlay (DBCA)</p>
Guest Speakers:	

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
Mr Anthony Dowling	Local community interests	adowling@bigpond.com
Mr Anthony Evans	Broader community interests	tuxevans@optusnet.com.au
Ms Jacqueline Hine	Conservation interests	jacqueline.hine@bigpond.com
Professor William Humphreys	Scientific research (Terrestrial)	bill.humphreys@museum.wa.gov.au
Ms Leonie McLeod	Chamber of Commerce and Industry	warroora@bigpond.com
Mr Frazer McGregor	Tourism interests	frazer_mcgregor@yahoo.com.au
Mrs D. Ann Preest	Indigenous Heritage Exmouth	preestann@bigpond.com
Ms Hazel Walgar	Indigenous Heritage Carnarvon	payungucdep@hotmail.com
Mr Simon Woodley (Committee Chair)	Scientific research (Marine)	sjwoodley@inet.net.au

*Ningaloo World Heritage Advisory Committee membership as at May 2018.

