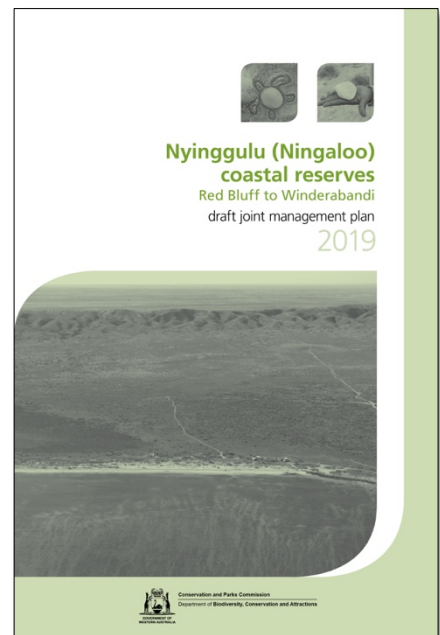


Nyinggulu (Ningaloo) coastal reserves

Red Bluff to Winderabandi

summary of public submissions
to the draft joint management plan

2020



Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
Conservation and Parks Commission
Nganhuru Thanardi Garbu Aboriginal Corporation

1. Overview

On 14 February 2019, the Minister for Environment released the *Nyinggulu (Ningaloo) coastal reserves draft joint management plan* (the draft joint management plan) (DBCA 2019) for public comment under the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (CALM Act).

A total of 48 submissions were received during the three-month public comment period, and these yielded nearly 900 separate comments to be considered.

This document is a summary of public submissions to the draft joint management plan; it discusses the key comments received and how the draft joint management plan has been changed in light of these. This summary will be made available with the final joint management plan.

2. Plan distribution and consultation

A notice of the draft joint management plan's release was published in the *Government Gazette* on 19 February 2019. The draft joint management plan was advertised in both the local newspapers *Pilbara News* (26 February 2019) and *Midwest Times* (13 March 2019), as well as two editions of the state-wide newspaper *The West Australian* (27 February 2019 and 9 March 2019).

The release of the draft joint management plan was also advertised on the department's webpage, Pilbara District Facebook page and via electronic newsletters to subscribers of the department's various databases including Ningaloo News (over 850 subscribers), Touring WA (over 12,000 subscribers) and commercial tour operator alerts (1,036 subscribers). The link to the draft joint management plan submission page was also shared across various other social media pages.

The department sent out approximately 700 notification letters/e-mails of the draft joint management plan to key stakeholders, such as relevant state and local government agencies, adjacent pastoral leasees, conservation organisations, community groups, recreational peak bodies, commercial/business groups and individuals who had expressed interest or were involved during the planning process.

The draft joint management plan was available from dbca.wa.gov.au/haveyoursay. Additional hard copies of the draft plan were made available at departmental offices (Kensington, Exmouth, Milyering Visitor Centre, Carnarvon and Coral Bay).

A 'Frequently Asked Questions' leaflet was also distributed to approximately 1,400 residents of Exmouth, fishing and tackle shops in Exmouth and Carnarvon and along the coast to visitors during the public consultation period by Exmouth District staff (Appendix 1).

Briefings were held with stakeholder groups including Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area Committee, Shire of Carnarvon, Shire of Exmouth, Gascoyne Development Commission, Cape Conservation Group, Rangelands NRM, Gascoyne Catchment's Group, Lyndon Land Conservation District Council and the Kimberley/Pilbara Cattlemen's Association. Each of the six neighbouring pastoralists were offered briefings by the District Manager, with a subsequent briefing held for Warroora Station.

The public submission period closed on 14 May 2019 (three months, instead of the statutory two months) and late submissions were accepted where arrangements had been made prior to the closing date.

The 48 submissions that were received (including 25 online submissions using Survey Monkey), were summarised and presented to the Conservation and Parks Commission, Gnulli Native Title claimants (now holders) and departmental planning team, and considered when finalising the management plan.

The most referenced themes included: reserve creation, joint management, climate change, turtle management, feral animal control, recreational impacts, recreational opportunities and maintaining the remote experience with no built accommodation.

3. Methodology

The 48 submissions were collated and each comment assessed using the following criteria stated on page (iii) of the draft joint management plan—

The draft joint management plan may be modified if a submission:

- a. provides additional information of direct relevance to management

- b. indicates a change in (or clarifies) government legislation or management policy
- c. proposes strategies that would better achieve management objectives
- d. indicates omissions, inaccuracies or a lack of clarity.

The draft joint management plan may not be modified if a submission:

- a. clearly supports proposals in the plan or makes general or neutral statements
- b. refers to issues beyond the scope of the plan
- c. refers to issues that are already noted within the plan or already considered during its preparation
- d. is one among several widely divergent viewpoints received on the topic but the approach in the plan is still considered the best option
- e. contributes options that are not feasible (generally due to conflict with legislation or government policy)
- f. is based on unclear or factually incorrect information.

No subjective weighting was given to any submission for reasons of its origin or any other factor that would give cause to elevate the importance of any submission above another.

4. About the submitters

Most of the submitters were individuals (25) with community groups (8) the next highest group of submitters (see Appendix 2). The submitters were mainly from Perth (19), the local communities of Exmouth, Carnarvon and Coral Bay (16) and the South-West region (8). Other locations were Mid-West region (2), South Coast region (1) and Victoria (1) and New South Wales (1).

5. Comments received

The 48 submissions translated to nearly 900 comments that addressed most aspects of the draft joint management plan. Sixty per cent of the comments were about the natural and recreation values, with the rest spread among the remaining components of the plan.

Comments ranged from supporting the intent of the joint management plan, to disregarding the need for conservation reserves or management intervention particularly by Government.

The vast majority of comments (695) related to issues already considered in the draft joint management plan preparation, were outside of the scope of the management plan, or were supportive or made general or neutral statements that did not suggest any changes to the management plan.

Summary of comments by section

Introduction

Comments were broadly grouped into the themes of:

- both support and opposition to the 2015 pastoral exclusion process and creation of conservation estate managed by the department
- resourcing for reserve management and adequacy of the department to undertake this management
- consideration of potential impacts on the adjacent Ningaloo Marine Park and confusion on 40m existing marine park coastal strip
- request for a map at the start of the plan
- questioning level of public consultation undertaken during the planning process.

Any comment regarding the 2015 pastoral exclusion process was outside the scope of the management plan. The land was excluded from pastoral lease prior to the draft joint management plan and was in line with recommendations from the 1970s and commitments from successive governments. Native Title being was determined December 2019, and after the registration of an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) with the Native Title holders, Cape Range National Park (South) and Nynggulu Coastal Reserve were created. The department will continue to work with the neighbouring pastoralists.

With regard to resourcing and ability to manage the area, the planning area is adjacent to, and includes part of, the Ningaloo Marine Park. This area is already managed and patrolled, and the majority of camp sites are located within the existing Ningaloo Marine Park, not the new reserves. The new reserves complement and further protect the adjacent marine park. It is correct that the area will require considerable resourcing and on-ground management over a wide area with heavy visitation. Although the question of resourcing is outside of the scope of the management plan, it will be closely monitored by the Exmouth District office. New resources for traditional owner rangers and on-ground management is already being expended, and all fees from camping will be spent on managing the planning area.

Public consultation was as detailed above and was as extensive as possible during the public comment period. All neighbouring pastoralists were offered briefings on the draft joint management plan.

All comments relating to land tenure and joint management did not result in a change in the final joint management plan. The plan was updated to reflect the Native Title determination, reserve creation and subsequent management arrangements. As requested, a map was included to the introduction.

Management direction and context

Comments were broadly grouped into the themes of:

- including mention of wider planning and tourism strategies
- including the contribution to management by pastoralists
- updating text to reflect the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*
- support for joint management with traditional owners and involvement in setting policy direction
- querying why one Aboriginal group was preferred and their language used
- requests for pastoralists and/or other representatives to be in the Joint Management Body
- support for the pastoralists to continue managing the coast
- support for the World Heritage Area boundary to be expanded to include proposed reserves
- request for more consideration of World Heritage values throughout the document and in Key Performance Indicators
- support for maintaining a low-key recreation experience and encouraging a greater appreciation of the natural and cultural values of the area
- support for the strategic objectives
- querying why in-house reports are used instead of peer-reviewed published science.

A statement has been included stating that all State and local government planning strategies have been considered when preparing the management plan.

The focus of the management plan is future management and, as such, did not dwell on past management of lands by pastoralists, other than as part of the non-Indigenous heritage of the land.

At the time of preparing the draft joint management plan, the Gnulli were the only Native Title claimants across the planning area with individual representatives put forward by YMAC for preparing the plan. As of December 2019, Native Title has been determined and the department worked with the Native Title holders, the Nghanurru Thanardi Garrbu Aboriginal Corporation (NTGAC), to finalise the management plan and jointly manage the area. In terms of re-naming, the Baiyungu language, as requested by NTGAC, is incorporated in the management plan and signs in the planning area and associated interpretation and media. This does not 're-name' any officially named places or features.

The joint management will only be with the traditional owners as per the signed ILUA with the NTGAC. The pastoralists will have opportunity for involvement in terms of fee for service work and day to day working relationship as neighbouring landowners. Many of the pastoralists continue to manage tourism enclaves and homestead accommodation adjacent to the planning area.

The World Heritage section has been amended to clarify the World Heritage values and responsibilities and interaction between the advisory committee, the department and the JMB. In addition, the World Heritage values have been made more explicit throughout the document with additional strategies and a KPI added.

With regard to references used, both in-house reports and research is used along with published science as required.

Connection to country (cultural values)

Comments were broadly grouped into the following main themes.

Aboriginal cultural heritage

- support for inclusiveness and Traditional Owner opportunities
- requests for pastoralists and long-term campers to also be considered traditional owners
- information on the barque Stefano shipwreck story
- disputing the use of Tindale's research
- views that the draft plan overstated Aboriginal cultural values
- questioning whether cultural sites will impact on recreational use
- lack of support for Aboriginal language to be included in the planning area

- support for the Baiyungu Trail
- support for customary take local arrangements with regards to turtles and other threatened species to protect species

The draft joint management plan acknowledges that there were different peoples along the coast, including the Thalanyji people (p10). There is evidence of extensive numbers of registered and unregistered sites of cultural significance all along the coast, and the Native Title Determination of December 2019 confirms the connection of the Baiyungu and Thalanyji people across the planning area. The text has been amended to refer to the Thalanyji people instead of the Jinigudira people.

During the plan preparation phase the Baiyungu people were those identified by YMAC to engage in the management planning. Subsequent to native title being determined, the department worked with the NTGAC and those representatives nominated by them to finalise the management plan, and going forward to jointly manage the area.

Neighbouring land-holders and long-term campers will continue to be important key stakeholders in the management of the new reserves but the traditional owners/Native Title holders are the joint management partners (not stakeholders) and the reserves are now jointly vested with them, and reinforces the partnership between the department and traditional owners. Neighbouring land holders are encouraged to continue to work with the NTGAC on protecting cultural values within the pastoral leases.

Protecting Aboriginal cultural values is a key objective of the management plan. Locations of heritage areas within the new reserves is a sensitive issue, and assessing heritage values is an ongoing process. Any impacts to camping activities due to the need to protect areas of cultural significance will be stated as the general need 'to protect key values' as per the instructions of the traditional owners.

It is departmental policy to include dual naming where appropriate. Note the department is being led by the traditional owners on the spelling used for dual naming.

Other Australian cultural heritage

- requests for more history of pastoral stations
- support the retention of all pastoral infrastructure and signage.

There will be future effort made to provide more information on the broader pastoral history of the coast in departmental interpretation of the Ningaloo Coast, but this content is not considered necessary for the management plan to provide. Where possible signage will complement existing pastoral signs and, where infrastructure is not causing a visitor risk, then it will be retained. Pastoralism and stories from long-term visitors have been separated out as stand-alone interpretation themes.

Caring for country (natural values)

Comments were broadly grouped into the following main themes.

General

- asking for more references to be included throughout.

Climate change

- requests for more climate change action
- requests to consider sea level rise and erosion impacts on turtle nesting habitat.

Additional climate change strategies have been added. These state that possible climate change will be taken into account when designing and placing recreation sites and infrastructure, undertaking a climate change vulnerability assessment, performing intervention as necessary, incorporating integrated modelling of potential future impacts, and identifying carbon storage solutions.

Native plants and plant communities

- support to reserve the land to include the poorly reserved vegetation associations
- requests to assess vegetation condition and ground truth remote sensing data
- querying whether vegetation will be removed for recreation sites
- support for baseline flora and fauna surveys
- request for a KPI for threatened flora species.

The potential additions with under-represented vegetation associations have been added as proposed additions such as the remainder of former Ningaloo Station. Vegetation condition monitoring has been included and guidance for vegetation rehabilitation following disturbance due to recreation site works also has been added. A KPI for threatened and priority plant species has also been included.

Native animals and habitats

- requests for all beaches to be closed to vehicle access north of 6 mile gate to Cape Farquhar during turtle breeding season
- request for support in tagging loggerheads at Gnaraloo.

Beach access is already restricted already through the joint management plan and Ningaloo Marine Park management plan. A light management strategy has been added with regard to reducing artificial light impacts to turtles.

Weeds

- suggestions that weeds and feral animals are the greatest challenge
- requests to retain tamarisk and other introduced shade trees
- questioning whether buffel grass is a weed when it is so widespread.

Introduced and other problem animals

- request to monitor feral fish in karst habitats
- complaints that there was a consistent bias towards Gnaraloo in terms of mentioning feral animals
- questions regarding wild dogs/dingoes management
- lack of support for 1080 baiting with concerns on animal welfare with the request that more humane control methods are used
- support to remove goats.

A strategy has been added to monitor feral fish in karst environments. Gnaraloo Station has been removed when mentioning feral goats. Dingoes/wild dogs are not specifically targeted in feral animal control programs but may be affected by the fox and cat baiting program. The use of 1080 in the control of foxes is considered the most effective, and target specific method of control. A strategy has been added on partnering with regional biosecurity groups to contract for wild dog/dingo control in areas, where appropriate.

Fire

- suggestions on fire management, including requesting no bare earth fire break, no burning on white sand earth and managing inland areas differently to coastal areas
- questions on how lightning strike fires and bushfire risk to visitors is managed
- questions on the relevance of traditional burning.

Fuel reduction around campsites and visitor risk signage is provided for in the plan. Muster points, fire advice at pay stations and appropriate emergency responses will developed. A strategy has been added to prepare bushfire risk response plans.

People on country (recreation, tourism and community values)

Comments were broadly grouped into the following main themes.

General

- asking for more references to be included throughout
- support to keep current situation with no change to management
- concern about opportunities for the Shire of Exmouth to benefit from the new reserves.

All revenue generated by park entry and camp fees goes directly into managing the natural assets of the area and into improvements to park-based infrastructure, which in turn attract hundreds of thousands of tourists a year to the area. Tourism generated by the nature-based experiences of the World Heritage area attracts significant spend in the local economy, thus supporting and sustaining many local businesses throughout the year. There are currently more than 40 departmental staff that live and work in Exmouth bringing broader economic and social benefits to the community. The department is responsible for additional increased expenditure in the Exmouth community through additional use of contractors, services and goods to carry out works along the Ningaloo coastal reserves. In 2018/2019 the department spent over \$1 million in the local area, and it follows that managing Ningaloo Coast will substantially add to this.

The department is collecting both septage and putrescible rubbish from the Nyinggulu (Ningaloo) coastal reserves that is being disposed of at commercial rates in the Shire waste facilities. Exmouth District spent more than \$30,000 on waste disposal at the Shire also in 2018/2019 not including Nyinggulu (Ningaloo) coastal reserves.

Visitor planning

- concern for the impact of coastal recreation on the marine park
- support for maintaining low key recreation
- request for more information at Coral Bay on the Nyinggulu (Ningaloo) coastal reserves
- request for visitor safety information to be provided at entry points including how will emergencies be handled.

Maintaining the visitor management settings and recreation site classifications within the management plan will ensure the Ningaloo experience and current levels of remoteness are maintained. Reserve creation will assist in management and enforcement. The sense of community was added to the text on the Ningaloo Experience.

A visitor information building has now been installed at Coral Bay as has emergency information at entry points to the reserves. Access maps have been provided to emergency services and will be updated regularly and equipment will be considered.

Visitor access

- support for rationalisation of tracks
- requests for no upgrade to the roads
- support to restrict beach driving
- requests to close vehicle access to Cape Farquhar permanently and only allow wild camping
- support for the locked gates that were used at Ningaloo Station to restricted access to only paid campers
- comments on encouraging people to deflate tyres.

A strategy on encouraging visitors to deflate tyres before leaving sealed roads has been included. The text has been amended to clarify only wild camping will be permitted at Cape Farquhar, however the road to Cape Farquhar is a local government road and the Shire of Carnarvon has indicated that they will be reopening the road. The department and the JMB will continue to liaise with the Shire requesting that the road remain closed in the short to medium term.

Visitor activities

- request for the whole coast to be closed to camping for 20-25 years to allow regeneration and for the towns of Exmouth and Coral Bay to get the economic benefit
- disagreement that recreational use has led to degradation of coastal vegetation
- concerns about campfire scarring with support for fire pits/fire rings or suggestion for mandatory portable fire place
- support for no built accommodation and specifically not at Gnarraloo Bay
- support for a few camping nodes only up to 100 sites
- support for permanent constraints on development
- support for and against length of stay limits
- requests to locate camping sites away from beach
- support for online booking
- questions on camping fees
- lack of support for the car park at Gnarraloo Bay to be moved or developed
- requests for stricter fishing limits
- support for and against private ATV use
- concerns about waste management with support for the requirement to bring portable toilets when camping and support for the installation of toilet waste dumps
- support for and against dogs in the reserves
- request to consider Dark Sky Program to benefit visitors and improve light management for turtles
- concern about special events, and in particular, surf carnivals.

The overall number of recreation sites will be maintained at current levels and will provide a different experience to that offered by the local town centres and tourism enclaves so the camping experiences compliment rather than compete with experiences offered by town centres. The department will manage the values of the area to ensure visitors can continue to enjoy the area for decades to come.

Length of stay along with camping costs are determined by processes outside of the management plan. In addition recreational fishing limits and compliance is outside the scope of this management plan.

Sections on the Dark Sky Program and special events have been added.

Commercial operations

- requests to be able to land commercial helicopters in the planning area
- opposition to commercial leases, like Sal Salis.

The policy on helicopter landings is in line with the Cape Range National Park management plan (DEC 2010). Aircraft landing within the planning area is not considered to be compatible with the remote low-key nature-based recreational experiences that are being provided for and maintained in the area. There are other opportunities adjacent to the planning area for aircraft landing for example, in neighbouring pastoral stations.

Using resources from country

Comments included:

- objections to mining
- requests for potable water for visitors
- requests to keep water sources open for animals
- suggestions that the department should contribute to goat removal
- pastoral station requests for exclusive access to water points
- lack of support for wifi at campsites.

Easements have been negotiated with pastoralists for ongoing access to infrastructure and water points and the department will work in partnership to obtain the most effective outcome for goat control.

Comments resulted in no changes other than the inclusion of fracking as a potential threat.

Keeping country healthy

General support and comments to use better references. Comments resulted in no changes.

Result of consultation

Generally, the management plan was changed in response to comments to provide more clarity or context with minor editorial changes and additional references added. No significant changes to the management objectives were made however additional text, management actions and key performance indicators were included to address public comments.

Other changes include various editorial corrections and updates to reflect the Biodiversity Conservation Act, the Gnulli Native Title determination, reserve creation, recent flora and fauna surveys, recent recovery plans and other publications, additional animal diseases and weeds, up-to-date visitor numbers and more accurate camping site numbers.

Appendix 1. FAQ brochure distributed March 2019



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Nyinggulu (Ningaloo) coastal reserves draft joint management plan 2019 out for public comment

What is the joint management plan?

The joint management plan provides direction for the joint management between the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (the department) and the Gnulli Native Title claimants of existing and proposed coastal conservation and recreation reserves along the Nyinggulu (Ningaloo) Coast (the planning area) over a 10-year period.

This includes the terrestrial portion of Ningaloo Marine Park which is an existing reserve 40m landward of high water mark north of Amherst Point, land not renewed in the 2015 pastoral lease renewal process from Red Bluff in the south to Winderbandi in the north and other portions of unallocated Crown land.

The joint management plan aims to conserve and protect the values of the planning area in the long-term. It provides a summary of operations proposed to be undertaken and the vision includes a desire to maintain a low-key recreation experience, welcoming and encouraging visitors to enjoy, understand and respect the cultural and natural values of the area.

Have your say

The draft joint management plan has now been released for public comment with regard to the proposed management directions and strategies within the plan.

Public submissions can be made online or by post until the **14 May 2019**. More details here: www.dbca.wa.gov.au/haveyoursay

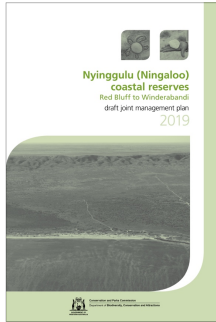
Why are the proposed reserves being created?

The creation of the proposed reserves will enable conservation of the significant natural and cultural values along the Ningaloo coast, and importantly, provide ongoing access and recreational opportunities for all Western Australians and other visitors.

This area attracts many thousands of visitors each year who seek to camp against a backdrop of the world-famous Ningaloo Marine Park. The plan proposes to maintain affordable, remote and self-sufficient camping and caravanning experiences. Managing the area in partnership with traditional owners will have many benefits, not only for sharing knowledge and the enhanced protection and management of the Nyinggulu (Ningaloo) Coast but also in terms of job creation, connection to country and customary activities.

The creation of the proposed reserves will ensure that long-term public access to the coast continues and management of natural, cultural and recreational values is integrated with the management of the World Heritage-listed Ningaloo Marine Park.

Refer to Section 1 of the plan (pages 1 to 2) for a description of the planning area and why the reserves are being created.



March 2019

Who will manage the public reserves?

The existing and proposed reserves will be managed under the Conservation and Land Management Act 1984 (CALM Act) and are proposed to be jointly managed by the department with the Gnulli Native Title claimants. This will also support Aboriginal employment and training opportunities. As part of the department's commitment to joint management, Aboriginal rangers have already been employed on the coast and the Gnulli Native Title claimants are already being involved in on-ground management.

The existing and proposed reserves cover camping and day use areas from Red Bluff to Winderbandi but does not include the lease areas of Red Bluff, Quobba Homestead, 3 Mile Camp, Gnaraloo Homestead, Warroora Homestead, Coral Bay townsite or Bruboojoo. These areas will continue to be managed by the relevant lessees or local government and are not part of this planning process other than being enclaves or adjacent lands to the planning area that provide additional recreational opportunities and experiences for visitors.

The State government will continue to offer opportunities for pastoralists to be involved in managing the coast through fee-for-service contracts and will work closely with pastoralists concerning cross boundary issues across enclave lease areas (Red Bluff, 3 Mile and Bruboojoo) and adjacent pastoral leases (which provides tourism homestead and cabin accommodation). Refer to Section 3 of the plan (pages 5 to 6) for more information on the joint management.

What are the proposed reserves going to be?

In line with recommendations from successive governments dating back to the 1970s the new public reserves will be for conservation and recreation purposes. They will be included as part of the important network of conservation estate across Western Australia. Currently all of the proposed reserves are unallocated Crown land as they were not renewed as pastoral lease in 2015, or in some instances were already unallocated Crown land.

Part of the former Ningaloo Station will be part of the southern extension of Cape Range National Park and the remainder of the unallocated Crown land south to Red Bluff will

be a CALM Act section 5(1)(h) reserve for the purpose of 'conservation and recreation'.

The existing tenure of the terrestrial portion of Ningaloo Marine Park (40m landward of high water mark north of Amherst Point) on which a lot of recreation already occurs will not change. This coastal strip has been conservation estate since 1987 and will continue to be.

Refer to Appendix 1 of the plan (pages 109 to 111) for more information on the tenure of the planning area.

When will the reserves be created?

The State Government is negotiating an indigenous land use agreement with the Gnulli Native Title claimants, expected to be finalised by the end of the year that will ensure the creation of the reserves meets the requirements of the Commonwealth Native Title Act 1993.

Until the creation of the reserves, the land is being managed jointly by the department and Gnulli Native Title claimants as unallocated Crown land with a focus on ensuring visitor safety and maintaining the conservation values of the coast.

How will I be affected as a visitor to the Ningaloo Coast?

Low cost camping and the unique wilderness experience enjoyed by thousands of people each year will be retained through the establishment of the public reserves which will have the purpose of conservation and recreation. Camping, surfing, fishing, diving, snorkelling and other forms of recreation will continue.

Camping experiences will be improved through rehabilitation of degraded and eroded coastal areas, integrated feral animal and weed programs and improved waste management along the coast.

The department is already managing the existing terrestrial portion of Ningaloo Marine Park and rehabilitation works have commenced in areas such as Sandy Point, Five Fingers and other degraded sites along the coast.

Refer to People on Country in the plan (pages 64 to 94) for more information on recreation and tourism. Appendix 9 has more details on each of the camping and day use sites within the planning area and proposed works.

March 2019

Will the experience be changed?

No. The 'Ningaloo Experience' will be maintained with specific strategies aimed at keeping the coast a unique yet sustainable experience in the longer term. For example, signage and rehabilitation works will be kept low key and minimal. At campgrounds such as Sandy Point, coir logs and coir matting are being trialled for defining camp site boundaries and rehabilitating sensitive areas. Using these types of materials provide a more natural approach to site delineation compared to other materials.

Refer to Section 19 of the plan (page 64) for more information on maintaining the Ningaloo Experience.

Will you be locking away areas?

The department and the Gnulli Native Title claimants will be managing the coast for everyone to visit and enjoy. Areas will not be 'locked away'. In some instances, access will need to be managed to protect areas such as sensitive cultural sites, turtle and seabird breeding areas in order to preserve the values of the coast for future generations.

Will the Ningaloo Coast be opened up for development?

The draft joint management plan proposes that affordable low-key camping and caravanning along the coast will be maintained at current levels, with a key focus on continuing the current experience and the sense of remoteness and high level of self-sufficiency prized by visitors. Short to medium term management effort will be directed towards rehabilitating tracks and degraded areas around camping and day use areas while keeping development to a minimum, with no built accommodation proposed.

Refer to section 19 to 23 of the plan (pages 64 to 95) for information on managing recreation and tourism.

Are you going to seal any roads?

No, all current access managed by the department will remain as unsealed 4WD tracks. Some repair work will be required from

time to time in order to protect the natural values and manage visitor risk.

Refer to Section 20 of the plan (pages 73 to 79) and maps 3A, B, C and D (pages 134 to 137) for more information on maintaining access within the planning area.

Can I still take my dog when I go camping?

Yes, you will still be able to take your dog camping along the coast and in order to allow this to continue, areas will need to be designated under the CALM Regulations.

However, for example during turtle or seabird breeding seasons, some beaches may need to be kept dog-free.

Refer to Section 21 Action 40 (page 90) of the draft joint management plan.

Can I still have a campfire?

Yes, you will still be able to have campfires when camping. The plan proposes to provide fire rings or designate campfire sites to address visitor comments about campfire coals spreading around campsites ruining the amenity of the area and associated safety concerns.

Firewood would still need to be brought into the reserves.

Refer to Section 21 Action 36 (page 90) of the draft joint management plan.

Will off-road vehicles/motorbikes/quadbikes be banned?

Private, unlicensed all-terrain vehicles/quad bikes (ATVs) and other off-road vehicles are currently not permitted in the existing reserves or the unallocated Crown land, and this will not change.

Vehicles licensed under the Road Traffic Act 1974 will be allowed on tracks within the planning area. Access to beaches by licensed vehicles at some sites for boat launching will continue, although driving along stretches of beach will not be permitted as per the management plan for the Marine Park.

Commercial ATV treks will be continually reviewed to ensure impacts on natural and cultural values are minimised.

Refer to sections 20, 21 and 22 of the plan (pages 76, 78, 79, 91 and 92) for more information on off-road vehicles.

How much will it cost to camp in the reserves?

Low cost camping will be retained along the coast. All fees will go directly back to managing the reserve and the adjacent Ningaloo Marine Park.

What consultation has already occurred?

A review has been undertaken of the extensive independent research already conducted along the Ningaloo coast, focussing on visitors' expectations and the camping experiences they desire. Additional consultation with visitors has been undertaken through on-site interviews and a 2017 online visitor survey to further understand the types of visitor facilities people would like to see provided or upgraded along the coast and to validate the previous research. This information was used to inform the planning of the draft joint management plan.

Continual updates and meetings have been occurring with pastoralists, the Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Committee, local government shires, Coral Bay Progress Association and other stakeholders formally and informally during the draft joint management plan preparation phase by the local Exmouth District staff.

Consultation with traditional owners, pastoral lease holders, visitors and other stakeholders will continue to occur as part of the draft plan consultation process.

Most importantly, the current public submission phase is the main period of consultation. If you would like to meet to

discuss any aspects of the plan please contact the Exmouth District office on (08) 9947 8000.

The normal statutory public consultation period is 2 months, however the draft joint management plan will be open for 3 months in this instance to allow ample time for consultation and submissions. Submissions close **14 May 2019**.

Refer to Section 19 of the plan (pages 68 and 69) for more information on previous visitor research and the 2017 visitor survey.

What will happen next?

Departmental staff and traditional owners are actively managing the Ningaloo Coast – undertaking operational works, responding to management issues and undertaking planning for the proposed reserves. This will continue to happen.

Works that are currently being undertaken include rehabilitation of degraded areas, maintenance and repairs to tracks and trails, control of feral animals and weeds, establishment of flora and fauna recovery monitoring sites, protection and monitoring of cultural sites, installation of toilets and/or waste disposal facilities, public education programs and interpretive information.

At the end of the 3-month public submission period, the submissions will be considered by the Conservation and Parks Commission and the Gnulli Native Title claimants and the plan amended in light of all submissions received. The final joint management plan will then be prepared and gazetted and a summary of submissions will be made available along with the final management plan.

Where can I find more information?

For further information, please contact the Department's Exmouth Office on (08) 9947 8000. www.dbca.wa.gov.au



March 2019

March 2019

Appendix 2. Submitters to the draft joint management plan 2019

State Government (4)

Department of Fire and Emergency Services
Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage
Minister for Tourism Paul Papalia
WA Museum

Local Government (2)

Shire of Carnarvon
Shire of Exmouth

Non-government organisations/education institutions (3)

Australian Marine Sciences Association (WA)
Murdoch University
Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area Commission

Community groups (8)

Barque Stefano Yinikurtina Foundation
Cape Conservation Group
Gnaraloo Wilderness Foundation
Hang gliders association of WA
National Surfing Reserves
Norwest Board Riders Inc
Protect Ningaloo
Wildflower Society of WA

Business/tourism operators (3)

Coral Coast Helicopter Services Pty Ltd
Exmouth Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Gascoyne Development Commission

Neighbouring pastoralists (3)

M Horak
L McLeod
P Richardson

Individuals (25)

I Bertram	G Lawson
R Boyd	S Lybery
R Cee	E Milward
H Collins	P Mottolini
L Davies	P Newcombe
L Fitzgerald	M Parry
M Fletcher	D Recsei
G Gaskett	B Rice
J Gilliam	G Rice
B Green	J Rice
M Hollett	W Tacey
D Jones	C Thomas
H Kobryn	