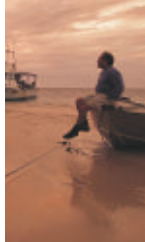


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Ningaloo Reef and North West Cape

WORLD HERITAGE NOMINATION



Department of
Environment and Conservation

Our environment, our future



Introduction

In 2001, the State Government was elected with policy commitments to recommend to the Federal Government the nomination of the Ningaloo Marine Park for World Heritage listing and to investigate the possibility of nominating the North West Cape.

Nominations to the World Heritage Committee for inscription on the World Heritage list can only be submitted by the Commonwealth.

The State Government established a Community Consultative Committee to review the scientific and technical information about the area in relation to World Heritage criteria, consult with the major stakeholders and report on the outcomes of those consultations, including recommending to Government a suitable boundary for the proposed World Heritage property.

The committee consulted with key stakeholders in the area, including local governments, industry, community organisations and government departments and agencies. The committee considered ways in which the proposed World Heritage listing may affect the people living in and next to the nominated area, local governments, other people and organisations with interests in the area, and issues such as the potential for World Heritage listing to promote tourism and regional development.

When releasing the report of the Community Consultative Committee, the Minister for the Environment released a preferred boundary for a World Heritage area and sought additional input from stakeholders and affected communities before a final decision on the proposed World Heritage area boundary was made by State Cabinet in February 2007.

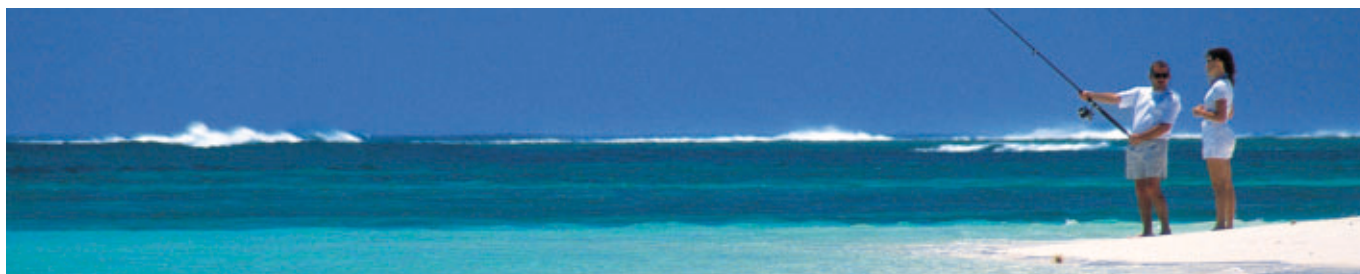
Benefits of World Heritage listing

Inscription of a property on the World Heritage List can produce many benefits for Australia, and in particular, for local communities.

Australia's World Heritage properties are a clearly identifiable part of our heritage. In the case of properties such as the Tasmanian Wilderness, Kakadu and Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef, World Heritage listing has featured in promotions that have greatly increased tourist visitation from overseas and within Australia.



In addition to possible increases in employment opportunities and income, local communities also can expect benefits from improved planning and management of the region. A major focus for Australian Government assistance for World Heritage properties has been providing resources for strengthening management and improving interpretation and visitor facilities. World Heritage listing also cultivates local and national pride in the property and develops feelings of national responsibility to protect the area.



Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the suggested boundary?

- The State Government's recommended boundary (see map) includes Ningaloo Marine Park (including the Commonwealth waters of Ningaloo Marine Park), Cape Range National Park, Bundegi and Jurabi coastal parks, the Ningaloo coast and Exmouth Gulf pastoral lease 2015 exclusions, all of Ningaloo pastoral lease, and the Defence bombing range on North West Cape.

2. Why was this boundary recommended?

- To secure broad support of the community and stakeholders;
- To strengthen the nomination by focusing on the most outstanding natural values;
- To meet State Government election policy commitments; and
- To secure the support and involvement of the Commonwealth Government.

3. What will change if listing is supported by the Commonwealth Government?

- Very little will change. The areas currently managed or proposed to be managed by the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) will continue to be managed by DEC. Management arrangements will focus on protecting natural and cultural values and providing commercial, tourism and recreational opportunities.

4. Why have the 2015 pastoral lease exclusions and Ningaloo Station been included in the conservation estate?

- In February 1976, the then State Government endorsed all of the recommendations of the 1975 Environmental Protection Authority's report into

Conservation Reserves in a number of areas of the State, including the North West Cape. Recommendations relevant to this area were:

9.2.1 Cape Range National Park be extended;

9.3.3 No proposal to develop any part of coastal areas up to two kilometres inland from the high water mark lying within the boundaries of the Ningaloo, Cardabia and Warroora pastoral leases be approved without the concurrence of the National Parks Board and the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife;

9.3.4 The Department of Lands and Surveys be requested that attempts be made to buy Ningaloo Station should it come on the market, thus facilitating the reservation of the land as an A-class reserve for the purpose of 'National Parks' vested in the National Parks Board otherwise the land be reserved when the lease expires, in which case it is assumed that the lessee would be paid the value of the improvements on the land.

- Successive State Governments have demonstrated good faith in pursuing such an important environmental and public benefit outcome identified so long ago. More recently the Legislative Council Select Committee on Cape Range and Ningaloo Marine Park (1995) strongly supported this approach.

5. Why is the eastern portion of the Exmouth Gulf pastoral lease 2015 exclusions not included within the proposed boundary?

- The Exmouth Gulf pastoral lease includes important parts of the Cape Range which are earmarked for addition to the conservation estate. However, the eastern portion of the Exmouth Gulf 2015 exclusions includes high value limestone resources identified for future industry requirements. The boundary excludes this limestone resource.

6. Why are Jurabi and Bundegi coastal parks in the proposed boundary?

- These parks are jointly vested and managed by the Shire of Exmouth and DEC. Their inclusion in the boundary for World Heritage listing recognises the values of these coastal parks, their significance to conservation and their contribution to public recreation.
- The World Heritage listing will not change this arrangement but it will increase recognition of the area at a national and international level, further enhancing the shire's profile and the local economy.

7. The State Government needs to properly resource the management of a World Heritage Area before a nomination is made. What will the Government do?

- An additional \$2.3 million a year has been allocated to DEC and the Department of Fisheries for management activities in the marine park.





- The requirement for additional funds for the management of the terrestrial coastal strip will be considered as and when those lands become part of the conservation estate.
- The funding of Cape Range National Park and the Bundegi and Jurabi coastal parks on North West Cape is adequate to meet the management requirements of a successful World Heritage nomination.

8. Does World Heritage listing affect ownership or control?

- World Heritage listing does not affect ownership or control – ownership remains as it was before nomination and State and local laws still apply. World Heritage properties in Australia do not become Commonwealth property, nor does ownership of these World Heritage properties pass to any international organisation.
- The Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* will apply to the property. Development proposals that may significantly affect the World Heritage values would be assessed by the WA Environmental Protection Authority on behalf of the State in accordance with an existing assessment bilateral agreement on the property with the Commonwealth Government.

9. Will World Heritage listing limit the range of activities that can be carried out on a property?

- World Heritage listing does not necessarily limit the range of activities that can be carried out on a property. For example, pastoral activities, commercial and recreational fishing and basic resource extraction occur in a number of World Heritage properties. In most properties, activities associated with tourism have increased substantially since listing.

10. How will the World Heritage property be managed?

- Australia's World Heritage properties comprise a wide variety of land tenures including freehold, perpetual lease, pastoral lease, town reserve, State forest, national park, nature reserve, Aboriginal land and recreational reserve. The proposed North West Cape-Ningaloo World Heritage property includes a mix of Commonwealth and State lands and waters.
- The State lands and waters will be managed by DEC with advice being provided by a community consultative committee.
- The Commonwealth waters will remain under Commonwealth control and be managed by the State under agreement.
- An essential requirement for each World Heritage property is that a management plan be developed. Management plans already exist for Ningaloo Marine Park, Cape Range National Park and Jurabi and Bundegi coastal parks.
- The primary management objectives for World Heritage properties under the World Heritage Convention are:
 - to protect, conserve and present the World Heritage values of the property;
 - to integrate the protection of the area into a comprehensive planning program;
 - to give the property a function in the life of the Australian community;
 - to strengthen appreciation of and respect for the property's World Heritage values, particularly through educational and information programs;
 - to keep the community broadly informed about the condition of the World Heritage values of the property; and
 - to take appropriate scientific, technical, legal, administrative and financial measures necessary for achieving the foregoing objectives.

In achieving the objectives, due regard is given to:

- providing essential services to communities within and next to the property; and
- involving the local community in the planning and management of a property.

Where can I find more information?

- The World Heritage Consultative Committee's report is available on DEC's website at www.naturebase.net
- Visit the Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Water Resources website at www.environment.gov.au/heritage

