

FIELD PROGRAM REPORT

Community information sessions for marine parks and reserves planning in the Pilbara and Eighty Mile Beach regions

**Prepared by
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4 April 2008

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Marine Policy and Planning Branch (MPPB) of the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) will conduct community information sessions in Perth, Broome, Eighty Mile Beach, Port Hedland, Karratha and Onslow during April 2008. These community information sessions are being conducted to raise awareness in communities of a marine parks and reserves planning project in their area and to obtain information from communities about their area of interest and how they would like to be involved in the planning process.

This field program is being conducted as part of a broader project to expand the marine parks and reserves system in the Pilbara and Eighty Mile Beach (PEMB) regions. The information obtained during this field trip will be used to inform MPPB staff on local values, issues, opinions, knowledge and uses of the PEMB study areas, which in turn will be used to assist in targeting the PEMB community education program and be used to assist in planning for new marine parks and reserves in the region.

This field program report outlines the objectives, methods, field program management and data management for the field trip and to ensure that departmental protocols on occupational health and safety as well as government spending are adhered to.

This field program is being coordinated by the MPPB in liaison with DEC's Pilbara Region and West Kimberley District.

This report may be cited as:

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1 INTRODUCTION

This field program report outlines the objectives, methods, field program management and data management for a field trip to Broome, Eighty Mile Beach, Port Hedland, Karratha and Onslow and to ensure that departmental protocols on occupational health and safety as well as government spending are adhered to.

This field trip is part of the project to expand the marine parks and reserves system in Pilbara and Eighty Mile Beach (PEMB) regions.

The information obtained during this field trip will be used to inform MPPB staff on local values, issues, opinions, knowledge and uses of the PEMB study areas, which in turn will be used to assist in targeting the PEMB community education program and be used to assist in planning for new marine parks and reserves in the region.

This field program is being coordinated by the Marine Policy and Planning Branch of the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC). The project leader is Judy Davidson and the field team leader is Leanne Thompson who act under direction of John Lloyd, Principle Marine Planner.

1.1 BACKGROUND

The State Government is committed to the establishment of a world-class system of marine parks and reserves in Western Australia that is comprehensive, adequate and representative. Several areas in the Pilbara region were identified as priority areas for reservation by the Marine Parks and Reserves Selection Working Group (MPRSWG) which was tasked with identifying candidate areas for marine reservation. The MPRSWG report was released in 1994.

In addition to these areas being highlighted as a priority for reservation by the MPRSWG, on 12 December 2006 the State Government announced its commitment to the rapid expansion of the terrestrial and marine reserves system in the PEMB regions, subject to established planning and approvals processes under the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (CALM Act). These new reserves are intended to improve protection for the marine biodiversity and provide additional protection for marine turtles (in particular flatback turtles) to the maximum extent possible. This Government decision was part of the consideration of environmental mitigation and offset measures associated with the proposed Gorgon Gas Development on Barrow Island Nature Reserve.

Before new marine parks and reserves can be established there is a requirement for:

“Extensive assessment, community consultation and management planning ...” An essential component of this is:

“A comprehensive assessment of the area’s biological and economic resources, and social values is carried out.” (Western Australian Government, 1998)

In view of the high conservation value of the priority areas identified in the PEMB regions by the MPRSWG and the Cabinet decision of 2006, DEC has undertaken a rapid resource assessment of the ecological and socio-economic values in the region to provide the necessary information for selection and design of new marine parks and reserves in the region. One part of this is the collation of community views, issues and local knowledge of these priority areas. The community information sessions will contribute to the collation of

this information for use in the planning process as well as creating awareness in the community about the marine parks and reserves planning process in their area ensuring a smoother transition into a more comprehensive community-based planning process.

2 OBJECTIVES

The primary objective of the field program is:

- to raise awareness within communities about the project; and
- provide a forum for individuals to find out how to be involved in the planning process.

A secondary objective is:

- to source information from stakeholders about their level of knowledge of the marine environment and marine parks and reserves, their issues and opinions as well as any biological and social values of the study areas.

This information is useful in targeting the education program and in identifying issues for possible consideration in the planning process. Local knowledge is a key aspect of this data collection, which is not well recorded in literature.

3 METHODS

Community information sessions will be held at the following venues, dates and times:

- **Perth - Thursday 10 April 6-9 pm**
DEC State Operations
17 Dick Perry Avenue
Technology Park, Western Precinct, Kensington
- **Broome - Monday 14 April 4-7 pm**
Recreation and Aquatic Centre, Multi-purpose Room
Cable Beach Road, Broome
- **Eighty Mile Beach - Tuesday 15 April 4.30-7.30 pm**
Eighty Mile Beach Caravan Park
Great Northern Highway
- **Port Hedland - Wednesday 16 April 4-7 pm**
Gratwick Hall, Civic Centre
McGregor St, Port Hedland
- **Karratha - Thursday 17 April 5-8 pm**
Welcome Lotteries House
7 Morse Court, Karratha
- **Onslow - Friday 18 April 4-7 pm**
Shire Hall (R.M. Forrest Memorial Hall)
Second Avenue, Onslow

The community information sessions will be conducted by three DEC staff each with a role outlined below:

1. Person 1 will hand out pamphlets and information to interested people and be available for questions.
2. Person 2 will be available for questions and will conduct the survey by interviewing interested people.
3. Person 3 will be available for questions and will help facilitate the transfer of people's knowledge to maps or in note-book form. Person 3 will also be responsible for recording the number of people attending the information session (total number).

Copies of the pamphlets and information are at Appendix I. Copies of the survey is at Appendix II. Protocols for the community information sessions are at Appendix III.

These roles are flexible and staff will need to respond to the needs of the community members present. DEC staff should note the primary objective is raising awareness of the project and allowing people to get more information. This should be the focus of staff's time during the session. The secondary objective of obtaining information from people should only be undertaken with interested people and only if time is available. For example, if 20 people show up at a time everyone will assume the role of Person 1 to disseminate information and ensure everyone has the opportunity to ask questions of a DEC officer. Once this has happened, two staff will assume the role of Persons 2 & 3 to complete the secondary objective.

Each day prior to the community information session DEC staff will visit local businesses to drop off pamphlets and to speak to interested people. Fishing tackle stores, dive shops and tourism outlets will be particularly targeted. This will assist in advertising the information sessions and allow the survey form to be filled out prior to the information session. This time may also be used to meet with local DEC and DoF staff as well as local council staff.

3.1 ADVERTISEMENT

Community information sessions will be advertised in statewide and local newspapers, specifically:

- The West Australian – 9 April
- Broome Advertiser – 3 & 10 April
- North West Telegraph – 2 & 9 April
- Pilbara News – 9 & 16 April
- Onslow Times – 21 March

A flyer will be distributed via email to people registered on the contacts database that have given their email addresses. It will also be distributed to members of the IWG for distribution to their members. The flyer will also be put on notice boards in the local area including:

- Broome, Port Hedland, Karratha and Onslow shopping centres.
- DEC & DoF offices at Broome and Karratha.
- Local shire offices at Broome, Port Hedland and Karratha.
- The Eighty Mile Beach Caravan Park.
- Other tourism outlets in town if agreed.

3.2 EQUIPMENT

Table 1 provides a list of equipment to be taken on the field trip and who is responsible for bringing, maintaining and returning it.

Table 1: Equipment list

Equipment List	Sourced from	Responsibility
Display banners x 3, incl carry case and poles.	MPPB	Matt Fossey
Expandable display board x 2	John Hunter	Leanne Thompson
Tables x 3	Venue	N/A
Canon digital camera, batteries, carry case and lens	MPPB	Leanne Thompson
Laptop & accessories	MPPB - Judy	Judy Davidson
Flyer	MPPB	Leanne Thompson
Fact sheets	MPPB	Leanne Thompson
Survey forms in arch lever	MPPB	Judy Davidson
PEMB pamphlets	MPPB	Judy Davidson
Posters in tube – One laminated copy of each poster	MPPB	Leanne Thompson
Maps in tube – One large study area map, 3 copies of each	MPPB	Judy Davidson

small study area map		
Give-aways – bags, stickers, key rings, book marks	MPPB	Matt Fossey
Pens, pencils, highlighters, marker pens, post-it-notes, blue tac, sticky tape, note pads, Velcro strips, bull-dog clips, stapler, hole punch	MPPB	Matt Fossey
Work mobile phone	MPPB	Leanne Thompson
Personal note pads	MPPB	Everyone
Suncream & insect repellent	MPPB	Matt Fossey
Personal hat, sunglasses, clothing, shoes, toiletries.	NA	Everyone

4 FIELD PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

4.1 PERSONNEL

Table 2 provides details of staff attending the field trip.

Table 2: Staff attending the field trip

Name *	Position on trip	Contact details Perth	Contact details away
Leanne Thompson	Field Trip Leader	Mobile (pers): 0418 768 273	Mobile: 0438 008 850
Judy Davidson	Member	Mobile (pers): 0438 139 354	As above
Matt Fossey	Member	Mobile (pers): 0413 496 812	As above
John Lloyd	Observer/Member (Onslow only)	Mobile: 0417 182 570	Mobile: 0417 182 570
Marc Wohling	Observer/Member (Onslow only)	Mobile: 0438 531 621	As above
Alan Byrne	Regional Observer (Broome & EMB only)	Mobile: 0417 952 962	Mobile: 0417 952 962

* The following name abbreviations are used in this report: Leanne – LTH, Judy – JDA, Matt – MFO, John – JLL, Marc - MWO

4.2 ITINERARY

Table 3 provides an itinerary for the field trip.

Table 3: Itinerary for the field trip

Date	Approx. Time	Activity & Accommodation	Personnel
Thursday 10 April	4:30-6pm 6-9pm	Set up for CIS, DEC State Operations. Perth CIS	LTH, JDA, MFO
Friday 11 April	5:30pm	Fly to Broome (Matt only)	MFO
Monday 14 April	6-8:30am 3-4:00pm 4:00-7:00pm	Fly to Broome (Skywest 45). Pick up Budget hire car from airport (Res # 16210102AU6) Set up for CIS, Recreation and Aquatic Centre Cable Beach Road Tel 9193 7677 <u>Security:</u> The Rec centre will be open during the info session and arrangements for keys/security are not required. Broome CIS Accommodation: The Mangrove Hotel 47 Carnarvon Street, 9192 1303 Reservation numbers 199671-2 and 199887 (MF)	LTH, JDA, MFO

Tuesday 15 April	9am-1:00pm 3-4:30pm 4:30-7:30pm	Drive Broome to Eighty Mile Beach Meet with Col & Jo Lewis and set up for CIS <u>Security:</u> An appropriate location will need to be determined upon arrival and in consultation with Jo and Col. Eighty Mile Beach CIS Accommodation: 80 Mile Beach Caravan Park Tel 9176 5941 2x cabins	LTH, JDA, MFO
Wednesday 16 April	9am-11:30am 2:30pm-4pm 4-7pm	Drive EMB to Port Hedland Set up for CIS Gratwick Hall, 9158 9300 Civic Centre, McGregor St <u>Security:</u> Need to pick up the key on the day from the Council office. A \$50 bond has already been paid for the key. At the end of the CIS, put key in the drop box at the hall. When we pick up the key, council staff will walk us through how to turn the alarm on and off. Port Hedland CIS Accommodation: Judy & Leanne - Best Western Hospitality Inn Webster St, ph: (08) 9173 1044 Matt - All Seasons Cnr Lukis & McGregor St, 9173 1511 Reservation # 51852	LTH, JDA, MFO
Thursday 17 April	9am-12pm 16:30-5pm 5-8pm - 20.00	Drive Port Hedland to Karratha Set up for CIS Welcome Lotteries House 9144 4366 7 Morse Court, Karratha <u>Security:</u> Need to pick up the key between 12 and 2.30 on the day to pick up the key Linda. Karratha CIS Accommodation: Judy & Leanne - All Seasons Searipple Rd, 9159 1000 Reservation #: 50295-96 Matt - Best Western Karratha 27 Warambie Road, 9143 9888 Reservation #: 253031	LTH, JDA, MFO

Friday 18 April	8.30am	Drop Matt and Leanne at airport (QF1909 depart 9.30 arrive Perth 11.30)	LTH, MFO
	9am–12pm	Drive Karratha to Onslow	JDA, MWO, JLL
	2:30pm–4pm	Set up for CIS Shire Hall (R.M. Forrest Memorial Hall) Tel 9184 6001 Second Avenue, Onslow <u>Security</u> : Need to pick up the key on the day from Lynette Godfrey at the Council office. She will make arrangements to pick up the key.	
	4pm–7pm	Onslow CIS Accommodation: Onslow Mackerel Motel Tel: 9184 6586 Cnr Second Ave & Third St Need to book dinner: Nikki's – 9184 6121	
Saturday 19 April	10am-1pm	Drive from Onslow to Karratha	JDA, JLL, MWO
	2pm-5pm	Write up CIS notes	
	5:05pm-7:05pm	QF1915 Karratha to Perth	

4.3 SAFETY

Field operations shall be carried out in accordance with departmental procedures and protocols. All staff are responsible for the safety of themselves and other team members. Overall responsibility for field procedures during this field trip and the personal safety of all team members rests with the Field Team Leader, Leanne Thompson.

The following potential hazards or risks have been identified:

- sun burn
- heat stroke/stress
- pre-existing illness or injury
- lifting (no heavy lifting) e.g. boxes of pamphlets, laptop, maps, displays
- driving

These potential hazards or risks will be prevented by:

- Sun cream will be available and all staff are reminded of their own responsibilities in wearing sun cream, hat, sunglasses and appropriate clothing.
- Drinking water (enough appropriate to climate and activities) will be made available to each staff member during the field trip. Staff are reminded of their own responsibilities in re-hydrating themselves after activity. All cars will carry water in case of emergencies.
- All pre-existing injuries or illnesses will be brought to the attention of the Team Leader or Supervisor to discuss any issues and preventative measures.
- No heavy lifting will be required, however staff are reminded to lift equipment appropriately i.e. bend the knees, no twisting.
- Driving will be shared to ensure driver fatigue is avoided.

As a precaution, all meeting will be conducted with a minimum of two people.

4.4 COMMUNICATIONS & EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Emergency contacts list:

- Team Leader mobile – 0438 008 850
- Accommodation reception:
 - Broome - 91921303
 - Eighty Mile Beach - 91765941
 - Port Hedland - 91731511
 - Karratha - 91591000
 - Onslow - 91846586
- Local DEC District office:
 - Broome – 91955500
 - Karratha - 91822000
- Local police:
 - Broome – 9194 0200
 - Port Hedland – 9173 1444
 - Karratha – 9144 2233
 - Onslow – 9184 6000
- Local hospital:
 - Broome – 9194 2222
 - Port Hedland – 9158 1666
 - Karratha – 9143 2333
 - Onslow – 9184 3200
- MPPB Reception - 93360100

The Team Leader will be contactable at all times (except when out of mobile phone range) on the above mobile number. The Team Leader will contact MPPB and the local DEC office every day at 12:30pm (or when possible) to confirm the itinerary and collect any messages.

4.5 BUDGET

Table 5 provides budget details for the field trip.

Table 5: Budget for the field trip

Item	Details	MPPB Budget (\$)	Other Budget (\$)	Total (\$)
Airfares	3 x Perth to Broome	\$1829		\$1829
Car hire	1 x sm 4WD (station wagon unavail)	\$1200		\$1200
Fuel		\$500		\$500
Accommodation	3x 6 nights	\$2538		\$2538
Food	\$82/person/day	\$1500		\$1500
Hall hire		\$650		\$650
		\$8217		\$8217

4.6 MEDIA

No media has been arranged, except the advertisement of the information sessions in statewide and local newspapers as outlined in section 3.1.

During the field trip all media is to be direct to Peter Dans, Branch Manager who will seek approval from DEC's Strategic Development & Corporate Affairs. Only when approval is obtained can the Team Leader or Project Leader or Principle Marine Planner give media presentations or interviews.

5 DATA MANAGEMENT

5.1 FIELD PROGRAM REPORT

Hard copies of this field program report will be held at DEC's:

1. Marine Policy & Planning Branch, Suite 3, Level 3 Queensgate Building, 10 William St. Fremantle, WA 6160. Ph: 9336 0110 Fax: 9450 5408.
2. Karratha Region, Lot 3 Anderson Road, Karratha Industrial Estate, Karratha, WA 6714. Ph: 9182 2000 Fax: 9144 118.
3. West Kimberley District, 111 Herbert St. Broome, WA 6725. Ph: 9195 5500 Fax: 9193 5027.
4. Science Library, Wildlife Place, Woodvale, WA 6026. Ph: 94055100 Fax: 9306 1641.

A digital copy will be located on the MPPB server and full backup tape.

5.2 DATA

The information obtained during this field trip will be used to inform MPPB staff on local values, issues, opinions, knowledge and uses of the PEMB study areas, which in turn will be used to assist in targeting the PEMB community education program and be used to assist in planning for new marine parks and reserves in the region.

The data will be summarised into a report which will be stored at the above locations. Aspects of the report may be presented to the Interagency Working Group, Marine Parks and Reserves Authority and used in developing education products and the planning process.

6 REFERENCES

Government of Western Australia (1998) *New Horizons the way ahead in marine conservation and management*. Department of Conservation and Land Management. Perth, Western Australia

Marine Parks and Reserves Selection Working Group (1994) *A representative marine reserve system for Western Australia*. Department of Conservation and Land Management. Perth, Western Australia.

APPENDIX I: COPIES OF THE PAMPHLETS AND INFORMATION FOR USE IN THE COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSIONS

Multiple objectives

WA's marine parks and reserves cater for a range of uses. The project to expand the marine parks and reserves system in the Pilbara and Eighty Mile Beach regions aims to:

- better protect marine biodiversity, threatened marine wildlife (such as turtles), habitats of special significance (such as mangroves, seagrass and coral reefs) and unique areas (such as spawning sites and cultural sites);
- consider environmental impacts of existing/proposed developments particularly in and adjacent to existing reserves in the region (such as Barrow Island Nature Reserve, Montebello Islands Marine Park, Barrow Island Marine Park, Barrow Island Marine Management Area, proposed Dampier Archipelago Marine Park and proposed Regnard Marine Management Area);
- develop opportunities and linkages for the local community (such as future management arrangements with Indigenous people and benefits for local businesses, industry and tourism ventures);
- minimise the impacts of new marine parks and reserves on commercial and recreational uses (such as recreational and commercial fishing, aquaculture and industry).

Have your say!

- Place your name on DEC's contacts database if you would like to be involved in the process and receive updates during the planning process.
- DEC will meet with stakeholders to seek feedback on issues and aspirations and identify the location of human activities (such as fishing and dive sites, commercial fishing areas and proposed industrial developments).
- Workshops will be held in major towns, with local Indigenous communities and in Perth so stakeholders and community members can have input into the process.
- You can find information about the project at www.naturebase.net/pilbara80mile. The 'Latest News' and 'Have Your Say' sections will be updated regularly.
- When an indicative management plan (with proposed reserve types, location and zoning) has been prepared and approved by relevant Government Ministers, there will be a three-month public submission period to provide opportunity to comment.

Pilbara and Eighty Mile Beach

Multiple objectives, one marine planning process



Department of Environment and Conservation:

Marine Policy and Planning Branch
Suite 3, Level 3, Queensgate Building
10 William Street

Fremantle WA 6160

Phone (08) 9336 0100

Email: pemb@dec.wa.gov.au

www.naturebase.net/pilbara80mile

West Kimberley District Office

111 Herbert St, Broome WA 6725

Phone (08) 9195 5500

Pilbara Regional Office

Mardie Road

Karratha Industrial Estate

Karratha WA 6714

Phone (08) 9182 2000

The human 'footprint' in the Pilbara and lower west Kimberley marine environment is growing and there is a need for more integrated marine planning and management to keep our marine environment in excellent condition.

The State Government is expanding the marine parks and reserves system in the Pilbara and Eighty Mile Beach regions. This is part of its commitment to establish a world-class system in Western Australia that meets criteria of comprehensiveness, adequacy and representativeness, and protects special marine ecosystems.



Department of
Environment and Conservation

Our environment, our future

Pilbara and Eighty Mile Beach Study Areas

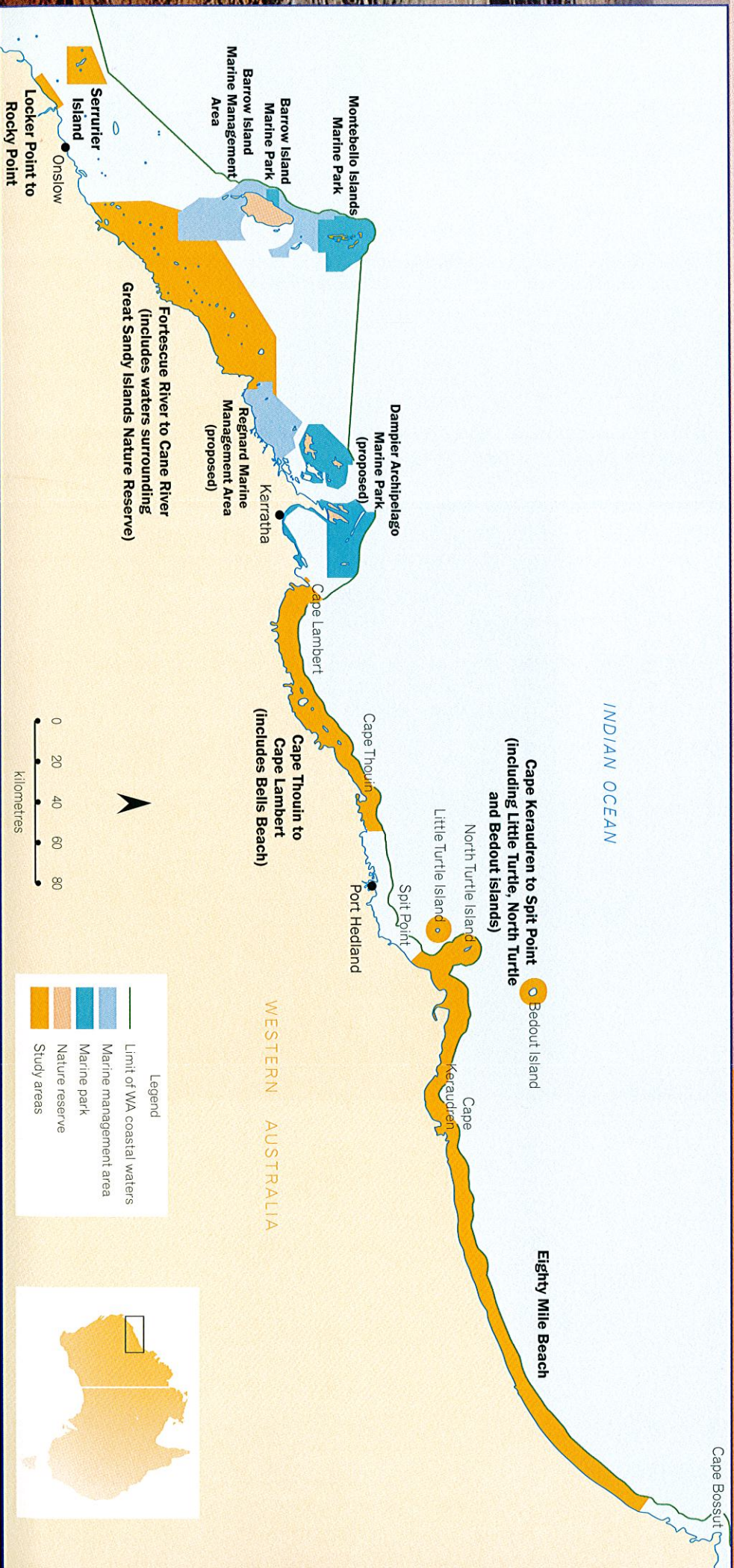
Six study areas have been nominated (see map) from within which marine parks and reserves will be identified. Extensive community and stakeholder consultation will be undertaken before any reserve boundaries are proposed within the study areas.

A Government Interagency Working Group has been established to develop the proposal and includes staff from:

- Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) — coordinator;
- Department of Fisheries;
- Department for Planning and Infrastructure;
- Department of Industry and Resources;

- Western Australian Museum;
- Department of Indigenous Affairs;
- Office of Native Title;
- Tourism Western Australia.

To ensure the process of identifying appropriate marine park and reserve boundaries is scientifically rigorous and to allow a thorough analysis of options, DEC and the Interagency Working Group will use a systematic reserve planning approach and may seek advice from an independent scientific panel in developing principles to guide planning for marine parks and reserves in the region.



The Pilbara and Eighty Mile Beach area is a unique and diverse coast that supports mangroves, coral reefs, sponge gardens, seagrass meadows, seaweed beds, barrier and offshore islands, protected lagoons, deltas, rocky shores and sandy beaches inhabited by marine turtles, dugongs, whales, dolphins, seabirds, fish and colourful invertebrates.

The region supports growing mining and petroleum industries, commercial fishing, aquaculture and pearling and many recreational uses such as nature appreciation, boating, fishing, diving and four-wheel driving. The area has many cultural sites of importance to Indigenous people such as traditional living areas, sacred sites and rock art galleries.

Marine parks and reserves for the Pilbara and lower west Kimberley

The Pilbara and Eighty Mile Beach is a unique and diverse area. It contains a number of important marine habitats such as significant mangroves, coral reefs, seagrass meadows and sponge gardens which support marine turtles, dugongs, whales, dolphins, seabirds, fish and many colourful invertebrate species.

The Pilbara and Eighty Mile Beach coast and sea is special.

- It is home to **threatened and vulnerable species** such as flatback turtles that are only found in northern Australia.
- It has **unique areas** such as the longest uninterrupted stretch of beach in Western Australia (Eighty Mile Beach), which is a key feeding ground for more than 500,000 migratory shorebirds. Eighty Mile Beach is also an internationally listed wetland.
- It supports **habitats of special significance** such as mangroves, which are important nutrient sources for the adjacent marine environment and act as nursery areas for many species.
- It is **used by many people** for food, income and enjoyment.

What is the Western Australian Government proposing for the Pilbara and Eighty Mile Beach?

The State Government has started a planning process to establish new marine parks and reserves in the Pilbara and Eighty Mile Beach regions. It has listed six study areas in which marine parks and reserves may be identified. The Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) and the Interagency Working Group will consult with the community on proposed management arrangements.

In developing these arrangements, the State Government will work with the community to design reserves that maximise benefits to the community and achieve conservation goals. Receiving accurate information about the location of your activities (such as favourite fishing and diving locations) will be very important.

What is the Interagency Working Group?

The Interagency Working Group with representatives of key State Government agencies has been established to help plan new marine parks and reserves. These agencies are committed to working together in developing a plan to protect the marine environment and manage human uses in an equitable and sustainable manner.

Will there be sanctuary (no-take) zones?

Yes, sanctuary zones or no-take areas are very important to ensure long-term sustainability of our marine environment. The location and size of sanctuary zones will be considered during the planning process. When developing zone boundaries and management arrangements, DEC and



the Interagency Working Group will aim to maximise benefits to the community (e.g. sustainable fishing, tourism and industry) and achieve conservation goals.

How can I take part in the planning process?

The community can take part in the planning process through:

- **Local Reference Groups** – these groups will comprise local community members and be established in major towns adjacent to the proposed reserves. They will meet at key stages during the planning process to comment on the management options developed by the Interagency Working Group.
- **Peak body consultation** – these groups will be kept informed throughout the planning process. They will also have the option of forming a 'consultation group' to help in developing an understanding of their sector activities and comment on management options developed by the Interagency Working Group.
- **Interest groups** – interested groups or individuals may register their interest in receiving regular updates on the project. These groups can organise their own feedback to DEC where appropriate.
- **General community consultation** – the community can obtain information and participate in the process by:
 - attending community information sessions which will be held at key stages in towns in the region;
 - visiting DEC's *NatureBase* website (www.naturebase.net/pilbara80mile);
 - joining DEC's contacts database to receive regular email updates; and
 - writing a submission to DEC once Government has released the indicative management plan for the statutory three month public comment period.

An engagement program is also being developed to ensure effective partnerships are formed with Indigenous groups.

For further information contact DEC
Marine Policy and Planning Branch: 9336 0100
Broome office: 9195 5500 Karratha office: 9182 2000
Email: pemb@dec.wa.gov.au www.naturebase.net/pilbara80mile



Marine parks and reserves in Western Australia

Our coastline spans more than 13,500 kilometres and is home to some remarkable ecosystems and marine wildlife, including majestic whale sharks, humpback whales, several threatened species of marine turtles, sea lions and fur seals, leafy seadragons, little penguins and the world's longest fringing reef in Ningaloo Marine Park. Many of Western Australia's marine plants and animals are found nowhere else in the world.

Marine recreation and tourism are very important in this State. Activities such as scuba diving, wildlife viewing, swimming and boating are very popular and surveys indicate that at least 500,000 Western Australians enjoy recreational fishing. Tourism is extremely important to regional and local economies. For example, tourism associated with whale shark viewing in the Ningaloo Marine Park generates an estimated \$12 million of expenditure each year. Other commercial uses, including fishing, aquaculture and pearling, shipping, petroleum and mining are also very important to the State.

With increased use of our marine environment and resources, careful and responsible management is required and all interests need to be considered when creating and implementing marine parks and reserves.

What are marine parks and reserves?

The Western Australian Government is committed to developing a world-class system of multiple-use marine parks and reserves. Marine parks and reserves cover about 12 per cent of State waters.

Multiple-use marine parks and reserves balance conservation of the marine environment with the use of marine resources. By managing the wide variety of activities that occur in the sea, marine park and reserve managers help to ensure that our marine habitats and wildlife remain healthy. This makes the areas more resilient and better able to withstand and recover from increasing pressures such as pollution, fishing, mining and development, disease and climate change so that present and future generations can enjoy the environmental, social and economic benefits provided by marine parks and reserves.

There are three types of marine parks and reserves in Western Australia: marine parks, marine nature reserves and marine management areas.

Marine parks protect natural features and aesthetic values while enabling recreational and commercial uses that do not compromise conservation values. Western Australia has nine marine parks, and three more will be established in the near future. Within marine parks there may be four types of management zones:

- **Sanctuary zones** are 'look but don't take' areas managed solely for nature conservation and passive, non-extractive recreation and tourism, scientific study and education and nature appreciation.
- **Recreation zones** provide for conservation and recreation, including recreational fishing.



- **Special purpose zones** are managed for a particular use or issue, such as protection of habitat or nursery grounds, seasonal events such as whale watching or a particular type of priority activity such as aquaculture. Commercial and recreational activity may be allowed if it is compatible with the primary purpose of a special purpose zone.
- **General use zones** are managed to conserve natural values while allowing such activities as sustainable commercial and recreational fishing, aquaculture and pearling, and petroleum exploration and production where they do not compromise the conservation objectives of the marine park. This zone forms the bulk of most marine parks.

Marine nature reserves are created for conservation and scientific research. These areas are no-take areas and nature appreciation and scientific study are the primary uses. Hamelin Pool Marine Nature Reserve at Shark Bay is the only marine nature reserve in WA.

Marine management areas are created over areas that have both high conservation values and intensive multiple-use. There are two marine management areas in WA (at the Muiron Islands and Barrow Island), with another proposed at Regnard (near Dampier).

Why are marine parks zoned?

Zoning is an important management tool for achieving conservation outcomes, through the management of recreational and commercial uses. While a range of activities are permitted in multiple-use marine reserves, not all activities are appropriate in all areas. A zoning scheme helps minimise conflict between incompatible activities such as industry development and nature appreciation.

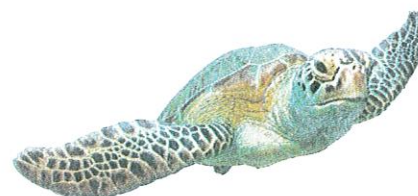
What do marine parks and reserves mean for you and your family?

You are very welcome to swim, dive, snorkel and enjoy passive, low-impact activities throughout all marine parks and reserves. However, to protect specific areas there are some restrictions on extractive activities such as fishing, particularly in sanctuary zones and other 'no-take' areas. In most cases (with the exception of Barrow Island Marine Park and Hamelin Pool Marine Nature Reserve), fishing is still permitted in the majority of the marine park or reserve. Including no-take areas in marine parks and reserves helps to ensure that future generations can see the same range of marine plants and animals and undertake similar activities in these areas that we do today.

What is the process to declare marine parks and reserves?

The process to declare marine parks and reserves are outlined in the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (CALM Act). The CALM Act requires that an indicative management plan be prepared and public consultation conducted before a marine park or reserve is formally created. DEC facilitates the development of the plan on behalf of the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority and the State Government. A public submission period of at least three months is required and the submissions are reviewed to assist in finalising the plan. At key stages in the planning process the support of the Minister for Fisheries and the Minister for Resources is required to ensure that fishing and industry related issues are adequately considered.

For further information contact DEC
 Marine Policy and Planning Branch: 9336 0100
 Broome office: 9195 5500 Karratha office: 9182 2000
 Email: pemb@dec.wa.gov.au www.naturebase.net/pilbara80mile



THE PLANNING PROCESS

The planning process for new marine parks and reserves in the Pilbara and Eighty Mile Beach regions has a number of key stages:

Resource assessment
and data gathering

Data on the marine environment and socio-economic values are gathered. The views and aspirations of Indigenous people, the broader community and stakeholders are collated during community information sessions and meetings.

Set reserve design
principles and criteria

Government will develop principles and criteria for identifying and designing marine parks and reserves. Community views and aspirations will be incorporated into these principles and criteria. Government will identify broad proposed locations for marine parks and reserves.

Develop an indicative
management plan

Government will work with the community to develop an indicative management plan. The plan will outline the proposed reserve types, vision, objectives, strategies and zoning. During this stage, there are five ways the community can have input:

- Indigenous partnerships;
- local reference groups;
- peak body consultation groups;
- interest groups; and
- general community consultation.

Plan is released for
public comment

Following the approval of the Minister for Fisheries and the Minister for Resources, the indicative management plan will be released for public comment for a period of three months. Everyone is encouraged to provide input by making a submission.

Review public comments
and amend plan

Government and the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority will consider the public comments and may recommend amendments to the indicative management plan based on community and stakeholder input.

Approvals and
reserve establishment

Approval must again be sought from the Minister for Fisheries and the Minister for Resources to create new marine parks and reserves. Reserves can then be created and a management plan finalised.

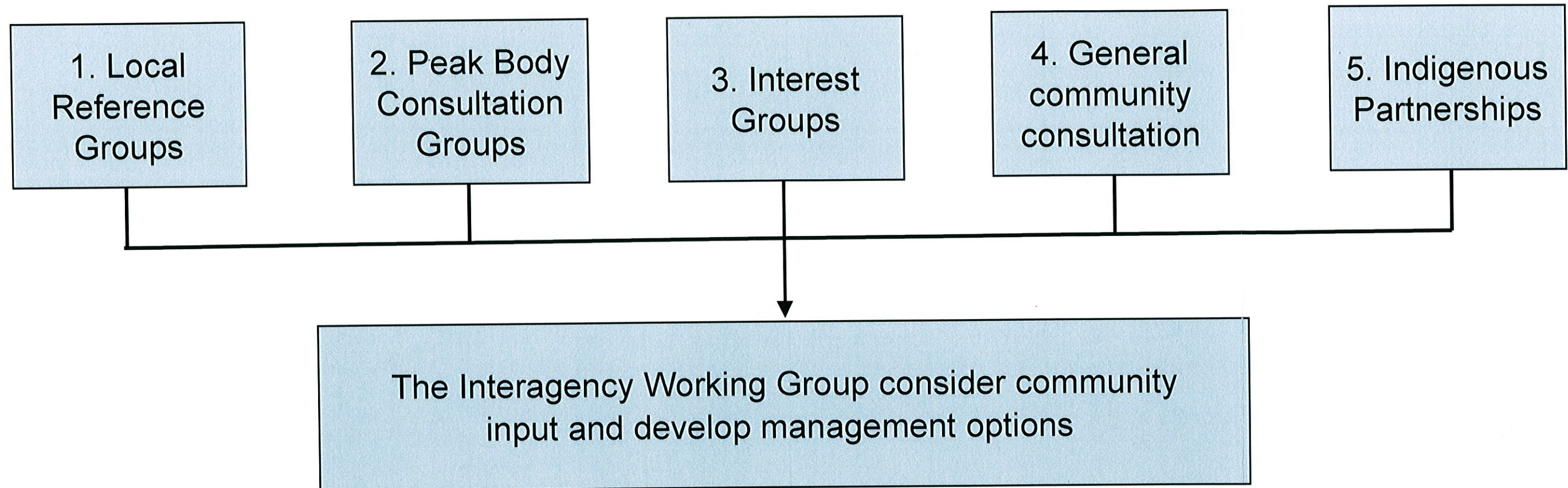
For more information contact: Department of Environment and Conservation
Marine Policy and Planning Branch: 9336 0100
West Kimberley District Office: 9195 5500
Pilbara Region Office: 9182 2000
Email: pemb@dec.wa.gov.au
www.naturebase.net/pilbara80mile



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COMMUNITY INPUT DURING DEVELOPMENT OF AN INDICATIVE MANAGEMENT PLAN

There are five ways that community members can engage in the planning process:



1. Local Reference Groups will comprise local community members and be established in major towns adjacent to proposed reserves. They will meet at key stages to comment on management options developed by the Interagency Working Group.
2. Peak bodies have the option of forming a 'consultation group'. These groups will be kept regularly informed and shall assist in developing an understanding of their sector activities, as well as commenting on management options.
3. Groups or individuals may register their interest in receiving regular updates on the project. Interest groups can organise their own feedback to DEC and the Interagency Working Group where appropriate.
4. Community members can also be kept informed by: attending community information sessions at key stages; registering with DEC for regular e-mail updates; visiting DEC's *NatureBase* website; and providing comment once the indicative management plan is released.
5. An engagement program is being developed to ensure effective partnerships are formed with Indigenous groups.

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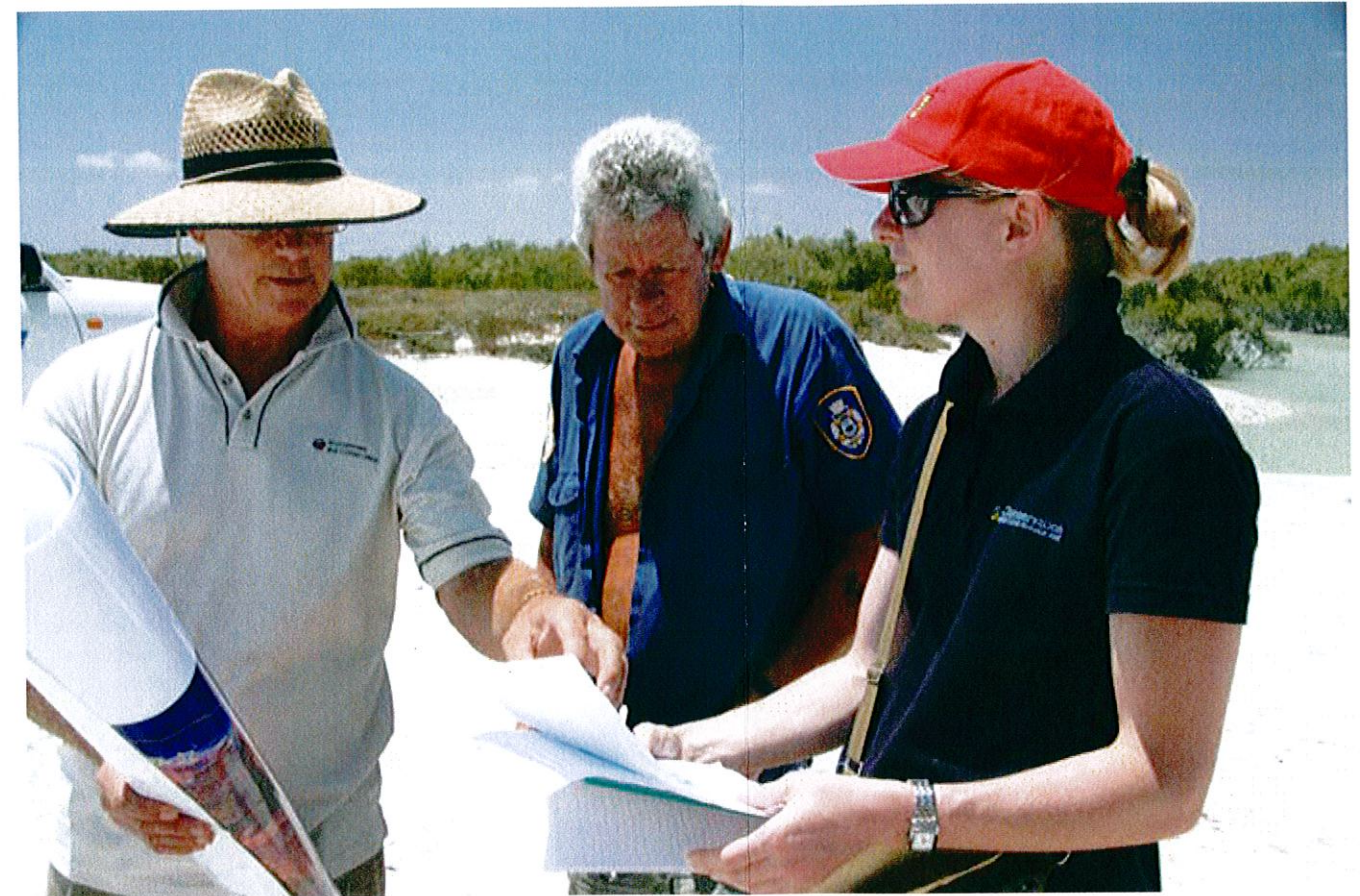


THE INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP: WHAT, WHO AND WHY?

A Government Interagency Working Group (IWG) has been established to assist in data gathering, consideration of cross-agency issues and developing an indicative management plan.

The IWG includes representation from:

- Department of Environment and Conservation;
- Department of Fisheries;
- Department of Industry and Resources;
- Department for Planning and Infrastructure;
- Department of Indigenous Affairs;
- Office of Native Title
- Tourism Western Australia;
- Western Australian Museum.



Photograph: John Lloyd/DEC

The formation of an IWG ensures that all relevant Government agencies take part in the planning process. This means that any current and proposed programs and agency responsibilities in the region will be considered early on in the planning process. IWG members will also identify areas that are a high priority and feasible for reservation.

For more information contact: Department of Environment and Conservation
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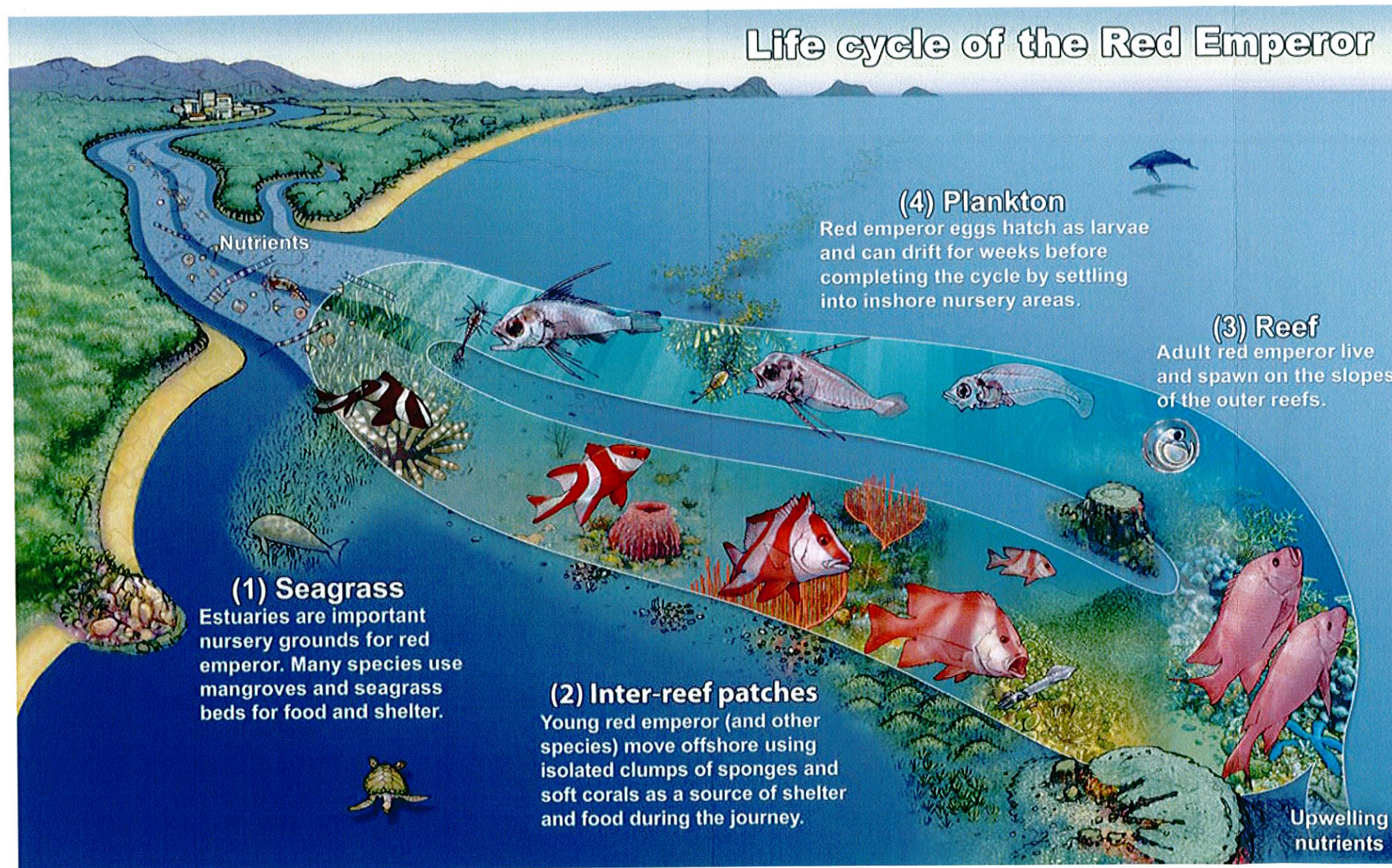
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LIVING LINKS

The habitats of Western Australia's coastal waters are linked. Because most fishes and invertebrates use multiple habitats during their lives, they are vulnerable to many natural and human-induced pressures.

The life cycle of the red emperor (*Lutjanus sebae*), an important species for fishers, illustrates how a species uses more than one habitat and how this has implications for management.

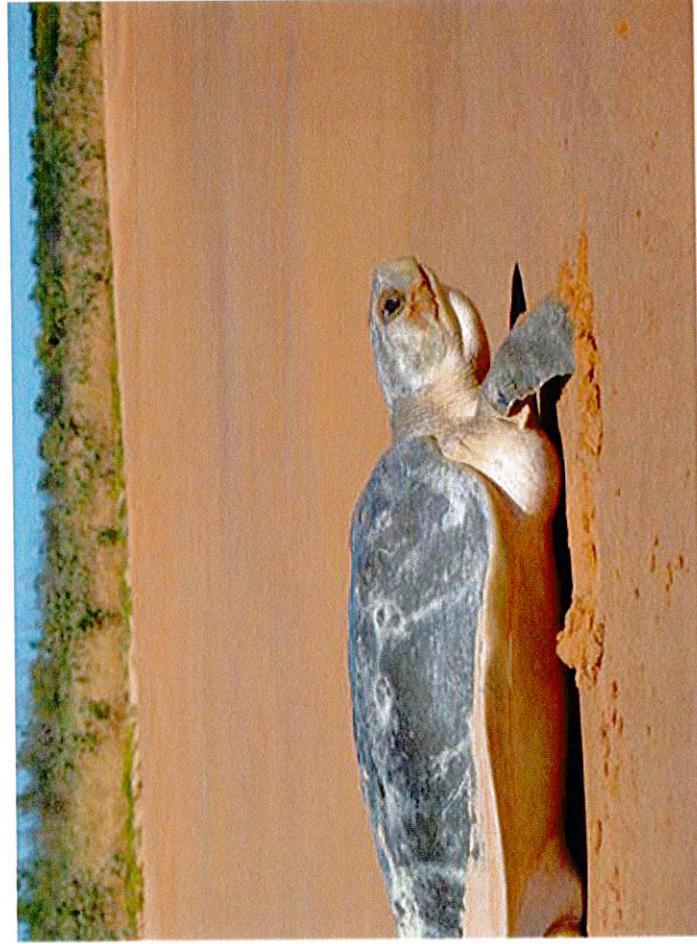


The message from this species is clear. To complete its life cycle, the red emperor needs a number of habitats. If one habitat is damaged or not available, the species may disappear from the system. Consequently, for new WA marine parks and reserves to be effective, it is essential for all habitats to be represented.

WHAT'S ON YOUR DOORSTEP?

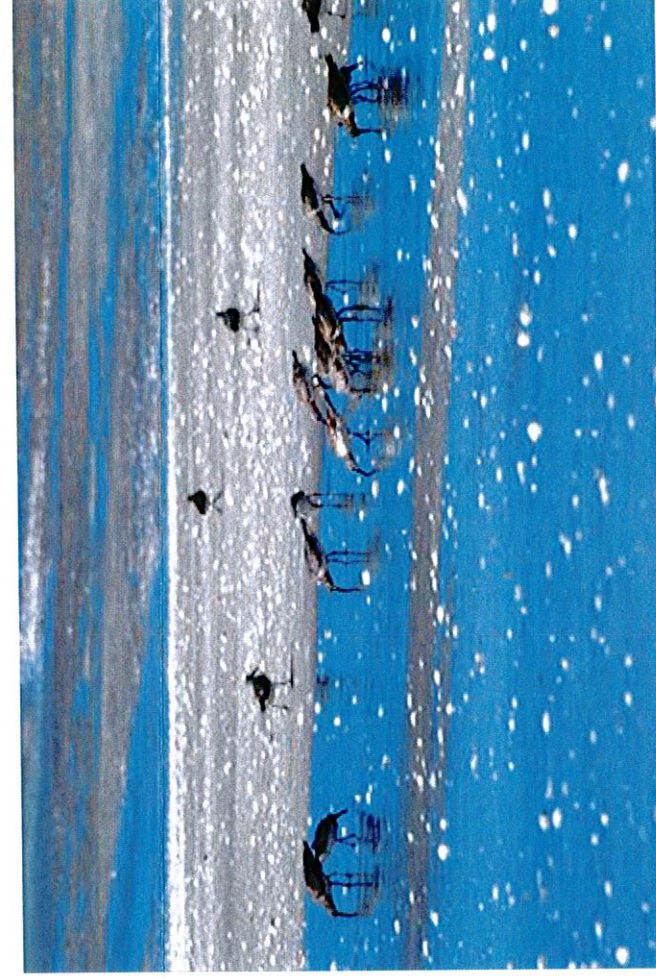
Take a closer look at the Eighty Mile Beach study area

The beach is fronted by extensive tidal mudflats which support rich communities of invertebrates including sponges, soft corals, and millions of crustaceans, molluscs and worms.



Eighty Mile Beach is a major rookery for the threatened flatback turtle.

The beach is an internationally significant site for migratory shorebirds. About half of the world's great knots depend on parts of the beach for their survival.



WHAT'S ON YOUR DOORSTEP?

Take a closer look at the Cape Keraudren to Spit Point study area



Bedout Island supports one of the largest colonies of brown boobies in WA with over 10,000 breeding pairs. The island also supports masked boobies, lesser frigatebirds, common noddies and crested, roseate and sooty terns.

The Cape Keraudren area boasts a strong Aboriginal association with many shell middens, burial and ceremonial sites. European cultural interests include remnants of the end of the rabbit proof fence and a lookout post used in WWII.

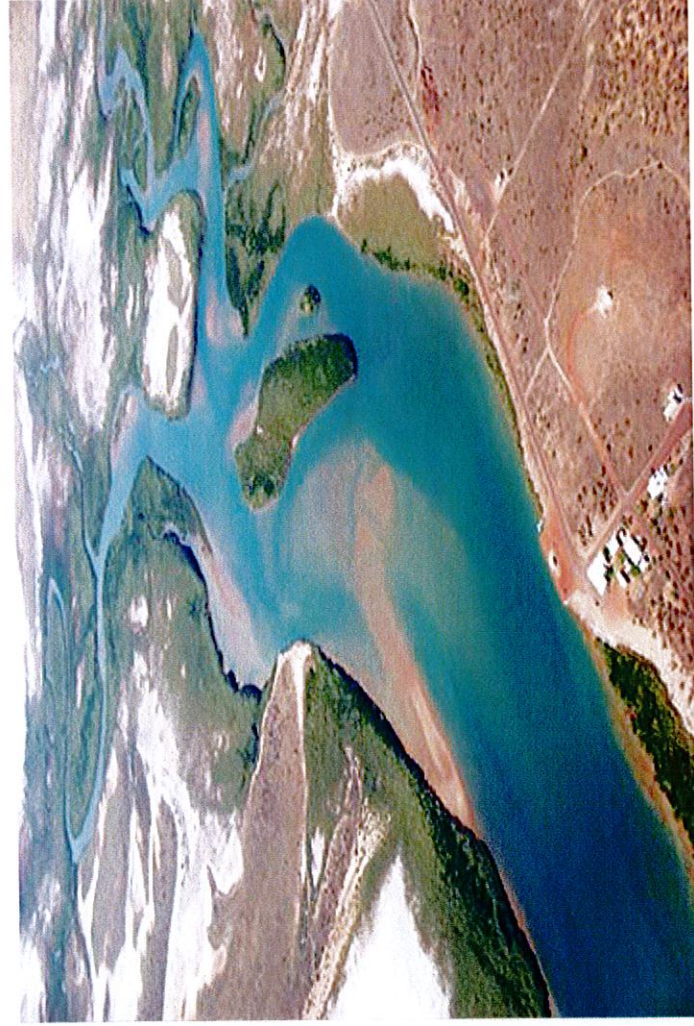
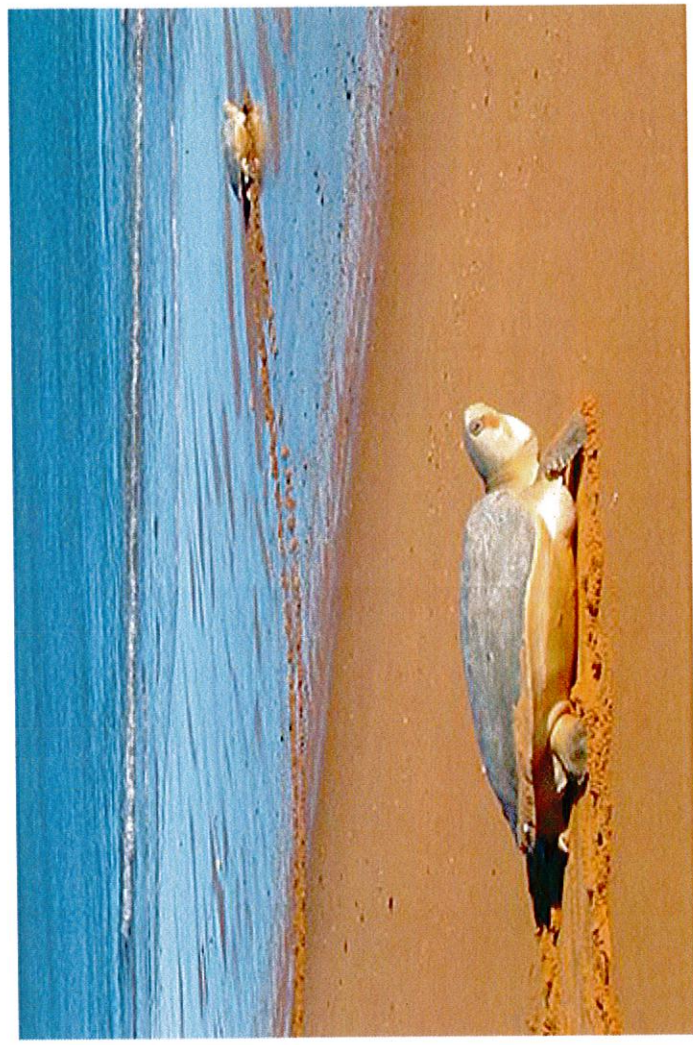


The De Grey River Delta is designated as a regionally significant site for mangroves. All eight species found in the Pilbara region are recorded here.

WHAT'S ON YOUR DOORSTEP?

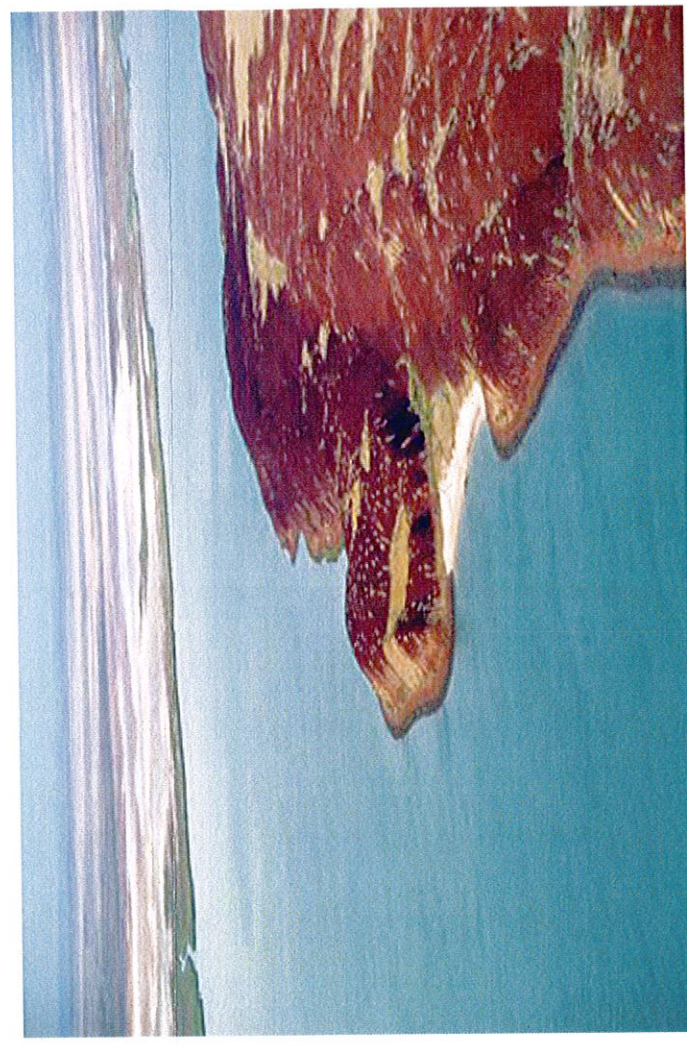
Take a closer look at the Cape Thouin to Cape Lambert and Bells Beach study areas

Cowrie Beach and Bells Beach are important turtle nesting sites, in particular for the vulnerable flatback turtle. Rookeries also occur at Cape Thouin.



Mangroves are very extensive, forming an interconnected habitat through which fauna can move. Four sites have been identified as regionally significant.

Depuch Island has a large number of sites with important Aboriginal rock art and engravings.



WHAT'S ON YOUR DOORSTEP?

Take a closer look at the Fortescue River to Cane River study area

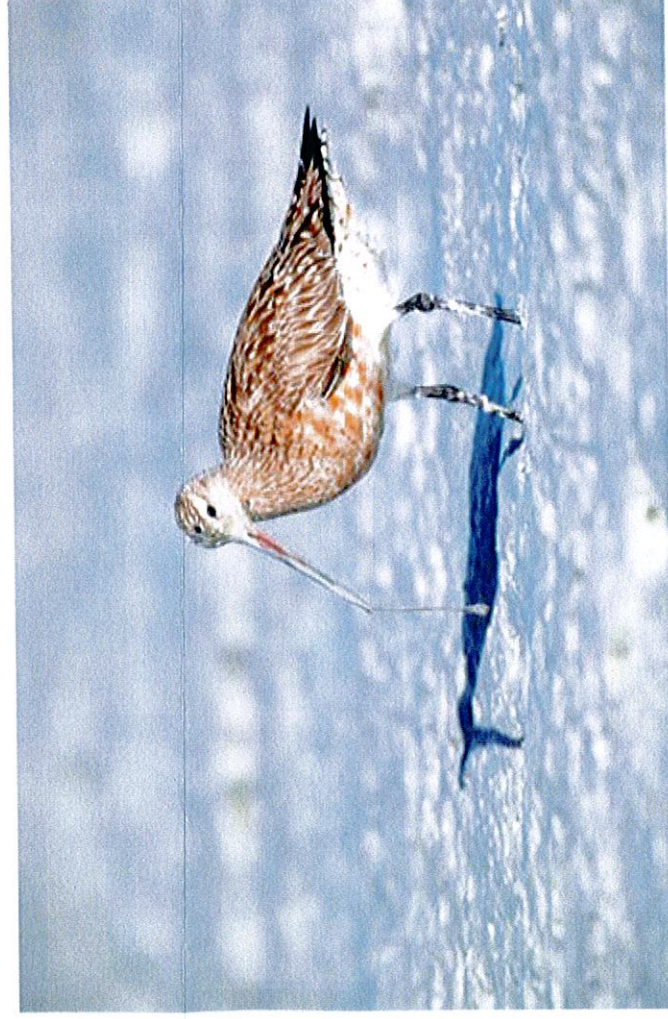


Shallow coastal waters contain important seagrass meadows which support significant numbers of dugongs and turtles.

The extensive mangrove system is home to a diverse range of aquatic and terrestrial wildlife. The Robe River Delta is designated a regionally significant site for mangroves.



Intertidal mudflats around the Mary Anne group of islands are rich in burrowing invertebrates and are important feeding areas for wading birds.



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Photographs: © Commonwealth of Australia, Matthew Fossey and Jam van de Kam

WHAT'S ON YOUR DOORSTEP?

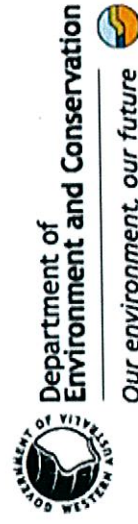
Take a closer look at the Locker Point to Rocky Point and Serrurier Island study areas

These areas have been identified as major feeding and nesting areas for green and loggerhead turtles, and possibly for other turtle species.



Coral growth has been described as possibly the most spectacular in the Pilbara region and the coral reef fish and other marine animals are extremely diverse.

A variety of seabirds nest on and around Serrurier Island, including the largest populations of wedge-tailed shearwaters in the region.



APPENDIX II: SURVEY FOR USE IN THE COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSIONS

SURVEY OF COMMUNITY ISSUES & OPINIONS Pilbara & Eighty Mile Beach

The issues analysis helps DEC to:

- hear what the community wants;
- understand where issues and conflicts exist;
- collect local knowledge; and
- target community engagement appropriately.

Registration / Associations / Interests

1. Would you like to receive regular updates on the project?
[if yes, please fill out registration form]
2. Do you know anyone else who would like to receive information on the project?
Name:
Organisation: Position:
Postal address:
Postcode: Phone:
Email:
3. Are you affiliated with any clubs, associations, organisations or agencies? If yes please provide details.
4. Which study area(s), in order of priority, are you most interested in? [refer map overleaf]
 Eighty Mile Beach Fortescue River to Cane River
 Spit Point to Cape Keraudren Serrurier Island
 Cape Lambert to Cape Thouin Rocky Point to Locker Point
5. In order of priority, what are your interests in the study areas?
[e.g. nature appreciation, beach combing, 4WD, diving, boating. If recreational fishing how do you undertake it e.g. shore-based fishing, small boat fishing, deep water fishing]
1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

6. Local Knowledge - This section helps DEC to understand the level of local knowledge and understanding of issues and how to focus the engagement and education program. Please share your local knowledge about the following:

a) What do you consider are the important ecological values of the study area/s?

b) What do you consider are the important social values of the study area/s

c) What do you understand about the purpose of marine reserves and the activities allowed in them?

d) What are Sanctuary zones and why are they declared?

e) What do you think about the Government proposal to consider establishing marine parks and reserves in the Pilbara and Eighty Mile Beach regions (negative, undecided, positive)?

7. Issues / Opinions - This section helps DEC understand your issues and opinions.

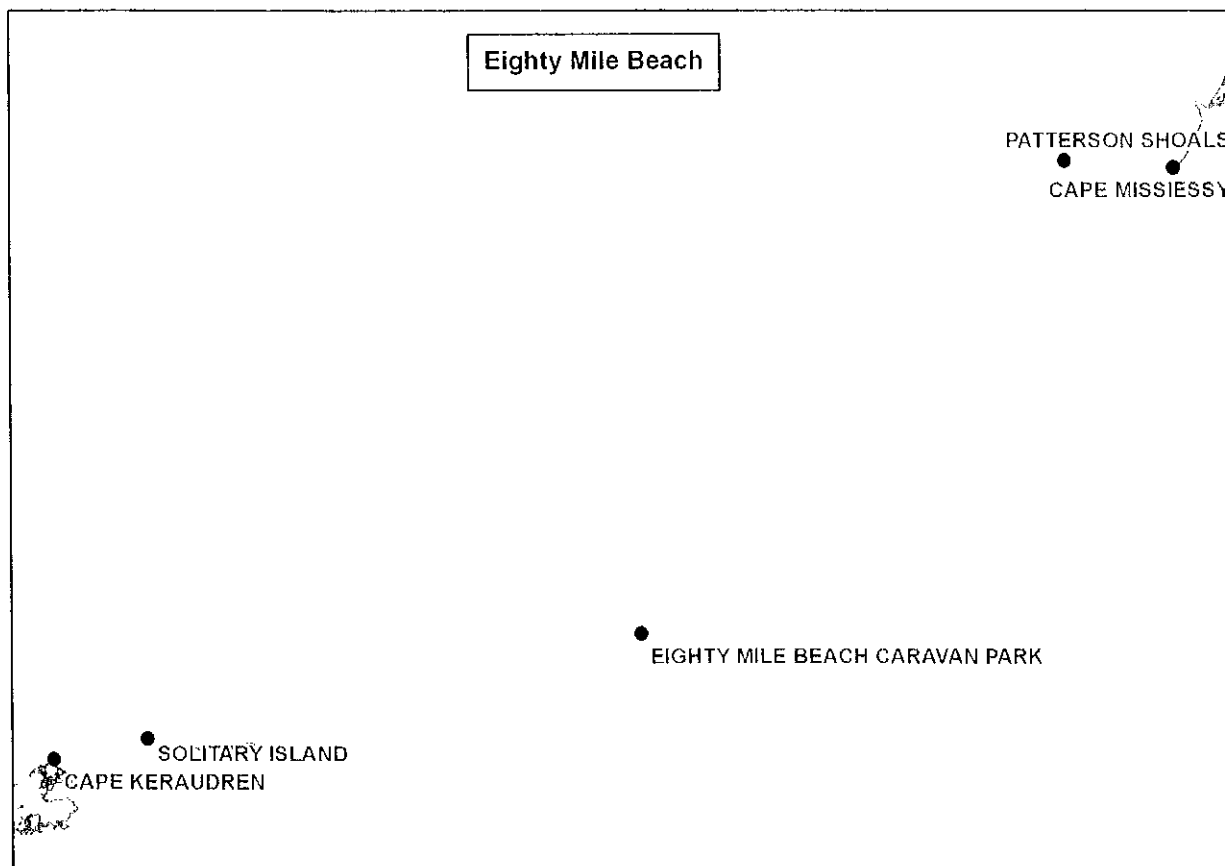
a) What are your opinions regarding the marine and coastal environment of the study area/s?
[e.g. specific human uses, changes in envt or particular sp eg turtles, fish, sharks]

b) What are your issues regarding proposed establishment of new marine parks and reserves in the study area/s or planning process? [e.g. maintaining access to fishing area, consultation process]

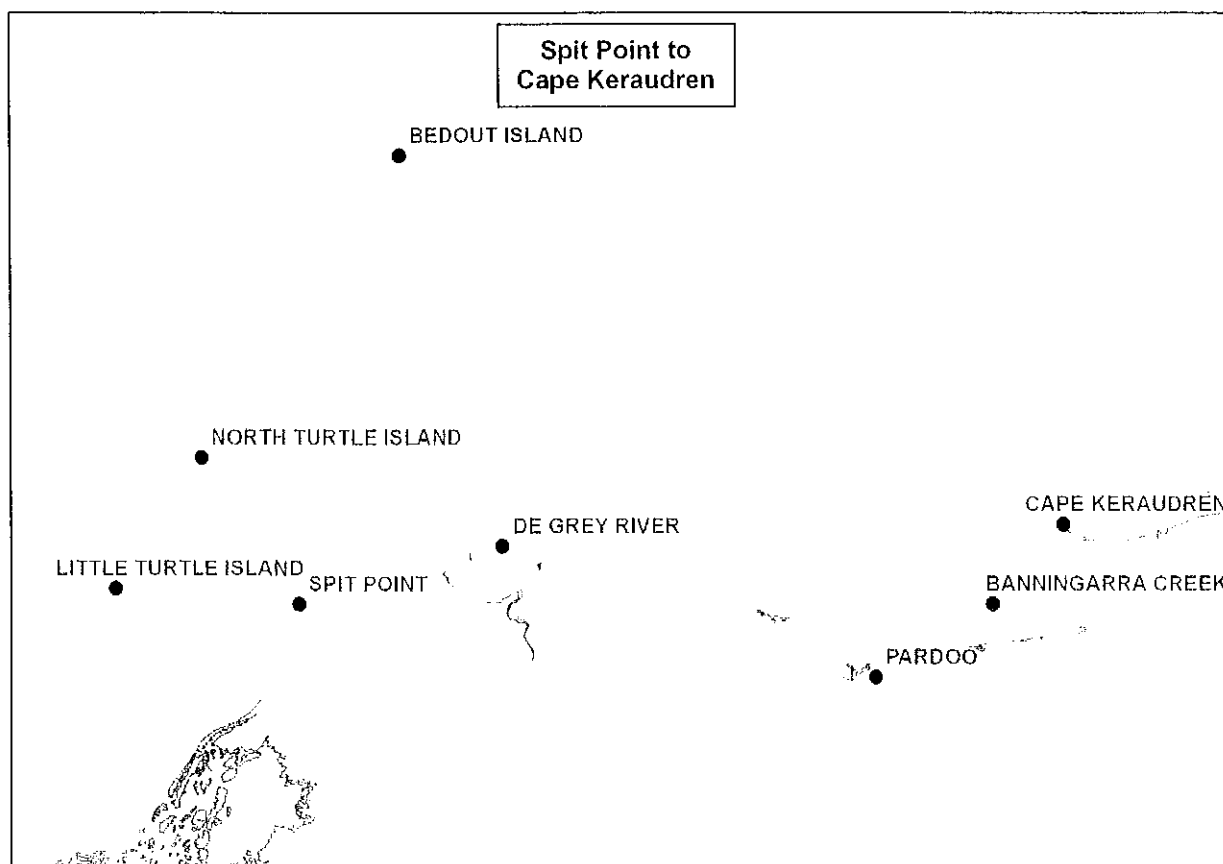
c) Are there any specific local issues or concerns at specific locations that we should know about? [e.g. conflicts between uses, changes in the environment]

On the maps below, please draw areas you think are important for: 1) protection; 2) fishing or other usage; and 3) special biological features or values. For each feature you draw on the map please specify why you think it's important.

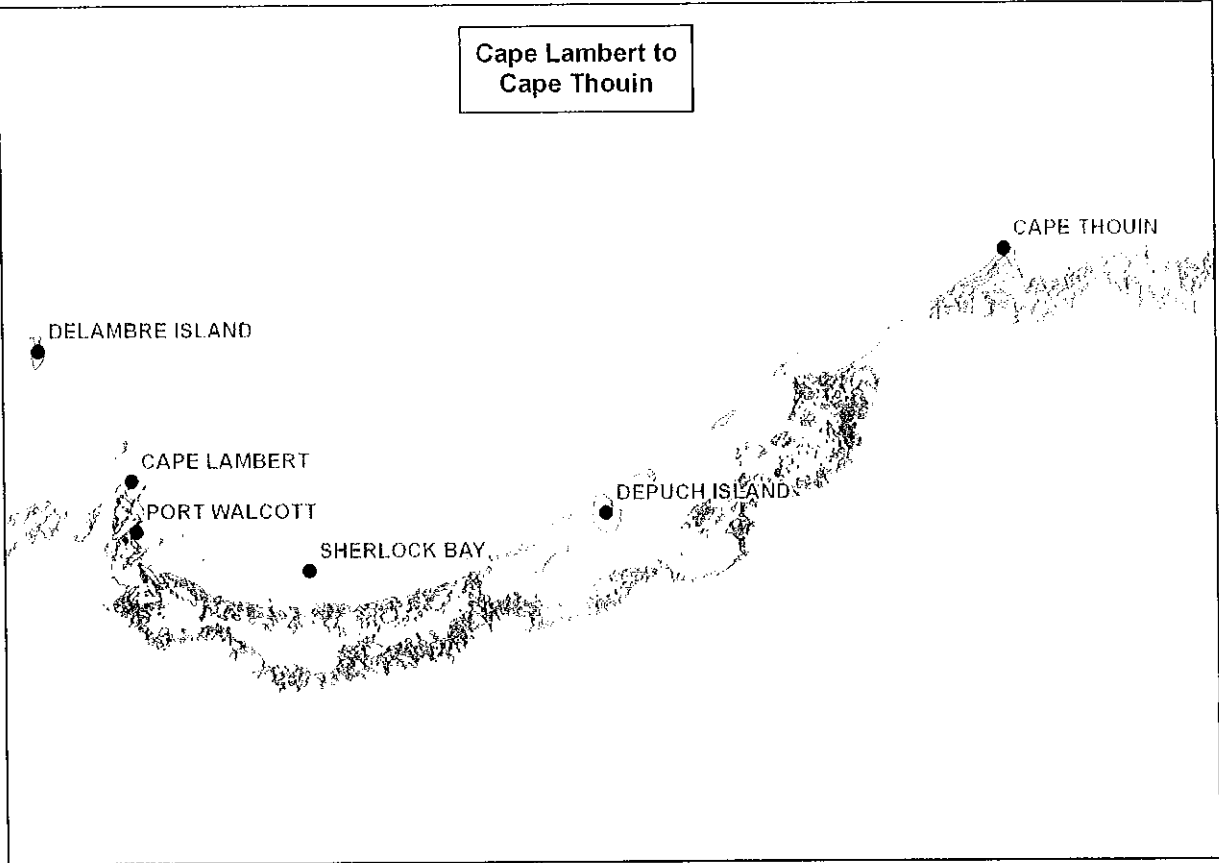
Eighty Mile Beach



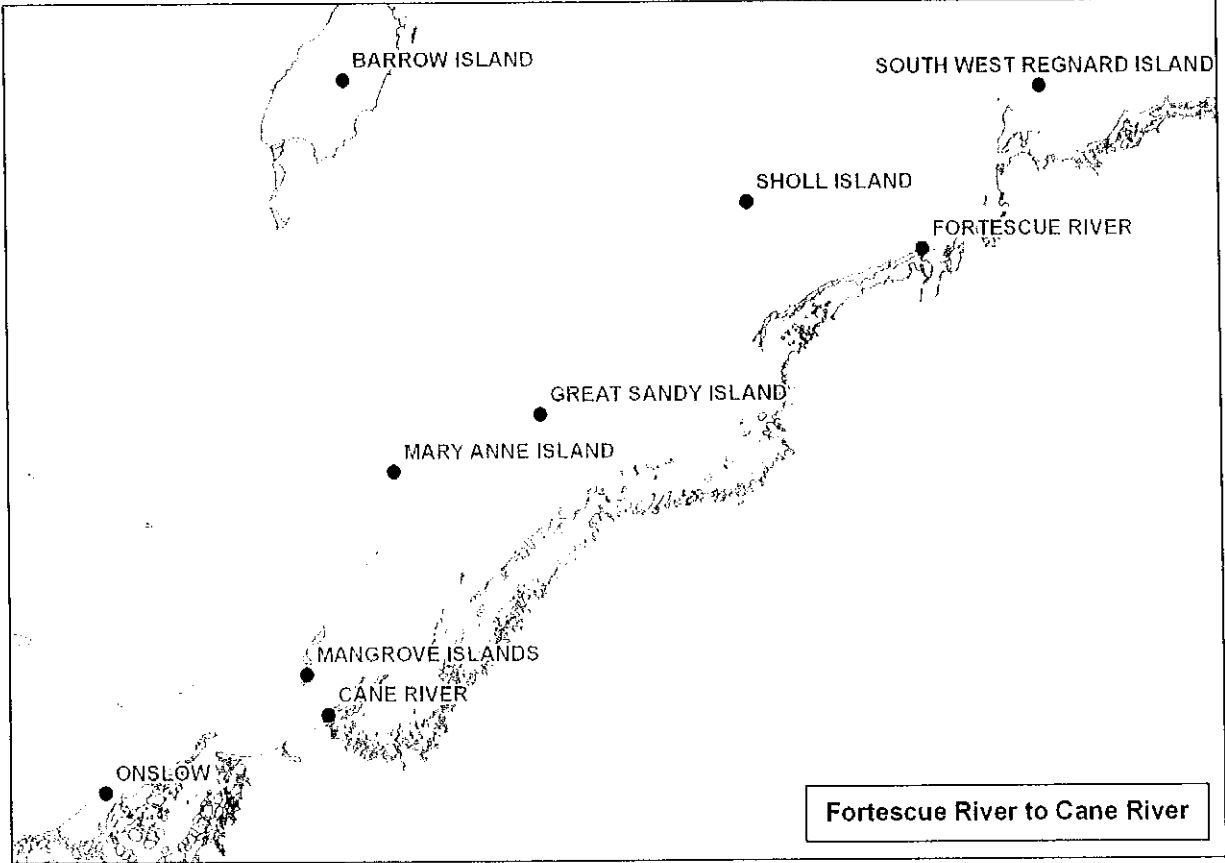
Spit Point to Cape Keraudren



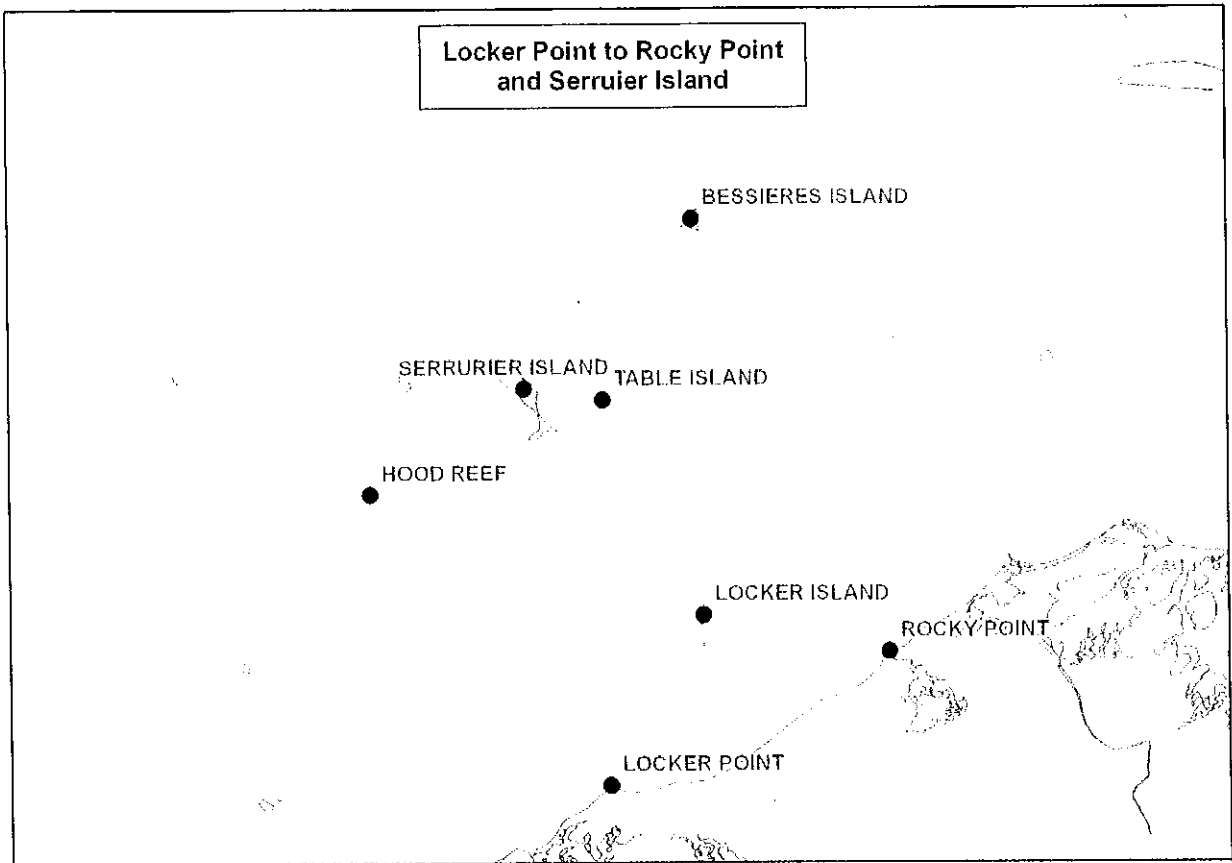
Cape Lambert to Cape Thouin



Fortescue River to Cane River (Great Sandy Is. NR & surrounds)



Locker Point to Rocky Point / Serrurier Island



APPENDIX III: PROTOCOLS FOR THE COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSIONS

General points to remember:

- Be polite, diplomatic and helpful.
- Make sure you have a notepad with you at all times. If people discuss useful information (e.g. values, areas of importance or site specific information) be seen to be writing this information down. If the person seems to have a lot of detailed information, either ask them if they wouldn't mind filling out a survey or ask if we can contact them later to get further information.
- If you don't know the answer to a question, take their name and promise to follow up. Do not provide information you are unsure of. People will often 'shop around' and look for inconsistencies in our response.
- If people have incorrect information or misconceptions always try and correct them.
- Be familiar with all the products that are available, particularly the fact sheets. Keep a small stack of fact sheets and pamphlet with you so you can hand them out to people you talk to.

Dealing with difficult people:

- Always keep a general eye on your other team members in case they get a difficult individual. If your team member looks like they are struggling with this individual, you may need to go over and assist.
- If you get a difficult individual, particularly if they are becoming loud, you may be able to steer them away from others attending the meeting.
- People who arrive angry or upset are generally much easier to deal with after they have had a chance to say what they think. Always provide this opportunity. It will then normally be easier to convey the key messages once an individual has had the opportunity to have their say.

Answers to some key questions:

What about displaced fishing effort from sanctuary zones:

Through using information from the community and stakeholders about their important areas for fishing, we will be able to reduce the extent to which SZs impact on people.

Why should I give you my favourite fishing areas, you will lock them up:

Although we can understand this concern, this is not how the planning process works. We take the information given to us by the community to minimise the impact on the community when we place zones. We do not want to "lock-up" the most important fishing area for a particular community – this is against the purpose of marine parks and reserves which is for multiple-use. People in other planning processes also felt this concern and gave us inaccurate information. As a result, when the first version of the zoning scheme came out some of their important areas were no longer available to them. This happened in the Dampier Archipelago/Ronsard (formerly Cape Preston) process.

What is the status of the Dampier Archipelago/Regnard (formerly Cape Preston) process:

The IMP was released in 2005 and the Advisory Committee met in 2006 to examine the submissions. It is the final stages of Government approvals and we are aiming to release it mid-2008. The final zoning maps are not available.

What level of protection is afforded to the Great Sandy Islands:

The Great Sandy Islands are an A class nature reserve. Nature reserves are a higher level of protection than national park. The purpose of the reserve is the protection of flora and fauna and you are not allowed to camp, take flora or fauna, light fires etc. Day visits are allowed. We are aware people camp on the islands near the Fortescue River, however we discourage that due to the potential impacts on flora and fauna. Staff do not regularly visit the islands due the distance.

There's already a Nature Reserve around the Great Sandy Islands – why does there also have to be a marine reserve?

The nature reserve only goes to low water mark and doesn't protect the marine environment around these areas. In addition, the nature reserve is a terrestrial reserve and doesn't adequately deal with marine issues.

How long will the process take before the reserves are established?

The Department will be undertaking consultation with the community to assist in developing the indicative management plan. DEC aims to release the indicative management plan for 3 months statutory public consultation in mid 2009. The submissions will assist in finalising the plan, which will then go through the formal Government approval process. This includes approval from the Minister for Resources and Fisheries. The creation of reserves is likely to occur in the later half of 2010.

Will access/usage be affected before the final management plan is in place?

No

Will I still be able to drive my boat through sanctuary zones?

You will still be able to drive your boat through sanctuary zones. SZ are only no-take areas so you are still able to do a range of other activities in them including boating, snorkeling, swimming etc.

Will I still be able to drive my 4WD/quad bike on beaches?

In many areas you will also still be able to drive your 4WD/quad bike along the beach/dunes. However on some key beaches where turtles nest there are likely to be restrictions. This is because quad bikes, if they drive over a turtle nest, compact the sand and can affect the nestlings surviving. Once the nestlings hatch, ruts in the sand from vehicles can hinder the turtle's path to the water.

How do you select areas or zones? What is systematic reserve planning?

The IWG will be using a systematic approach to select reserves. This means that goals and criteria will be developed to help guide which areas need to be incorporated and managed in a particular way. These goals and criteria will cover biological issues, such as which habitats are important, as well as socio-economic criteria, such as to minimize the impact on communities. When deciding which areas to include in specific zones, we will refer back to these criteria for guidance and ensure that these goals and criteria are met.

How will zones be enforced?

Both DEC and DoF will be able to enforce the zones. DEC and DoF do joint patrols, where staff from both agencies are on board. These patrols have multiple purposes and can include enforcement, research and monitoring, island management such as pest control, infrastructure maintenance etc.

Will there be penalties for breaking the rules? What will the penalties be?

The zones will be put into legislation and there are penalties for breaking the rules, just like there are penalties for having undersize fish or exceeding the bag limit. The penalty depends on the nature of the offence.

Will the zones be monitored? By whom?

When a marine park or reserve is created, funding is provided to ensure the management plan can be effectively implemented. This includes funding for research and monitoring. DEC have a marine science program which coordinate, with liaison and assistance from local DEC offices, research and monitoring in the State. In addition, DoF also receive funding for the implementation of the management plan, primarily for enforcement. However DEC staff have joint patrols with DoF and these patrols have multiple purposes e.g. enforcement, research, and maintenance.

How will I know where the zone boundaries are?

All zone boundaries will have a GPS coordinate. There will be a preference for boundaries to be placed on a N-S and E-W line and/or in line of sight with noticeable geographic features (e.g. headlands, islands etc).

Will those who are adversely impacted be compensated?

Compensation for those adversely impacted is managed by the Department of Fisheries. Where a reduction in the value of a fishing licence can be demonstrated, then the individual/business may initiate the process

How will your Indigenous engagement program work?

DEC and the IWG are working with Indigenous groups to develop how best to engage. DEC has had meeting with a number of Native Title Rep Bodies, the Office of Native Title and the Department of Indigenous Affairs to develop working relations.

What about Indigenous fishing and hunting areas?

DEC and the IWG will be working with Indigenous groups to identify areas important to groups and to ensure access to these areas are adequately considered.

Once established, will the new marine reserves be just managed by DEC?

All marine parks and reserves in the State are vested or entrusted to the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority. DEC has the lead role in implementing the management plan on behalf of Government, however will work with other agencies, such as DoF, where necessary.

Why aren't existing fisheries regulations sufficient?

Fisheries regulations are aimed at maintaining and/or improving fish stocks and ensuring that fisheries are sustainable. Marine parks are about protecting all marine life, not just the fish.

We already have Ningaloo and Montebello/Barrow Islands marine park, as well as a proposed park in the Dampier Archipelago. Why do we need another park in the area?

The State Government is committed to developing a state-wide system of marine parks and reserves that fulfil the criteria of comprehensive, adequate and representative. This is

- **Comprehensive** means including the full range of ecosystems at an appropriate scale within and across the marine bioregions.
- **Adequate** means having the required level of reservation to ensure the ecological viability and integrity of populations, species and communities.
- **Representative** means including examples of the marine flora and fauna of each *Interim Marine and Coastal Regionalisation for Australia* (IMCRA) bioregion in marine parks and reserves.

So the existing marine parks are reserves certainly include a range of habitats, however they do not cover all bioregions and many habitats are not included at all, particularly on a longitudinal basis.