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Below Turtle egg rock art. Photo – Eleanor Killen/Parks and Wildlife



Below Senior cultural ranger Geoff Togo and cultural archaeologist Dave Guilloyle undertaking a survey. Photo – Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation

- Traditional skills and knowledge associated with looking after culture and country are respected;
- Ngarda-ngarli cultural protocols on how decisions should be made are maintained;
- Contemporary park management skills are available to enable the joint management partners to look after the park in line with current best management practices; and
- Ngarda-ngarli will strive to meet their obligations to country and satisfy their people's aspirations of benefits from land ownership.

Joint management arrangements aim to conserve, protect and promote Aboriginal cultural and archaeological values, natural and recreational values, and provide for managed access and recreation on the Burrup Peninsula. The park's approved management plan guides decision making, and the Murujuga Park Council (MPC) meets regularly to discuss park management. Important objectives of joint management include:

Joint management

Above Rock art. Photo – Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation

Murujuga National Park covers an area of 4,913ha and is located on the Burrup Peninsula near Dampier. The area is considered to host the largest concentration of ancient rock art in the world, possibly dating back more than 30,000 years. The word Murujuga in local Aboriginal language is thought to mean 'hip bone sticking out', referring to the peninsula's alignment on the Pilbara coast. Murujuga National Park is Western Australia's 100th national park, created in January 2013. It is also unique in that it is the first jointly managed national park in the State. The opportunity to create the park came from the Burrup and Maitland Industrial Estates Agreement, a native title agreement ratified in 2003 and described at the time as the most comprehensive negotiated non-industrial land on the Australian continent. The agreement allowed non-industrial land on the Burrup Peninsula to be transferred as freehold title to Traditional owners of the area. The land is now vested as freehold land with the Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation (MAC) comprising traditional custodians the Ngiluma, Yindjibarndi, Yaburara, Mardudhunera and the Woon-goo-tt-oo, known collectively in local language as 'Ngarda-ngarli'. The land is leased back to the State Government and managed jointly as national park by the Department of Parks and Wildlife, the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and MAC. The recognition of ongoing Aboriginal interests and responsibilities for managing country are at the core of this innovative and inclusive approach. Being a newly established national park, Murujuga provides some exciting opportunities for joint management involving the wider community.

Murujuga National Park

"Ngayintharr! Gumawarn! Ngurranga"
We all come together for country

Above Circle of Elders meeting. Photo – Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation

RESPECT

The ranger team operates under the RESPECT motto, an acronym which incorporates seven important values of Murujuga. R Rock art
E Environment
S Sea country
P People
E Earth
C Culture
T Truth

Murujuga Land and Sea Unit Ranger Program

Above Ranger patrols. Photo – Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation



More information

**Department of Parks and Wildlife
Pilbara Region**
Cnr Anderson and Lambert Road
Karratha Industrial Estate
PO Box 835, Karratha WA 6714
Phone: (08) 9182 2000
Fax: (08) 9144 1118
Email: karratha@dpaw.wa.gov.au

**Parks and Wildlife
State Operational Headquarters**
17 Dick Perry Avenue
Kensington WA 6151
Locked Bag 104, Bentley Delivery Centre WA 6983
Phone: (08) 9219 9000
Fax: (08) 9334 0498
dpaw.wa.gov.au

Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation
PO Box 1544
Karratha WA 6714
Phone: (08) 9144 4112
Fax: (08) 9183 8130
Email: admin@murujuga.org.au
murujuga.org.au

Department of Aboriginal Affairs
PO Box 3153
East Perth WA 6892
Phone: (08) 9235 8000
daa.wa.gov.au

Murujuga Ranger Program (Headquarters)
18 Minilya crescent
Dampier WA 6713
PO Box 1544
Karratha WA 6714
Phone: (08) 9183 1248

Karratha Visitor Centre
Lot 4548 Karratha Road
Karratha WA 6714
Phone: (08) 9144 4600
Fax: (08) 9144 4620
pilbaracoast.com

Emergencies – call Triple Zero '000'

Online resources:
parks.dpaw.wa.gov.au/park/murujuga
parks.dpaw.wa.gov.au/park/dampier-archipelago

Cover top Murujuga Rangers with Murujuga National Park sign.
Cover bottom North-west Burrup Peninsula beach.
Photo – Laurina Bullen/Parks and Wildlife



Top Mangroves on the eastern coast of Murujuga. Photo – Eleanor Killen/Parks and Wildlife Above 1080 bait training. Photo – Kerri Morris/Parks and Wildlife



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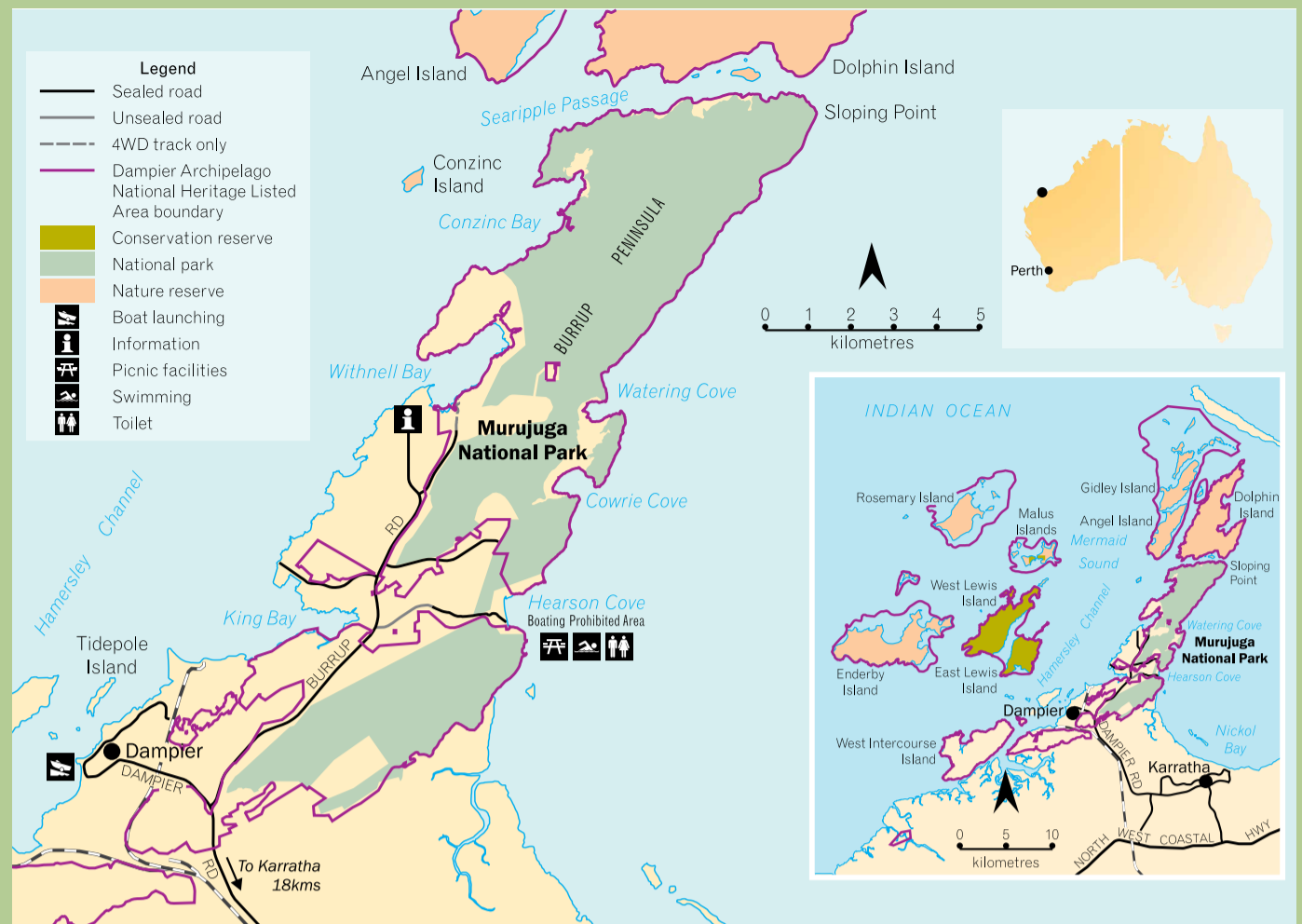
Park planning

A visual identity for the national park is being created including a signage strategy. Park boundary signs have been installed by the Murujuga ranger team at entrance points to the national park, with additional signage to be erected in line with the strategy. Wildlife is being monitored throughout the park by a range of methods under an ongoing program. Setting camera traps in various locations provides the opportunity to collect wildlife data, while creating opportunities to train Murujuga rangers in nature conservation techniques used by Parks and Wildlife. While setting cameras in 2014, tracks of the northern quoll species were found on the beaches. This was regarded as a significant find as this animal was thought to no longer exist on the Burrup Peninsula. Other wildlife species including the perentie (bunthawae), goanna (birridigarra), Pilbara olive python (bulgumarda), Rothschild's rock wallaby (jadurnmarra), euro or hill kangaroo (bigurda) and numerous bird species (bugabugara) have also been found.

Parks and Wildlife have provided the Murujuga Ranger team with 1080 poison bait training with the objective of safeguarding native animals from feral cats and foxes, which occur in the park. Signage and information are provided to advise of baiting activities. Within the national park, threatened ecological communities are being monitored and managed to preserve their natural values. Murujuga National Park is a popular research destination for both local and international scientists.

MAC is developing the Murujuga Cultural Management Plan (MCMP) to sit alongside the park's management plan. This aims to promote a thorough understanding of Murujuga country, knowledge and traditional values. It will provide culturally appropriate information about plants, animals, Aboriginal culture and protocols, and access to places. The MCMP is being created in close consultation with MAC elders and the local Aboriginal community.

Vehicle access within and adjacent to the park is being reviewed, to be followed by planning and establishment of appropriate areas for visitor recreation. Current vehicle access will be mapped, and assessed culturally. Community consultation will be undertaken to ensure community views regarding tracks and access within Murujuga are taken into account before decisions are made.



The City of Karratha manages the popular Hearson Cove beach, which is situated adjacent to the national park and is frequented by the local community and visitors for recreational purposes. Surrounded by Murujuga National Park, Hearson Cove is important for the joint managers of Murujuga who hope to work together with them to create a foreshore management plan, ensuring the sustainable use and management of the area.

Possible future facilities may include walking trails, basic camping areas, picnic areas, viewpoints, interpretive material, swimming areas, rock art viewing areas and guided tours to

areas by MAC rangers or commercial tour operators.

A comprehensive feasibility study, which commenced in early 2014, continues for a proposal to site a multi-purpose Murujuga Living Knowledge Centre in or near the park.

Over the long term, Ngarda-Ngarli seek to manage the park with a greater degree of independence. This will be achieved through ongoing joint management and the sharing of knowledge and ongoing training opportunities between Parks and Wildlife and MAC.



Things you need to know

Telephones

There are no public telephones in the park. Mobile phone reception is good over most areas of the park, especially in elevated areas.

Water

Fresh water is not available in the park. Please bring drinking water with you.

Tides

Be aware of tide times and levels when driving near the water, particularly in areas such as Cowrie Cove. Informal boat access is available at sites adjacent to the national park. Refer to the park map.

Crocodiles

Be aware that saltwater crocodiles are occasionally seen in the area so take care launching your boat. Supervise children.

Safe walking tips

There are currently no formal marked walk trails in Murujuga National Park. Take care when walking in the park. Do not climb on rock piles as rocks can be unstable and present a cultural safety hazard. Use tracks that appear to have been used before. When walking wear a hat, broad spectrum sunscreen and sturdy walking shoes. Carry plenty of drinking water and avoid dehydration. In summer, restrict walking to early morning or late afternoon.

Swimming

Stinging jellyfish are occasionally known to occur in surrounding waters, particularly in the summer months. While the risk of being stung is low, especially if stinger suits are worn, be aware of general first aid procedures.

Baiting for feral animals

1080 baits are laid within and surrounding the park to control feral pests such as foxes and cats. 1080 is poisonous to humans and will kill dogs and cats if consumed. Do not bring your pets into the park.

Toilets

There are public toilets located at Hearson Cove as well as adjacent to the Dampier public boat ramp at Windy Ridge Oval.

Recreational fishing

Fishing is permitted in the waters surrounding Murujuga National Park. For the most up-to-date information on fishing regulations check the Department of Fisheries website (www.fish.wa.gov.au) or contact your nearest Department of Fisheries office before going fishing.

Reporting damage or disturbance to Aboriginal sites

If you notice damage or disturbance to any registered Aboriginal heritage sites or rock art, please report it to the Murujuga Ranger Program on (08) 9183 1248 or the Department of Parks and Wildlife on (08) 9182 2000.

Boat launching

There are informal boat ramps at Withnell Bay and Cowrie Cove. Withnell Bay is outside the national park. Access roads are rough and normally require high clearance or four-wheel drive vehicles. There are two boat ramps in Dampier: the public ramp near the Windy Ridge Oval and the private ramp at the Hampton Harbour Boat and Sailing Club.

Murujuga National Park access from boat

Visitors can access the national park by boat, allowing access to the various beaches around the Burrup Peninsula, which are inaccessible by four-wheel drive. Please remember that climbing on rocks is not advised for cultural safety reasons. Pets and fires are not permitted in the national park.

Below Mangroves on the north-east coast of the Burrup Peninsula.

Photo – Laurina Bullen/Parks and Wildlife

