



# Have your say on the marine park

**A new marine park at Eighty Mile Beach, between Port Hedland and Broome, would cover 209,000 hectares of pristine coast to protect migratory shorebirds and unique marine life while promoting collaborative management with traditional owners.**

Importantly, sanctuary zones would be set up to provide higher levels of protection for marine biodiversity, while recreation and general use zones ensured the continued use of the marine environment for sustainable recreation and commercial activities.

In Broome recently, Environment Minister Bill Marmion released for public comment the indicative management plan for the proposed Eighty Mile Beach Marine Park—a key part of the \$63 million Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy.

“The proposed Eighty Mile Beach marine park will provide protection for a unique and spectacular part of the lower west Kimberley coastline, while providing for sustainable tourism use and enjoyment of the area and the maintenance of Aboriginal culture

and heritage,” Mr Marmion said.

“The Ramsar-listed Eighty Mile Beach is one of the world’s most significant feeding grounds for migratory shorebirds and supports an important nesting population of flatback turtles that are endemic to northern Australia.

“It is rich in other marine life including sawfish, dugongs, dolphins and millions of invertebrates that inhabit the sand and mud flats, seagrass meadows, coral reefs and mangroves. It is popular for beach fishing, camping and four-wheel driving.”

The plan has been prepared by the Department of Environment and Conservation on behalf of the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority and guides the management of the marine park over the next 10 years

“I encourage everyone to have their say before the public comment period closes at 5pm on January 20, 2012,” the Minister said.

‘Have your say’ forms are available from the DEC website at [www.dec.wa.gov.au/eightymilebeach](http://www.dec.wa.gov.au/eightymilebeach) and at DEC offices.

## Marine wildlife field guide a success

**A new field guide designed to raise awareness about threatened marine life in the north-west has resulted in a reported sighting of a rare leatherback turtle off the coast of Exmouth.**

A recreational fisher spotted the threatened turtle and identified it using the Marine wildlife of WA’s north-west identification guide, before reporting it to DEC’s Marine Science Program, which collects and monitors data about threatened

marine fauna and the threats they face.

The leatherback turtle is just one of many threatened marine species featured in the handy waterproof guide released by Environment Minister Bill Marmion earlier this year.

Produced by DEC with support from ExxonMobil Australia, the publication provides information about marine parks in WA’s north-west and significant or threatened fauna in the region.

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Environment Minister Bill Marmion with ExxonMobil Australia’s LNG Vice President Luke Musgrave.

Easy-to-read text and large photographs help readers to identify key marine animals, including whales, dolphins, dugong, turtles and some species of marine birds. The guide also includes information on how to report animals in distress and how to assist DEC by reporting sightings of these animals. Primarily aimed at boaters for use at sea, the guide has also been produced in a paper version for use in schools.

It covers the waters from Ningaloo Marine Park and its surrounds to the northern Kimberley, where four new marine parks are being created as part of the state government's Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy.

The Minister officially launched the guide on a trip to Broome in May.

"The level of visitation to this area has rapidly grown due to increasing awareness of the area's enormous coastal beauty and distinct values," Mr Marmion said.

"Providing information to raise awareness of the region's marine values and wildlife, and appropriate behaviour by boaters and fishers, is one of the most effective ways to encourage sustainable activities by people using the waters of this vast region."

The guides are being distributed by key DEC regional and district offices direct to marine park users, tourism

operators, dive and fishing shops, at local events and schools. They have also been widely distributed to marine stakeholders, such as relevant state government departments, local government authorities, tourism providers, industry groups, local fishing and boating clubs, regional libraries, environmental NGOs, marine research organisations, traditional owner groups and regional development commissions.

Copies of the guide are available from DEC offices throughout the north-west and can be downloaded at [www.marineparks.wa.gov.au/downloads](http://www.marineparks.wa.gov.au/downloads).

# Waste Awards showcase leading projects

Winners of the Waste Authority's Waste Awards were announced recently, showcasing a range of successful waste minimisation projects being undertaken by local government, industry and the community.

The awards were jointly presented by the Environment Minister Bill Marmion and Waste Authority Chairman Peter Fitzpatrick at a special function preceding the official opening of the Waste and Recycle Conference 2011.

"In celebrating the achievements of individuals, communities, businesses and government, the awards recognise outstanding efforts in working towards the Waste Authority's objectives for minimising waste to landfill and encouraging innovative and committed recycling initiatives," Mr Fitzpatrick said.

"The Waste Authority created these prestigious awards to recognise the significant and often creative contributions made to waste avoidance and resource recovery across the state."

The awards focus on initiatives to reduce waste to landfill and reflect the various sectors and communities of interest involved in waste reduction. Independent

judging panels selected finalists across four award categories, with one winner chosen for each and along with others receiving an honourable mention.

## Waste Reduction and Resource Recovery Initiative

Winner: Sodexo  
Honourable mention: Landcorp  
Honourable mention: All Earth Group

## Local Government Waste Reduction Initiative

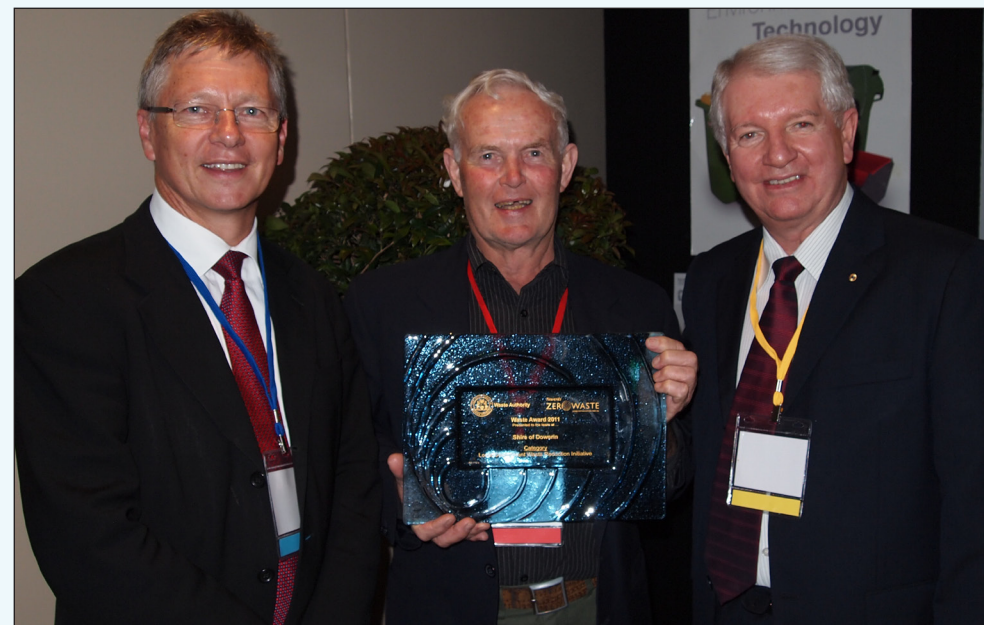
Winner: Shire of Dowerin  
Honourable mention:  
Shire of Augusta – Margaret River  
Honourable mention: City of Nedlands

## Waste Wise Schools Waste Reduction Initiative

Winner: Yuluma Primary  
Honourable mention: Clifton Hills Primary  
Honourable mention: Dawesville Catholic Primary

## Waste Champion

Winner: Peg Davies, MRC  
Honourable mention: Chris Byrnes, CARE  
Honourable mention: Green Painters Ltd



Environment Minister Bill Marmion, the Shire of Dowerin's Adrian Price and Waste Authority Chairman Peter Fitzpatrick at the Waste Awards.

The range of activities by award-winners include custom built glass crushers, battery recycling at schools, special recycling stations, an event recycling trailer, sustainable training courses for trades,

Zero Waste lunch days, and personal commitments to litter reduction.

The successful awards program will be receive a boost in profile for 2012 with the addition of financial support for the winners.



## Munda Biddi Trail adoptions

Sections of the Munda Biddi Trail are now available for adoption through the Munda Biddi Trail Foundation's Volunteer program.

Following the recent opening of a new 85-kilometre stretch of the off-road cycling trail between Nannup and Manjimup, volunteers are being called for to 'adopt' a section of the new trail and help to maintain it.

Munda Biddi Trail Volunteer Coordinator Sarah Holland said the trail maintenance volunteers play a vital role in ensuring the trail is in peak condition for all to enjoy.

"They are the eyes and ears on the ground. Nearly all of the 43 volunteer sections north of Nannup are regularly maintained by volunteers and we see a wide array of enthusiastic people ranging from avid cyclists to families looking for another way to spend time outdoors together," she said.

Trail maintenance volunteers will visit their sections of trail—which will range from eight to 20 kilometres in length—at least three to four times a year depending on the area and whether or not their sections include one of the trail's eight purpose-built campsites.

Using skills and tools provided in a free one-day workshop run by DEC, volunteers will assist DEC with issues such as signage, overgrowth, rubbish, erosion and obstacles on the trail.



"We have already seen a very positive response to the trail in both Nannup and Manjimup through the community development program, and we hope to see this continued with locals and community groups getting involved in the volunteer program, as well as those from Perth," Sarah said.

"It is an excellent way to meet like-minded individuals while contributing to the continued success of WA's premier off-road cycling trail."

If you are interested in becoming a trail maintenance volunteer or want to know more about other volunteer opportunities on the trail, contact Sarah Holland on **(08) 9481 2483** or **admin@mundabiddi.org.au**. More information on volunteering can also be found on the volunteer page on **www.mundabiddi.org.au**

## Seagrass project could help evaluate river health

Scientists could soon be better equipped to evaluate the health of the Swan and Canning rivers, with valuable data to be collected through a new seagrass health assessment project.

On World Rivers Day, Environment Minister Bill Marmion went snorkelling with scientists from the Swan River Trust in the waters off Point Walter in Bicton to examine seagrass and investigate its suitability as an indicator of estuarine health.

"Halophila ovalis plays a number of important ecological roles in the riverpark, including being a food source for the black swan. Its growth is thought to be influenced by water quality," Mr Marmion said.

"Work is being carried out to determine whether seagrass could be used as an ongoing indicator of estuary condition, in the same way nitrogen and phosphorus are used to give us a picture of river health."

The Minister said if the project was successful, ongoing monitoring of seagrass at key locations in the Swan and Canning estuary would provide the science to more effectively manage the estuary in the future.

"The state government has done a lot of work trying to help develop and encourage inter-agency collaboration in the science field," he said.

"Good environmental management comes from good science. This new project to assess seagrass health, with current knowledge of seagrass extent, will enhance our ability to manage the Swan-Canning estuary effectively."



Environment Minister Bill Marmion, with his adviser Simone Knox, gets ready to snorkel off Point Walter on World Rivers Day.

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# Leadership training in Busselton



**Forty-three people, including four from FESA, recently joined 380 previous graduates of the Fireline Leadership program, provided by DEC's Fire Management Services (FMS).**

This round, the program was held in Busselton, with people travelling from as far afield as Kununurra and Albany to attend the two courses.

The program was developed and conducted by Mission Centered Solutions (MCS) from the USA and grew out of the findings from the South Canyon tragedy in which 14 firefighters lost their lives. First introduced to Australia by the Country Fire Authority in Victoria, DEC has been running Fireline Leadership since 2006.

The program provides hands-on leadership training in a range of subjects including memory and behaviour, team building, the basis of leadership and influence, establishing and using team values, developing and realising vision, decision making, learning from performance, active listening, communication responsibilities, leading ethically and more.

Senior Development and Education Officer David Rawet said theory was put into practice in action-learning scenarios that challenged each participant.

"The lessons learnt were examined in 'after action reviews', initially led by the facilitators but later run by the participants themselves," David said.

The lead facilitators have highly developed leadership skills and extensive experience. Nick Zambito was a US Special Forces commander before working as a Director at Homeland Security for a number of years. Libbym Thompson is a

psychologist with an Australian Defence Forces (ADF) background still working with ADF in Australia and overseas.

"The challenge for all graduates is to put the lessons into daily practice and to continue to develop their leadership skills," David said.

"FMS does its bit by incorporating the best practice aspects into DEC fire procedures and other training courses. MCS also provides further development support online for graduates.

"The key to the program's success is that Fireline Leadership is about leading in any time-critical high consequence environment, not just firefighting.

"That describes a lot of what people do throughout DEC. The facilitators have backgrounds very different to our own, but the skills they are teaching us are universal. There is a great match between DEC's learning and development needs and this high-calibre practical course."

This year the participants rated the overall quality of the courses 4.7 out of five. Their testimonials echo the relevance and impact experienced by previous graduates, with one participant saying that of all the courses they had been to over the years, this had been the best – with excellent presentations by the facilitators which were a credit to their skill of delivery.

Other participants made comments including that they would recommend the course for anyone in emergency services, that the field exercises were the key to bringing classroom theory into reality, and that the course was relevant in every work centre for every job, not just emergency responders.

