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## Community celebrates Ningaloo World Heritage listing

**STATE and federal Environment Ministers visited Exmouth in May to join the community and DEC staff in celebrating the recent World Heritage listing of the Ningaloo Coast.**

Federal Minister for the Environment Tony Burke and State Minister for the Environment Bill Marmion attended the event and jointly unveiled a plaque marking the official listing of the Ningaloo Coast World Heritage area.



**Above:** (From left) Federal Minister for the Environment Tony Burke MP, DEC Director General Keiran McNamara, Exmouth Shire President Turk Shales and Western Australian Minister for the Environment Hon. Bill Marmion MLA unveiling the Ningaloo World Heritage area plaque at the community celebration day in May. The Ningaloo Coast was formally inscribed on the World Heritage List on 24 June 2011. Photo – I Ford  
**Right:** A whale shark feeding.

The event coincided with the Exmouth community's annual Whale Shark Festival. DEC Exmouth District Manager Arvid Hogstrom said the festival was as popular and enjoyable as usual.

"We would like to thank the committee, shire and all those involved for ensuring this unique event was a great success," he said.

"I would also like to thank all the DEC staff who put together a fantastic display and staffed the display for the day. It was well received and provided lots of information relating to whale shark and other local management activities."

Arvid said the World Heritage celebration would be the spring board for more World Heritage-

related activity in the area, with the State Environment Minister announcing the formation of a World Heritage committee. Expressions of interest for committee membership will soon be invited.

Also announced was the creation of the *Ningaloo Coast EveryTrail guide* – an excellent source of maps, pictures and information about points of interest in the World Heritage area for both locals and visitors. Download the guide at [www.everytrail.com/guide/ningaloo-coast-world-heritage-area](http://www.everytrail.com/guide/ningaloo-coast-world-heritage-area).

In addition, the new DEC World Heritage manager begins shortly and will start work on local branding, signage and communications that will help with local marketing and promotion.



### Environment Awards nominations open

**NOMINATIONS** are now open for the 2012 Western Australian Environment Awards.

The awards acknowledge, reward and recognise businesses, government agencies, community groups and individuals who make a valuable contribution to protecting and conserving the state's natural environment.

Nominations opened on 5 June and will close in late July, with judging commencing in August. Finalists will be announced in late September or early October, and award winners celebrated at a presentation dinner on 9 November 2012.

For more information visit the [DEC website](#) or call 6467 5144.

### Ngari Capes WA's 11th marine park

**THE Minister for Environment, Hon. Bill Marmion MLA, announced the gazettal of Ngari Capes Marine Park on 12 June 2012.**

Ngari Capes Marine Park is Western Australia's 11th marine park and covers about 124,000 hectares. It stretches from Geographe Bay in the north to Flinders Bay in the south and extends seaward three nautical mile to the limit of state waters.

Funding of \$8.56 million over four years has been allocated to DEC and the Department of Fisheries to manage the new marine park.

More information can be found in the full [media statement](#) and on the [DEC website](#).

# Camden Sound Marine Park gazetted

**WESTERN Australia's 12th marine park was officially created on 19 June with the listing of Camden Sound Marine Park in the Government Gazette.**

Situated 300 kilometres north-east of Broome, the marine park covers about 7,000 square kilometres and encompasses Montgomery Reef and its tidal waterfalls, the area around Champagne Island and St George Basin.

Environment Minister Bill Marmion said the marine park's creation delivered on a major election commitment to protect one of the state's most environmentally sensitive areas.

"Camden Sound is internationally recognised as the biggest calving area for humpback whales in the Southern Hemisphere with more than 1,000 humpbacks found there during the calving season," Mr Marmion said.

"The area is also a landmark tourism destination for the Kimberley's cruise charter operators. Protection of this area for current and future generations is a direct investment into the ongoing sustainability of the region's tourism industry.

"It is also the first marine park to be created under the state government's \$63 million Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy, which will see other marine parks created at Eighty Mile Beach, Roebuck Bay and the North Kimberley."

The marine park will enhance conservation efforts for a range of species including humpback whales, dugong, flatback and green turtles, sawfish and Australian snubfin and Indo-pacific dolphins.

"Given Camden Sound's importance as a humpback whale nursery, a special purpose whale conservation zone will cover about 25 per cent of the marine park – an area where vessels must remain at least 500 metres from humpback mothers and calves," the Minister said.

"The marine park's zoning scheme will allow recreational and commercial fishing as well as aquaculture and pearling to occur while still protecting a unique marine environment."

Camden Sound Marine Park has two sanctuary zones, three special purpose zones and four general use zones.

The marine park will be jointly managed by DEC and traditional owners, including the Dambimangari and Unguu people.





Special Investigations Officer Rick Dawson with Chasey the Carnaby's cockatoo and documentary filmmaker and author Leighton De Barros.

## New DEC book takes wing at launch

FOLLOWING the success of the highly acclaimed ABC documentary *On a Wing and a Prayer*, a book of the same name was launched on Friday 8 June at the WA Conservation Science Centre.

The book was written and photographed by international and national award-winning wildlife cinematographer Leighton De Barros, the filmmaker behind the documentary.

It was designed by DEC's Corporate Communications Branch Design and Production Coordinator Natalie Jolakoski, and is the department's newest saleable publication released through WA Naturally Publications.

The story gives a detailed account the life cycle of the threatened Carnaby's cockatoo, focusing on a small family of birds from the species.

Leighton said working with DEC on the book and the film was a great experience.

"It was an honour to be involved with the book and the culmination of a lot of hard work from many DEC staff," he said.

"The book started some time ago with the production of the film and it's wonderful to see the final result. It's a credit to all involved and I am very proud of it."

Leighton said the documentary had received a good response from retailers, with ABC Shops and ABC Books selecting it for distribution in stores around Australia.

"This is a testament to the quality of the book and its appeal to people around the country" he said.

DEC's Nature Protection Branch Special Investigations Officer Rick Dawson also spoke at the launch, praising Leighton for sharing knowledge on the plight of Carnaby's cockatoos through the film and book.

The launch was attended by DEC staff and volunteers, and members of external agencies such as Perth Zoo, Kaarakin Black Cockatoo Rehabilitation Centre, and Birdlife Australia.

*On a Wing and a Prayer* can be purchased from DEC's website at [www.dec.wa.gov.au/shop](http://www.dec.wa.gov.au/shop), ABC Shops or other good bookstores for \$24.95. DEC employees receive 20 per cent staff discount on the book and on all WA Naturally products.



## A busy time for Pollution Response Unit

DEC's Pollution Response Unit (PRU) had their work cut out when FESA called them out to a 'fifth alarm' fire due to a potentially toxic smoke plume in North Perth in May. 'Fifth alarm' is the highest level response, requiring the deployment of five fire stations, and incident command resources.

PRU classified the incident as a Code 3 (high risk to public health and the environment requiring multi-agency response) and deployed all available resources. Downwind smoke monitoring indicated a moderate to low health hazard as the smoke was rising and dissipating.

The unit soon discovered the main problem – exploding asbestos roof sheeting. This was carried by the fire's heat and deposited onto residential and commercial properties downwind for up to 100 metres.

Environmental Hazard Manager Ken Raine said DEC played a key role in identifying the asbestos by using a magnifying lens and a butane torch to test combustibility, and by obtaining a sample for testing by ChemCentre.

"We provided guidance to FESA, Police and other agencies on the area affected and the requirements for clean up," he said.

PRU officers assessed the impact zone, and helped Department of Health, WorkSafe and local government environmental health officers to enter the area with correct protective equipment and decontamination procedures.

Ken said PRU had attended numerous other incidents during the past month, including an oil spill in Fremantle harbour, a train derailment and diesel spill near Bullsbrook, a container fire at Fremantle Port, a major fire that destroyed a recycling facility in North Coogee, and two major suspected pesticide incidents in Wanneroo and Kardup.



PRU officers at the major structural fire incident in North Perth.

