

Exmouth Gulf Taskforce Communique

Meeting 7, 15 March 2024

Latest news

The seventh meeting of the Exmouth Gulf Taskforce (the Taskforce) was held in Exmouth on 15 March 2024. The meeting was chaired by Mr David McFerran, Taskforce Chair.

The Taskforce discussed a range of topics, including:

- Dr Jenny Shaw, Research Director, Western Australian Marine Science Institution: Overview of the 'Cumulative Pressures on the Distinctive Values of Exmouth Gulf' report
- Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage: Aboriginal heritage legislation overview and amendments.
- Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions: Exmouth Gulf terrestrial and marine reserves and progress on the Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA).

On 14 March, Taskforce members undertook a site visit to the Minderoo Exmouth Research Lab to learn about the marine research being undertaken in Exmouth Gulf. Dr Josh Bonesso, University of Western Australia Oceans Institute, presented on 'Exmouth Gulf through time: Learning from the past and predicting challenges for coastal landforms and species'. Members also participated in a strategic discussion around the Taskforce's final advice to the Minister for Environment.

Who is on the Taskforce?

The Taskforce comprises representatives of member organisations appointed by the Hon Reece Whitby, MLA, Minister for Environment. Membership includes:

- Independent Chair;
- Commonwealth Department of Defence;
- Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions;
- Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation;
- Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage;
- Department of Transport;
- DWER;
- Gascoyne Development Commission (Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development);
- Fisheries (Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development);
- Shire of Exmouth;
- Shire of Ashburton;
- Nganhurra Thanardi Garrbu Aboriginal Corporation;
- Sea Harvest;
- Recfishwest;
- Cape Conservation Group / Protect Ningaloo Campaign; and
- Community members.

Background

The Exmouth Gulf Taskforce was established under section 25 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. Secretariat support is provided by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation.

What is next?

The next meeting of the Taskforce is planned for mid-June 2024 in Perth.

More information

The Terms of Reference describes the role of the Exmouth Gulf Taskforce and can be found at:

[Exmouth Gulf Taskforce | Western Australian Government \(www.wa.gov.au\)](https://www.wa.gov.au/government/committees-and-panels/exmouth-gulf-taskforce)

If you would like to contact the Taskforce, please email: exmouthtaskforce@dwer.wa.gov.au