

Exmouth Gulf Taskforce Communique

Meeting 1, September 2022

Latest news

The first meeting of the Exmouth Gulf Taskforce was held in Exmouth on 1-2 September 2022. Taskforce members were able to get to know each other and share their experiences and perspectives on the Exmouth Gulf. The Taskforce worked through the [Terms of Reference](#) to develop an understanding of what is required of the Taskforce over the next three years.

The Taskforce was also able to visit key sites around Exmouth, including the Vlamingh Head Lighthouse, Exmouth Marina, Qualing Pool, Camerons Cave and the old Kailis prawn site. The field tour prompted discussions around local issues and cultural values. The tour was supported by the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions and the Gascoyne Development Commission.

Who is on the Taskforce?

The Taskforce is chaired by Ms Laine Ashforth-McDonald and comprises representatives of member organisations appointed by the Hon Reece Whitby MLA, Minister for Environment. Two community members were appointed to the Taskforce by Minister Whitby on the 29 August 2022. There were 19 applications from the community, with the two successful applicants being Lyn Irvine and Renee Morgan.

What is next

The second meeting of the Taskforce is to be held on the 18 November 2022 in Perth.

Background

The Exmouth Gulf Taskforce was established under section 25 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. The Taskforce will have a primary role in:

1. Sharing knowledge on the state of key values and pressures of the Gulf and its surrounds to inform conservation, planning and management of key values
2. Regular monitoring and reporting on the state of the environment for the Gulf and its surrounds
3. Ensuring the Traditional Owners are considered partners in the conservation, planning and management decisions for the Gulf and its surrounds
4. Input on statutory planning and environmental assessment processes where future decisions are likely to significantly impact on the Gulf and its surrounds
5. Addressing knowledge gaps to improve environmental planning and management of multiple sectors (e.g. tourism, fisheries, conservation, pastoralism, transport)
6. Considering the implications of climate change and the need to develop adaptation strategies as part of future conservation, enhancement and management.

Secretariat support is provided by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation.

More information

A webpage has been developed for the Taskforce, which can be found at: **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.**

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