

## **Exmouth Gulf Taskforce Communique**

### **Meeting 2, November 2022**

#### ***Latest news***

The second meeting of the Exmouth Gulf Taskforce was held in Perth on 18 November 2022, hosted by the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation. The Taskforce discussed a range of topics, including:

- A draft communications plan to guide internal and external communications
- Knowledge gaps central to the Taskforce's Terms of Reference
- Scientific research on the environmental values of Qualing Pool area presented by Dr Ben Fitzpatrick, Oceanwise Australia
- Prioritisation of a review of the Exmouth groundwater allocation plan, in consultation with the Nganhurra Thanardi Garrbu Aboriginal Corporation (NTGAC)
- Work required to develop interim recommendations for the Minister for Environment by August 2023.

#### ***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.

#### ***What is next***

In preparation for the next meeting the Taskforce will be considering public communication and engagement; and options for the management and improved protection of the Gulf. The next meeting of the Taskforce is planned to be in mid-March 2023 in Exmouth.

#### ***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](mailto:exmouthtaskforce@dwer.wa.gov.au)