

Exmouth Gulf Taskforce Communique

Meeting 3, 10 March 2023

Latest news

The third meeting of the Exmouth Gulf Taskforce was held in Exmouth on 10 March 2023. The meeting was chaired by Ms Michelle Andrews, Director General of the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, as the substantive Chair, Ms Laine Ashforth-McDonald, was unable to attend in person.

The Taskforce discussed a range of topics, including:

- Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, provided an update on terrestrial and marine park planning
- Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, provided an update on marine habitat mapping products for Exmouth Gulf
- Water Corporation, briefed members on Exmouth water source planning and investigating future supply options
- Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, briefed members on Exmouth groundwater allocation planning, review of water resource information and allocation limits.
- Developing interim recommendations for the Minister for Environment anticipated for August 2023
- Investment planning for key knowledge gaps central to the Taskforce's Terms of Reference.

On 9 March, most of the Taskforce members undertook a site visit to Water Corporation's wastewater treatment plant and Department of Defence facilities to improve understanding of critical local infrastructure and any constraints regarding their operation.

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.

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 2023 in Perth.

More information

The Terms of Reference describes the role of the Exmouth Gulf Taskforce.

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