

Exmouth Gulf Taskforce Communique

Meeting 5, 11 August 2023

Latest news

The fifth meeting of the Exmouth Gulf Taskforce was held in Exmouth on 11 August 2023. The meeting was chaired by Ms Laine Ashforth-McDonald.

The Taskforce discussed a range of topics, including:

- Dr Geoff Taylor: whale sharks, coral reefs, and connections to Exmouth Gulf
- Jono Shales, Exmouth Fly Fishing: fishing charters and wilderness values of the Gulf
- Department of Water and Environmental Regulation: Exmouth groundwater allocation planning, review of water resource information and allocation limits
- Developing an interim report for the Minister for Environment, anticipated for September 2023

On 10 August, many of the Taskforce members undertook a site visit to the Exmouth Boat Harbour to tour a Sea Harvest prawn trawler, learn about the Exmouth Gulf Prawn Fisheries Marine Stewardship Councils' sustainability certification, Boat Harbour operations and master planning by Department of Transport, and Gulf charter boat operations.

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. Membership includes:

- Independent Chair (Ms Ashforth-McDonald);
- 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;
- Department of Water and Environmental Regulation;
- 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-November 2023 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