

Exmouth Gulf Taskforce Communique

Meeting 6, 23 November 2023

Latest news

The sixth meeting of the Exmouth Gulf Taskforce (the Taskforce) was held in Perth on 23 November 2023. The meeting was chaired by Ms Michelle Andrews, Director General, Department of Water and Environmental Regulation.

The Taskforce discussed a range of topics, including:

- Water Corporation: Exmouth Water Supply
- Dr Bill Humphreys: Cape Range Subterranean Fauna
- Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER): Salt Farms and Mardie Offset Research Program
- DWER: Exmouth Freshwater Cultural Values Water Mapping
- Professor Matthew Tonts: Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) Chair – EPA Section 16 (e) Exmouth Gulf advice, current Gulf area proposals before the EPA and EPA processes.

The Taskforce updated its Terms of Reference (TOR) to incorporate inclusion of quorum details. The updated TOR are available on the [Exmouth Gulf Taskforce website](#).

Who is on the Taskforce?

The Taskforce Chair is currently vacant, and the Minister is in the process of appointing a new Chair. The inaugural Taskforce Chair Ms Laine Ashforth-McDonald stepped away from the role for personal reasons. Her contributions to the Taskforce were highly appreciated. The Taskforce comprises representatives of member organisations appointed by the Hon Reece Whitby, MLA, Minister for Environment. Membership includes:

- Independent Chair (currently vacant);
- 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-March 2024 in Exmouth.

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