

Exmouth Gulf Taskforce

Frequently Asked Questions

Exmouth Gulf

Why was the Exmouth Gulf Taskforce (Taskforce) established?

The Taskforce was established in July 2022 under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* as the coordinating body to assist the State Government's consideration of strategic issues relating to Exmouth Gulf. This was part of Government's response to the Environmental Protection Authority's (EPA) strategic advice to the Minister for Environment.

How does the Taskforce relate to the Environmental Protection Authority's strategic advice on cumulative impacts on values of Exmouth Gulf?

The Taskforce is building on the EPA advice, investigating knowledge gaps, and providing advice to the Minister for the Environment regarding options for further protections and integrated management for Exmouth Gulf and surrounds.

Will the Taskforce be commenting on development proposals?

No, the Taskforce will not replace or replicate existing environmental or planning assessment processes for considering development proposals. Taskforce members may provide direct comment on development proposals through their own organisations but this is beyond the Terms of Reference for the Taskforce.



Humpback whale Exmouth Gulf



Baby turtle Exmouth Gulf

How was membership of the Taskforce decided?

The Minister for the Environment appointed Taskforce members under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, including the independent Chair. Membership includes Traditional Owners, local, state and commonwealth government agencies, community and industry representatives.

Who is represented on the Taskforce?

- Independent Chair
- 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
- Shire of Exmouth
- Shire of Ashburton
- Nganhurra Thanardi Garrbu Aboriginal Corporation (x2)
- Sea Harvest
- Recfishwest
- Cape Conservation Group / Protect Ningaloo Campaign
- Community Members (x2)

How do Traditional Owners participate in the Taskforce?

Traditional Owners are represented on the Taskforce by two members of the Nganhurra Thanardi Garrbu Aboriginal Corporation (NTGAC), Native Title holders for the Exmouth area. NTGAC share their cultural knowledge at meetings and site visits.

Will there be an opportunity to provide input into the Taskforce?

The Taskforce has engaged with community and stakeholders through the development of its advice and recommendations to the Minister and addressing knowledge gaps. The Taskforce has community representatives included in its membership as a further avenue for input. The Taskforce acknowledges that the EPA consulted extensively to inform their strategic advice on Exmouth Gulf. The Taskforce will consider this during its deliberations.

What are the next steps for the Taskforce and when is the final advice expected to be delivered to State Government?

The Taskforce continues to meet in 2025 to develop its final advice to the Minister for Environment, aligned with its Terms of Reference, anticipated to be delivered in 2025. This advice complements the [Exmouth Gulf Taskforce interim report](#), published in May 2024. The Taskforce will also provide a knowledge review report, updating key information gaps. The Taskforce is set to conclude in June 2025.

How do I find out more about the Exmouth Gulf Taskforce?

Find information at [Exmouth Gulf Taskforce](#) or email the Taskforce at exmouthtaskforce@dwer.wa.gov.au.

Exmouth Gulf Taskforce

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