

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Exmouth Gulf](#)
Subject: Please Protect Exmouth Gulf
Date: Wednesday, 11 November 2020 3:16:00 PM

1 What are the values (environmental/social/cultural) you associate or identify with in and around Exmouth Gulf?

The Gulf provides my family the very lifestyle we moved to Exmouth for, [REDACTED] We visit the beaches North & South of town daily for our [REDACTED] k with the dog, the expanse of the wilderness & the wonder of what we will see today draws us back tomorrow. There is a real therapeutic value in our daily routine that provides us with genuine stress relief, time to talk, a gratefulness of where we live and mindfulness of how lucky we are to have this as our backyard!

The Gulf provides us with much of the seafood we catch and eat.

The Gulf is where we spend most of our weekend's recreation time, either on the boat or catching up with friends.

The wildlife experiences we enjoy in the Gulf are without parallel. Whether its whales with their calves resting close to shore, or random breaching out of nowhere, watching an Osprey catch and perch with its kill, swimming with Dugongs, Manta Rays and Turtles, we are constantly in awe of how lucky we are to have this asset as there is few places like it in the world.

I find it hard to say what the Gulf provides me culturally, I guess it gives me some identity of what it means to live here, it's a privilege to call this place home and it's our job as locals to protect it as it feels like it gives us protection. With little Indigenous representation locally, it has been difficult to engage and be educated of the importance the Gulf represents with our traditional owners, but I am sure it is significant and look forward to finding out in the coming months as the Gulf's sustainability takes centre stage.

2 What activities do you engage with in and around Exmouth Gulf?

On the water: Boating, fishing, spearfishing, swimming, whale watching, bird watching, stand up paddle boarding, snorkelling and of course swimming.

On land: We walk our dog daily along the Gulf beaches, swim and socialise with friends, bird watch and camp.

The gulf provides reprieve from the strong sea breeze, and specifically Qualing Pool is the only permanent body of water on land, protected from most winds, that the kids can access within the towns local area.

3 What environmental pressures do you observe in and around Exmouth Gulf?

- The massive sand excavation and distribution of sand from the South to the North of the marina makes me concerned for natural sand flow.
- The increased boat traffic, especially during Whale Season.
- I would like to know more about Prawn Trawling and its effects on the seabed.

- 4WD access through dune systems
- Over fishing of targeted species
- Industrial operations and ship traffic around Onslow

4 What environmental pressures in and around Exmouth Gulf affect you/your sector or business?

- Dune erosion
- Destruction of bird habitat
- Increased boat traffic
- Prawn Fisheries
- Recreational fishers

My expectation since moving to Exmouth in [REDACTED] is that it was only a matter of time until the Marine Park protections, ending at Bundegi, were extended to include the Exmouth Gulf to at least Giralia Bay. I find it hard to believe we are even having to assess whether the Gulf in need of protection, it's as important, if not more important than the World Heritage listed Ningaloo Reef, just not as photogenic!

5 Are there other activities that are proposed (or likely to be proposed) that you are aware of, which will impact the Exmouth Gulf?

- Sub Sea 7 pipeline loading facility
- Deep Water Port adjacent the Wilderness Estate
- Salt mine
- Limestone mine
- Additional caravan parks would create further stress on the fishery and dune systems
- Further extension to the Marina infrastructure. At least a pylon jetty would create further habitat for fish & allow natural sand flow.

Thank you for allowing us this opportunity to raise our concerns and we appreciate your considerations.

Regards,

[REDACTED]