

Response ID ANON-P8JT-DE4K-E

Submitted to **EPA Strategic Advice for the Exmouth Gulf - Consultation**

Submitted on **2020-11-10 09:22:16**

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Surname:

[REDACTED]

Given name:

[REDACTED]

2 What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

3 Do your views officially represent those of an organisation?

No, these are my personal views

If yes, please specify the name of your organisation.:

4 Which of the following best describes the group or person you represent?

Private Citizen

If other, please specify.:

Comments

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

Please provide your comments on what information should be required here.:

Pristine wilderness environment. Iconic Australian outback area. Wonderful bush camping and room to explore nature. Vast areas of open space that hasn't been spoiled by human activities and industry. Space to unwind, relax and BREATHE, free from the pressures of modern industrialised society. Calm, clear water with wonderful whale cruises and opportunities for boating excursions. Three of my most memorable lifetime experiences happened in the Exmouth Gulf. Many years ago, before the last big cyclone my parents and I went on a boat cruise on the little boat that used to operate from Bundegi Beach and two male humpbacks delighted the tourists by a display of synchronised breaching that lasted about 45 minutes....my parents are now 88 years old and STILL remember that day! More recently, I was camping at Yardie Homestead for a few weeks [REDACTED] and came round to Bundegi Beach for a kayak...the water was mirror calm and I could see that the corals were FINALLY regrowing after the cyclone...whales were breaching in the distance, and dolphins were jumping close by. ...pure magic! In the third experience a local took me out past naval pier on his jetski, and a mother and baby whale cruised by to check us out...the sight of the baby jumping and playing and the mother spy-hopping was something that will stay with me forever. The waters on the reef side of the cape are too rough for these kinds of encounter, and there are so few places in the world left where visitors (and residents) can have these types of experience. Please keep Exmouth Gulf as a wilderness area and include it in the National Park and World Heritage area. We DON'T NEED another Port Hedland, Dampier, Karratha or Onslow!!!

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

Please provide your comments on how emissions should be considered here.:

Snorkelling, swimming, kayaking, going on whale watching tours, relaxing on the beaches, picnicking, walking along the beaches, exploring the shoreline (where there is 2WD access). If I had a 4WD and off-road driving skills I would for sure be camping there too! I would LOVE to see more "basic...drop toilets only" 2WD accessible camping areas along the Gulf. SO many holidaymakers are craving a more back-to-nature, basic, less expensive camping experience these days, especially with "Wander Out Yonder", but the existing commercial caravan parks are becoming increasingly filled with cabins, crowded, suburbanised and expensive!!

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

Please provide your comments here.:

An increasing number of industrial proposals which would irrevocably alter the pristine wilderness values of the place, and the character of the lovely laid-back outback town of Exmouth. The proposed new large jetty, and encouragement of large cruise ships (which are NOT compatible with the kind of ecotourism/wilderness experiences for which the Exmouth area is world famous). Canal housing estate, trawling. Conflict between residents who live in Exmouth because they love the current environment and lifestyle, and those pushing for "development and progress" no matter what the cost. In my observation from many decades of visits, the community was stable and in harmony with it's environment up until the last mining boom - then it became a FIFO centre, people came in from city areas and started building fancy houses, the real estate prices went crazy and the canal estate was started. After the mining boom, the people who overcapitalised and DID NOT share the values of the original residents started to push for "jobs and growth" to shift the town to meet THEIR needs (and turn Exmouth into a new Karratha). Why don't these people just MOVE to an area where that kind of activity already exists, and allow Exmouth to remain the outback

experience/ecotourism/wilderness tourism hub for which it is so well suited!

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

Label:

I am a nature-loving tourist who craves wilderness-based experiences....in both land and marine environments. The idea that ANY significant industry (including the proposed new wharf and large cruise ships) would be allowed into the Exmouth Gulf area is heartbreaking for me!

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

Label:

No

6 Is there any other information you would like to provide?

Please provide your comments here.:

No

7 If you have any documents to include with your submission, please upload here.

Upload document here.:

No file was uploaded

Upload additional document here.:

No file was uploaded

8 Information provided.

I Agree that my submission response does not contain confidential information, and that the submission may be published in full.