

# Response ID ANON-P8JT-DENU-J

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

Submitted on **2020-11-11 16:32:21**

## 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?

Yes, I am authorised to submit feedback on behalf of an organisation

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

Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Advisory Committee

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

Other

**If other, please specify.:**

World Heritage advisory committee

## 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.:**

Strategic Advice for the Exmouth Gulf - Consultation

Environmental Protection Authority

Submission by the Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Advisory Committee

The Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Advisory Committee addresses activities within and adjacent to the Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area that have the potential to impact the outstanding universal value of the World Heritage area. The comments below specifically address the community and industry consultation in relation to the current and proposed pressures facing the Exmouth Gulf and how they are/will impact on the area's environmental, social and cultural values.

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

#### ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES

■ The Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area (NCWHA) covers 6045km<sup>2</sup> and stretches more than 300km along the western coastline. The area encompasses the Muiron Islands and the Marine Management Area to the north, Bundegi and Jurabi Coastal Parks at the tip of the Cape, Ningaloo Marine Park (State and Commonwealth waters) and Cape Range National Park, including Shothole and Charles Knife canyons on the eastern side and to the south Learmonth Air Weapons Range.

■ The northern portion of the NCWHA comprises the north/west portion of Exmouth Gulf.

■ The Ningaloo Coast was inscribed on the World Heritage List on 24 June 2011 in recognition of its outstanding universal value under the following World Heritage criteria:

(vii) to contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance.

(x) to contain the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation.

■ The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) adopted statement of outstanding universal value for the Ningaloo Coast's includes the following:

° Exceptional landscape combining arid terrestrial and marine features

° One of the largest documented aggregations of whale sharks in the world

- ° High diversity of marine fish
- ° High diversity of reptiles
- ° High diversity of marine mammals
- ° High diversity of cave fauna (troglomorphic)
- ° High diversity of marine invertebrates and algae
- ° Noteworthy arid-zone vascular flora
- ° Noteworthy birds – protected migratory and wader species.
- °

■ The inherent connectivity between the NCWha and the Exmouth Gulf.

- ° The IUCN in its recommendation to inscribe the Ningaloo Coast under natural criteria referred back to the State Party to, “Consider inclusion of the Exmouth Gulf on the grounds of ecological linkages between the Ningaloo Reef and the gulf, in particular the extensive mangrove stands and other shallow water habitats that function as nurseries and adult foraging grounds for many species”, (IUCN Evaluation Report 2011).
- ° Particle dispersion modelling shows there is connectivity between the Exmouth Gulf and the western Ningaloo Reef (Feng et al. 2016) and this would contribute to exchanges in productivity and to larval supply.
- ° Movement of multiple species between Exmouth Gulf and Ningaloo Reef has been clearly identified.
- ° The Exmouth Gulf is a key resting area for female whales and new calves before embarking on the long journey back to Antarctic feeding grounds through the NCWha (Jenner and Jenner 2005).
- ° The Ningaloo Reef to Montebello Islands Important Marine Mammal Area (IMMA) comprises the majority of the NCWha and the entire Exmouth Gulf. IMMAs are “defined as discrete portions of habitat, important to marine mammal species, that have the potential to be delineated and managed for conservation” (IUCN Marine Mammal Protected Areas Task Force, <https://www.marinemammalhabitat.org/>).

Further detailed information in relation to the current and proposed pressures facing the Exmouth Gulf and how they are/will impact on the area’s environmental, social and cultural values will be provided by the Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Advisory Committee, Friday 13 November 2020 via email.

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

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

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

Please provide your comments here.:

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

Label:

## 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:

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

Please provide your comments here.:

Further detailed information in relation to the current and proposed pressures facing the Exmouth Gulf and how they are/will impact on the area’s environmental, social and cultural values will be provided by the Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Advisory Committee, Friday 13 November 2020 via email.

## 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.