

Response ID ANON-P8JT-DEPY-R

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

Submitted on **2020-11-02 14:20:54**

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.:

- [REDACTED] we have extremely strong environmental, cultural, and social associations with the area. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- People generally live in Exmouth because they want to, and love what the town and area has to offer. They are not here to make a quick dollar like in mining/industrial towns and this makes Exmouth a safe place to live and raise a family. Exmouth is a community that is very friendly, with strong connections to the environment.
- The families and people that live in Exmouth utilize what Exmouth and the Gulf have to offer daily and it is embedded in their culture. Having such a safe and pristine environment for local kids to learn how to camp, drive, swim, fish, and dive. These activities are so important in today's society and are a huge part of people's upbringing and social well-being. The gulf beaches are used every day by both townsfolk and visitors in one form or another. Eg Social gatherings to celebrate Christmas, Easter, weddings, Australia Day, school ball photos, whale shark festivals, community fun runs. It is not uncommon to see large social gatherings with hundreds of community members and families all enjoying the beach and gulf in harmony.
- Personally-We start our day with a walk or run along the pristine coastline, [REDACTED] bushland and gorges looking over to the World Heritage Cape Range system. The gulf and the surrounding areas are an untouched beauty. The wildlife both on land and undersea is amazing and we enjoy it as a whole family by many different means.
- Socially we use the area every day, for family time and gatherings, camping, recreational activities, sporting club gatherings, fitness, and to crucially maintain our mental health.
- We know there is cultural significance for the Baiyungu, Thalanyji and Yinikurtura people to the Ningaloo Coast and Exmouth Gulf area. These areas need to be preserved so we can continue to learn and protect their cultural heritage.
- This world heritage area is so significant to us and everyone who lives or visits here. Its natural wonder and beauty go beyond the limits of expectation. Residents of Exmouth are extremely proud that the beauty that surrounds their hometown is recognized worldwide as unparalleled natural phenomena.

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

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

The activities we engage in are vital to our physical and mental health, and our general wellbeing. They include:

- Daily walk or run along the beach
- Boating
- Diving & fishing
- Snorkelling
- Kayaking
- Stand up Paddle boarding
- Swimming

- BBQ's and social gatherings
- Camping
- Hiking and bushwalking
- Mountain Biking
- Meditation and Mental health strategies
- Bird watching
- Photography
- Children's play- Cubbies
- Whale watching (mantas, dolphins, turtles etc)

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

Please provide your comments here.:

The gulf is already under massive pressure from humans.

- Sedimentation and visibility issues from, boats, trawlers and dredging in other locations.
- Tourism and sheer numbers of people.
- Commercial fishery
- Barges and work boats
- Oil and gas boats-additional boats in project work
- Lights and Noise from work boats
- Extra boat traffic during severe weather events
- Recreational boaters- damaging reefs, wildlife str kes, pollution
- Fishing-undersized fish, incorrect bag limits, taking too many fish-greed (20kg fillets) lost fishing equipment/line
- Dumping of rubbish/litter
- Netting and the by-catch from netting
- Fish bite offs to sharks
- Motorbikes and 4WDS on beaches and dunes
- Illegal Camping
- Pollution
- Mismanagement of fishing regulations
- Subterranean waterways- artesian water used by town supply

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

Label:

_____ We are so connected to Exmouth Gulf and its surroundings; we believe all of these environmental pressures affect us in one way or another.

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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:

Activities/Projects that are proposed and some we have heard about for the gulf include

- Subsea7 pipe construction facility (Heron Point)
- Gascoyne Gateway Limited Deep-water Port _____
- K&S salt mine (east side of the gulf)
- Cruise ship solution (existing marina site)
- Land back barge load out facility (north of Mowbowra industrial estate)
- American Space fence

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

Please provide your comments here.:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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

Upload document here.:
[REDACTED]

Upload additional document here.:
[REDACTED]

8 Information provided.

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

21.10.20

Hello everyone,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

When we lived in [REDACTED], [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] oil and gas, wharf cargo and the discharging of
ships. These were noisy, busy and were 24/7 operations. I have also seen
firsthand [REDACTED], where
the hills were levelled, and the spoil from the dredging was pumped back onto
land. We did not move to Exmouth to see this happen to this magnificent
place.

The Gulf is an incredible place and is already under massive human pressure. It
needs to be preserved, not destroyed, for our children and future generations
to enjoy. The wildlife that lives here is unique and we are so lucky to have an
environment like this on our doorstep. It is not uncommon to see and swim
with manta rays, dugongs, humpback whales, dolphins or whale sharks
occasionally, and Orca's just last Sunday! So many species of fish -too many to
list- beautiful corals, anemones, and birdlife also-ospreys, white bellied sea
eagles and shore birds. Just to name a few. The Gulf is enjoyed by our family
and lots of other people for all kinds of recreational activities, by boat or from
the beach. The industrialization of the Gulf will have huge impacts on the reef
and wildlife that lives here as well as the many people that enjoy it.

The Gascoyne Gateway (GGL) proposal is extremely concerning for us as a
family and for the community of Exmouth. We were shocked to see GGL's plan
to build a Deepwater Port [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] GGL will need to dredge the gulf to be able to berth 300-
metre-long vessels with 12-meters of draught. The 900m causeway, jetty and
dredging required will have a huge impact of the sea floor, coral, sea grass,

marine animals, and water quality. There will also be air, dust, noise, and light pollution to consider, along with potentially contaminated ballast water from visiting ships. With the extra boat traffic, there is more chance of wildlife strikes, fuel, or oil contamination, as well as the introduction of diseases. Problems can also arise from vehicles or accidents that happen on the wharf, or dropped or damaged cargo. Cyclones or severe weather may also cause damage to ships or infrastructure resulting in leaks or spills.

The jetty will have to be high and long to accommodate the large ships they propose to bring in, which will have huge visual impact. The laydown areas, sheds, cargo, cranes, forklifts, offices, and security fencing will also create a visual eyesore. The gulf coastline is very low lying, and these items will be seen from a long way away.

The proposed land area is approximately 600 acres south of town between the Wilderness Estate and Mowbowra Industrial area and encompasses Qualing Pool. Also, the west side of Minilya-Exmouth Road, at the base of the range, North and South of the current tip site. This industrial precinct will be on the only road that goes in and out of town. The proposal includes some power generation and a bulk liquid storage area. The proposed site lays on top of World Heritage subterranean water ways and karst system, and If ever there was a leak, accident, or act of terror the consequences would be devastating. The plans also show these fuel storage and power reserves right in the path of Exmouth's light air strip

Qualing Pool and the land surrounding it, is a beautiful spot and one of the only areas on the Cape that holds water in a gorge all year round and also has a mangrove system. It is a mecca for bird and wildlife including - Whistling kites, western bower birds, Star finch, zebra finch, emus, singing honey eater, ospreys, wedgetail eagles, white bellied sea eagles, white winged fairly wrens, Variegated fairly wrens, shore birds, dingos, kangaroos and black swans. Just to name a few. There is also fish life in the pool, blue manner crabs and prawns. This area is used by our family and lots of locals for recreational activities daily. It is also visited by birdwatchers.

The extra vehicle and truck movements that this will bring will put huge pressure on an already poor road system. There will be loss of beach access and access to Qualing pool. The local Wildlife CARE group will lose or need to relocate their kangaroo rehabilitation compound. There are also sites of

cultural significance in the proposed area. I have seen this area flood under heavy rain and storm conditions. Who knows what impact this may have?

The following points refer to the Exmouth Shire South Structure Plan.

1. Qualing pool is to potentially become a reserve
2. To set aside an area of 100 metres wide on each side of the Minilya-Exmouth Rd from Learmonth Airport to Exmouth townsite to help maintain the landscape and sense of remoteness.
3. Development on the Coast and foreshore- south of town should be generally avoided.
4. The Wilderness estate is not recommended to expand- due to potential landscape impact and reduced public access to coast.

Given the massive impact of the GGL project both offshore and onshore, that will ultimately lead to the dredging and industrialisation of the Gulf. This will have huge impacts on the Environment, the town of Exmouth as a whole, and everybody who comes to enjoy the Gulf's natural assets. In the [REDACTED] we have lived here, we have made our own connection with nature. By meeting new people with different skill sets and knowledge, attending public seminars, like Resilient Reefs Workshops, Birds of Prey information sessions, Aussie bird count and watching documentaries like Chasing Coral and David Attenborough's-A Life On Our Planet, we have been learning and valuing more each day, about the importance of a place like the Exmouth Gulf and the Ningaloo Reef.

The Exmouth Gulf is the largest intact arid estuary in the world and SHOULD be left in its natural state and NOT be industrialized. Our planet Earth has very few wild places left, and we must protect what we have. We urge you to apply precautionary principles to your report, as scientists are only just beginning to understand the complex eco systems of the Exmouth Gulf and its vital connection to the Ningaloo Reef. The impact of Industrial Projects in the Gulf cannot be measured

Decisions cannot be made for economic benefits only. The impact of one project in the Gulf, is uncertain, let alone the cumulative impact, of several projects. This could ultimately lead to the destruction of the Gulf's biodiversity. The earth cannot afford for us, to make any more mistakes. One thing is certain, we must all do our part in saving our Wilderness spaces, or it will be to the demise of our planet

_____ we

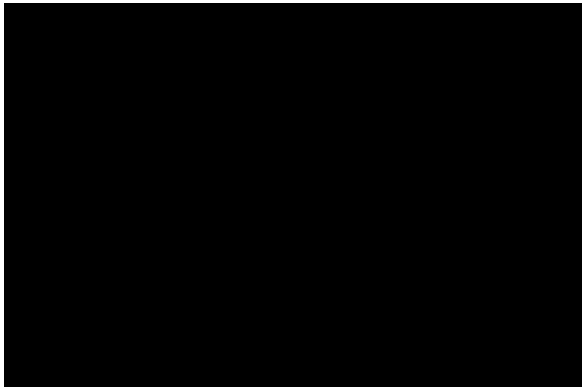


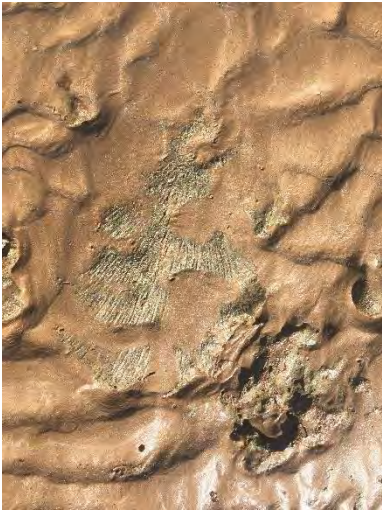
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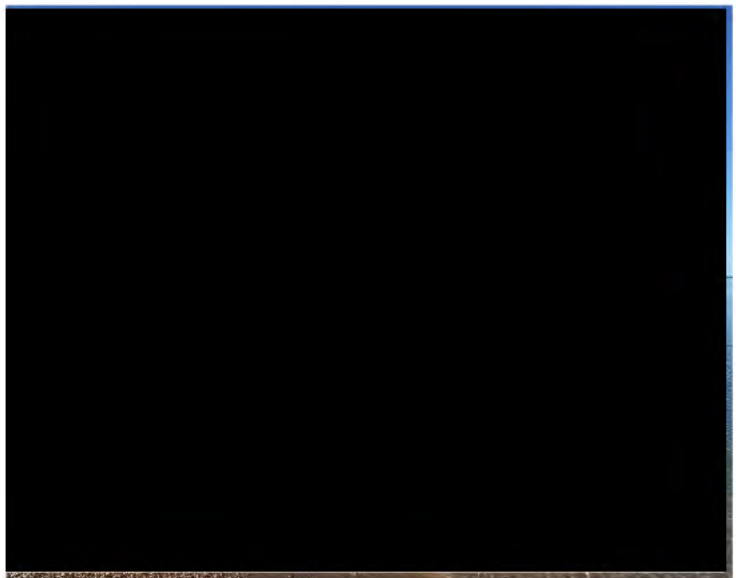
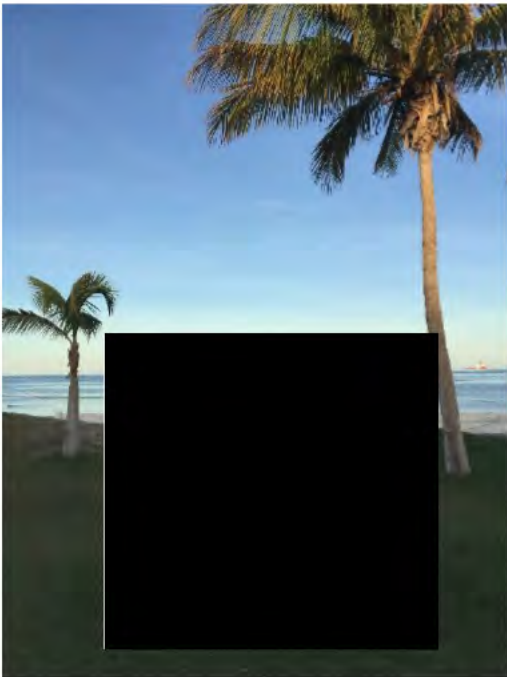
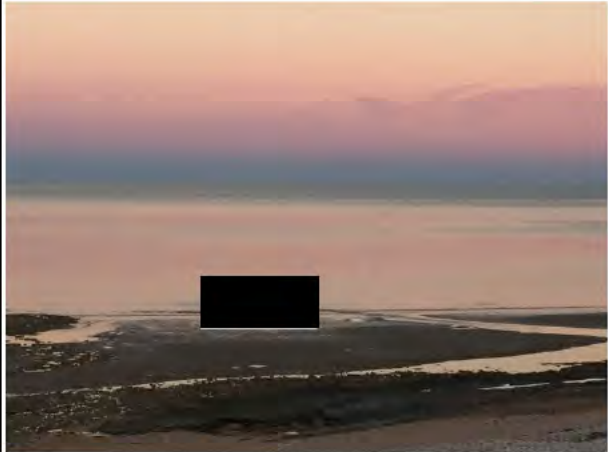
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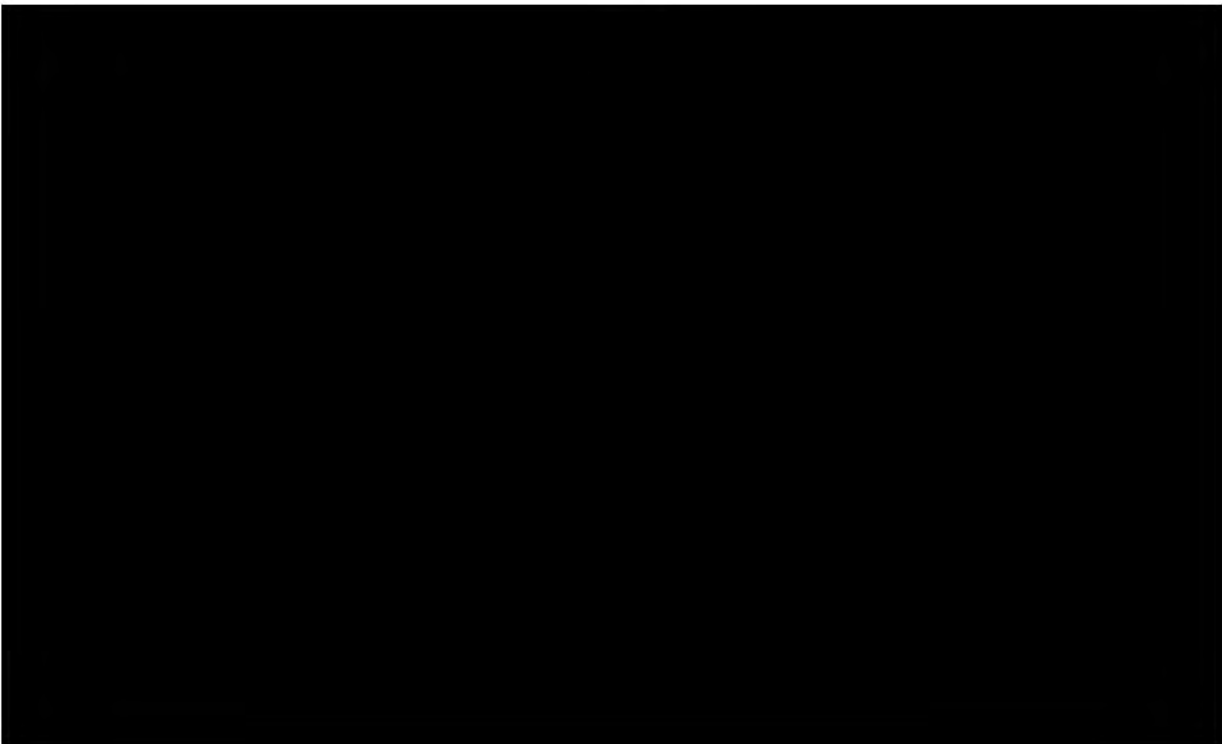
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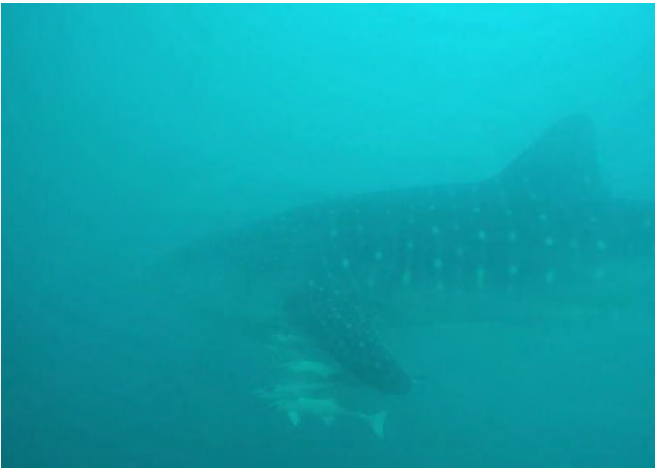
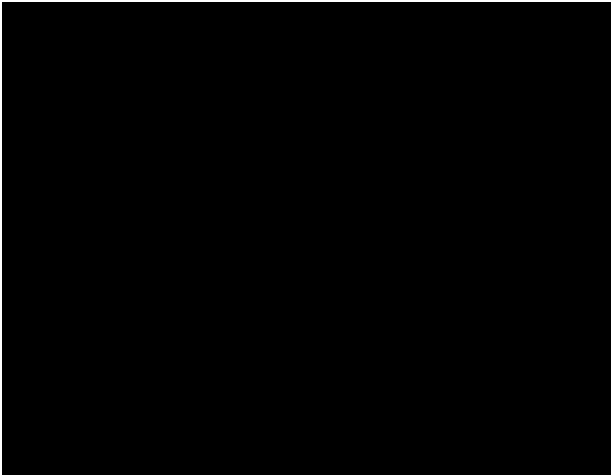
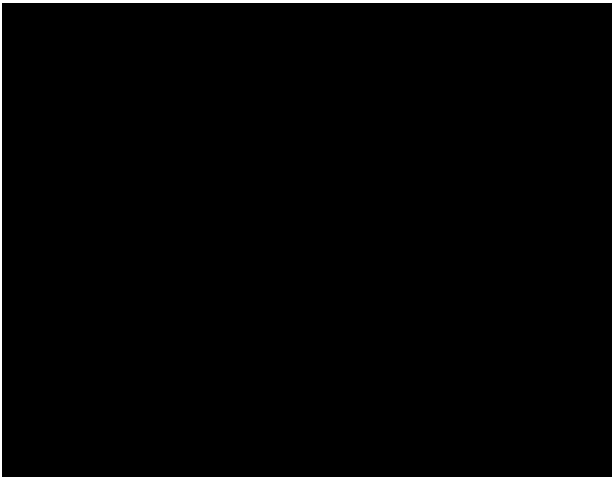
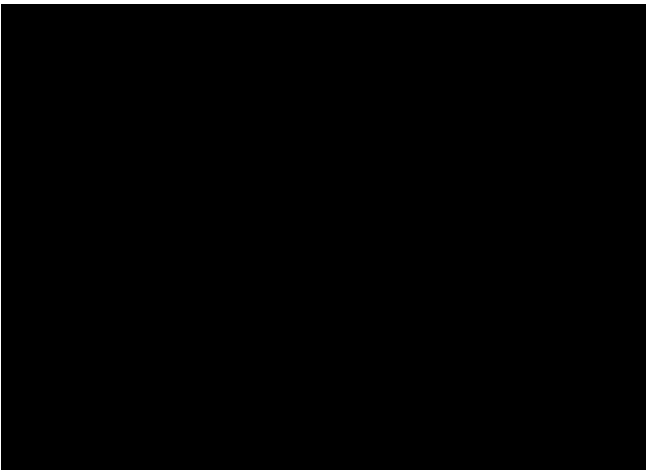
Age Group	Should Take Action	Should Not Take Action
18-29	85%	15%
30-49	85%	15%
50-69	85%	15%
70+	85%	15%











From: [REDACTED]
To: [Exmouth Gulf](#)
Subject: [REDACTED] Additional Information
Date: Wednesday, 11 November 2020 9:37:50 AM
Attachments: [REDACTED]

To whom it may concern

RE ANON-P8JT-DEPY-R [REDACTED] Additional Information

Please find the word documents attached that has some more photos, map and information to be submitted to the Exmouth Gulf Strategic advice submission.

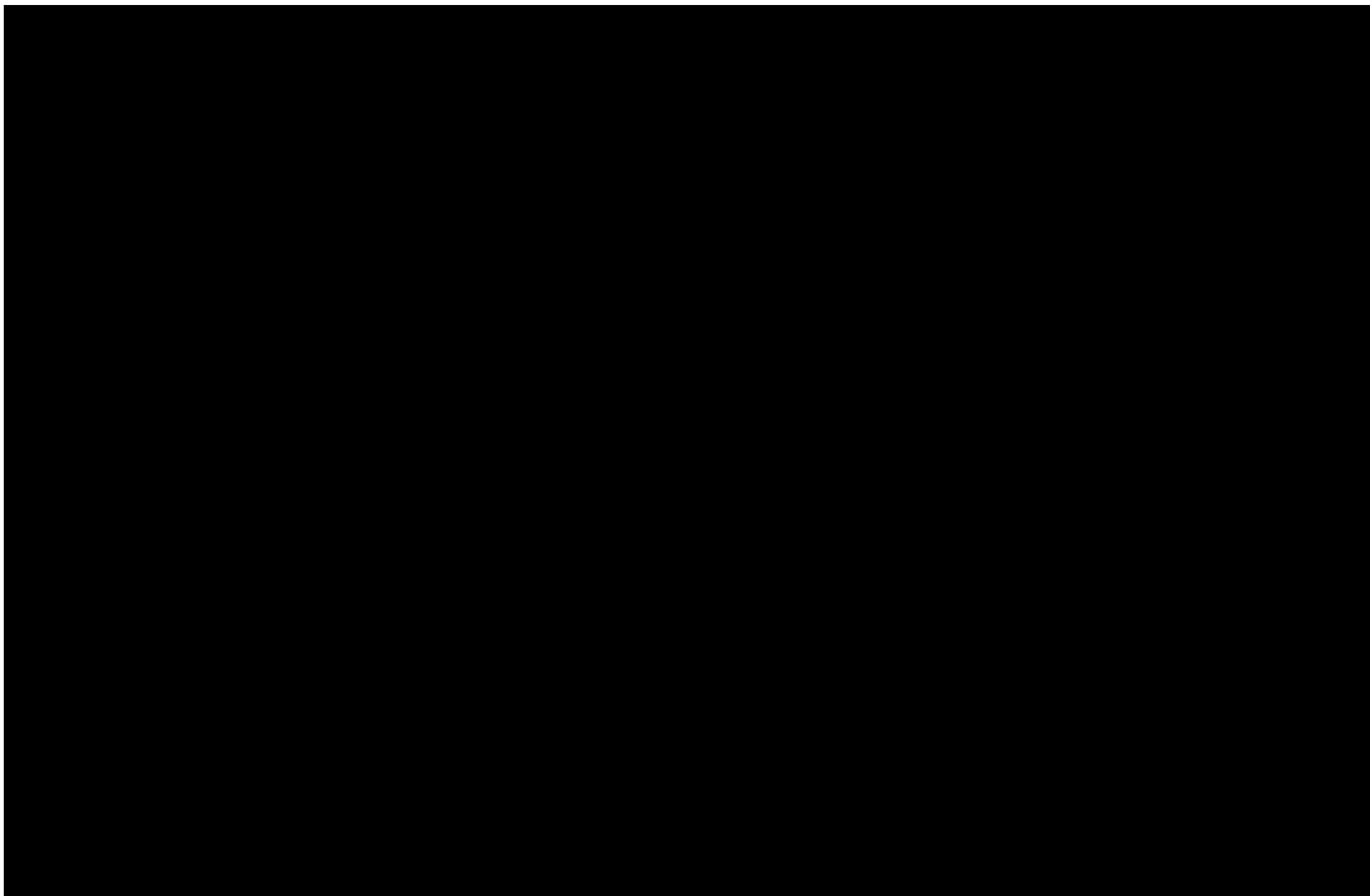
Can you please advise me that you have received this email, and the two attachments, and that they will be included with our original submission.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any more information.

Thanks

Regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



Please find below a series of photos to support our original submission.

we do not support any industrialization of the Exmouth Gulf.

Also, please refer to the Gascoyne Gateway map, as the land areas I have identified do not include the total land area they propose to acquire in their application. The total land area is approximately 600 acres (Both sides of the Minilya-Exmouth Rd), plus at least the 1-kilometre jetty out into the Gulf.

The CARE group has a kangaroo rehabilitation compound in the proposed area, which will also be lost.

There will be the loss of access to Qualing Pool and a popular beach.

The jetty construction will destroy corals, fish life and sea grass bed. When the gulf is dredged, to get the desired depth, it will create a fine sediment that covers coral, sea grasses etc. This also inhibits sunlight through the water column.

I have attached a photo of a trawler in the Gulf and you can see the sediment trail that they create.

Gascoyne Gateway want to do their community consultation by 4 x small community groups of 12-14 people (first in-first served). They have advised a friend of mine that, public forums don't work, I think they meant to say that public forums don't work for the proponent. There needs to be proper community consultation.

If they fill the 4 community groups with 14 people, that will give a total of 56 people having their say on an outcome that could affect the whole town, the Ningaloo Reef, and the Gulf.

On Saturday 7.11.20, a group of over 100 locals rallied together at Qualing Pool (near the proposed jetty site) to protest against Gascoyne Gateway and a Deepwater Port. **This is the community showing they do no support industry in the Gulf.** Never, in Exmouth, has this number of locals rallied together to fight against such a development!

There are also some photos attached of the protest.

Below is a news link to the protest.

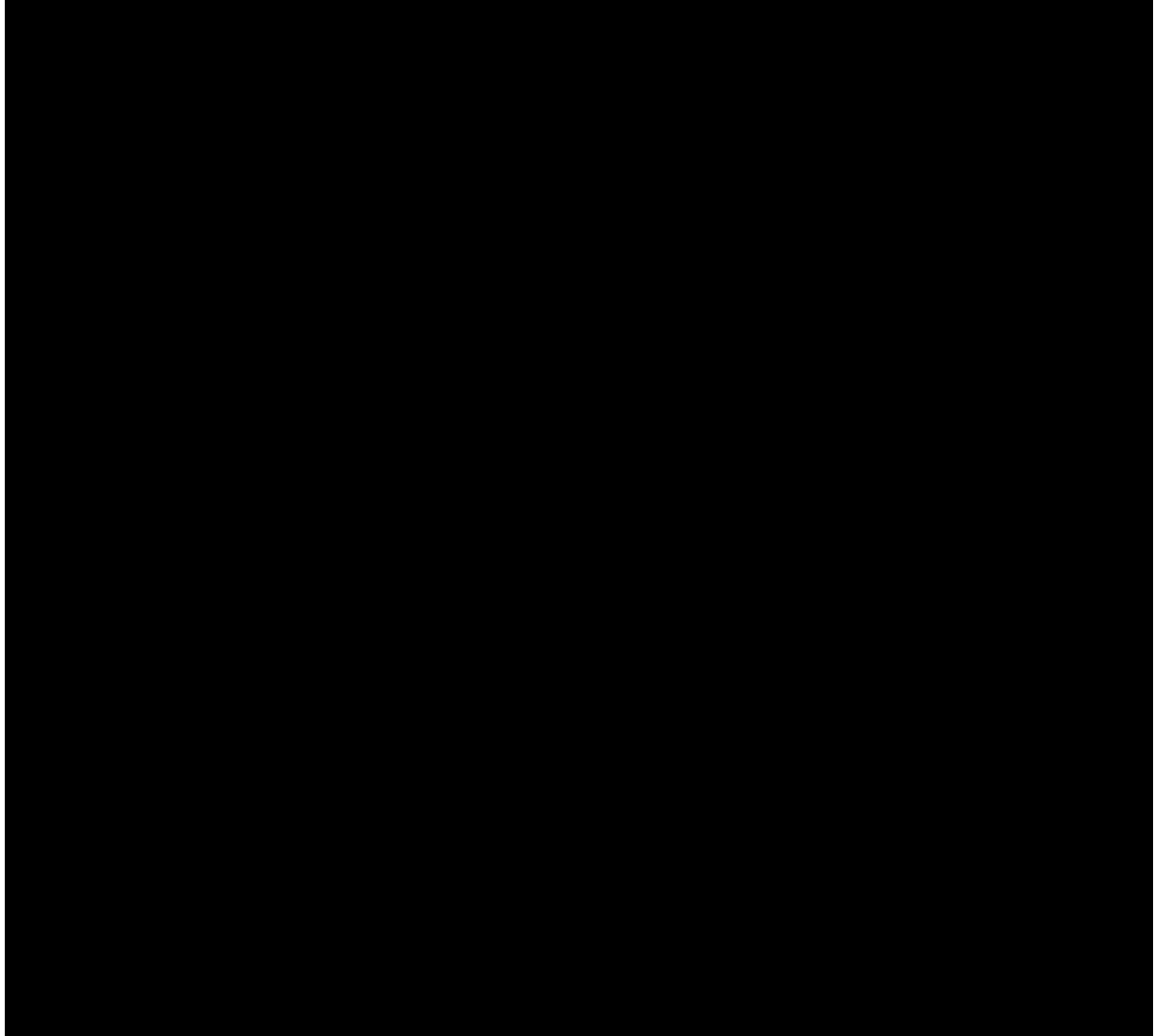
<https://www.watoday.com.au/national/western-australia/exmouth-port-proposal-could-destroy-jewel-of-the-crown-of-wa-s-tourism-industry-tour-operators-warn-20201107-p56cde.html>

PLEASE apply

Precautionary principles

To your strategic advice

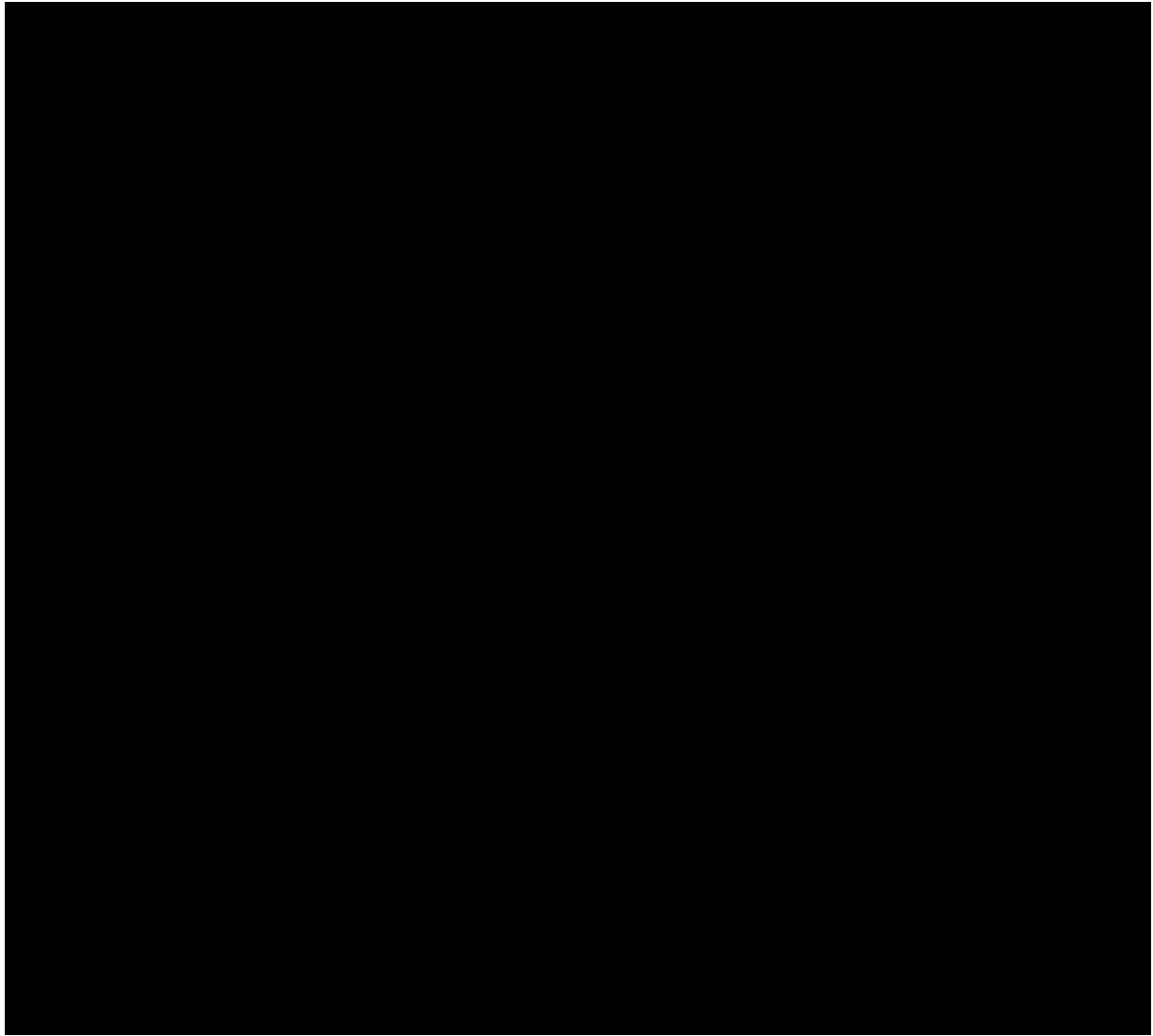
Photos below;





[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



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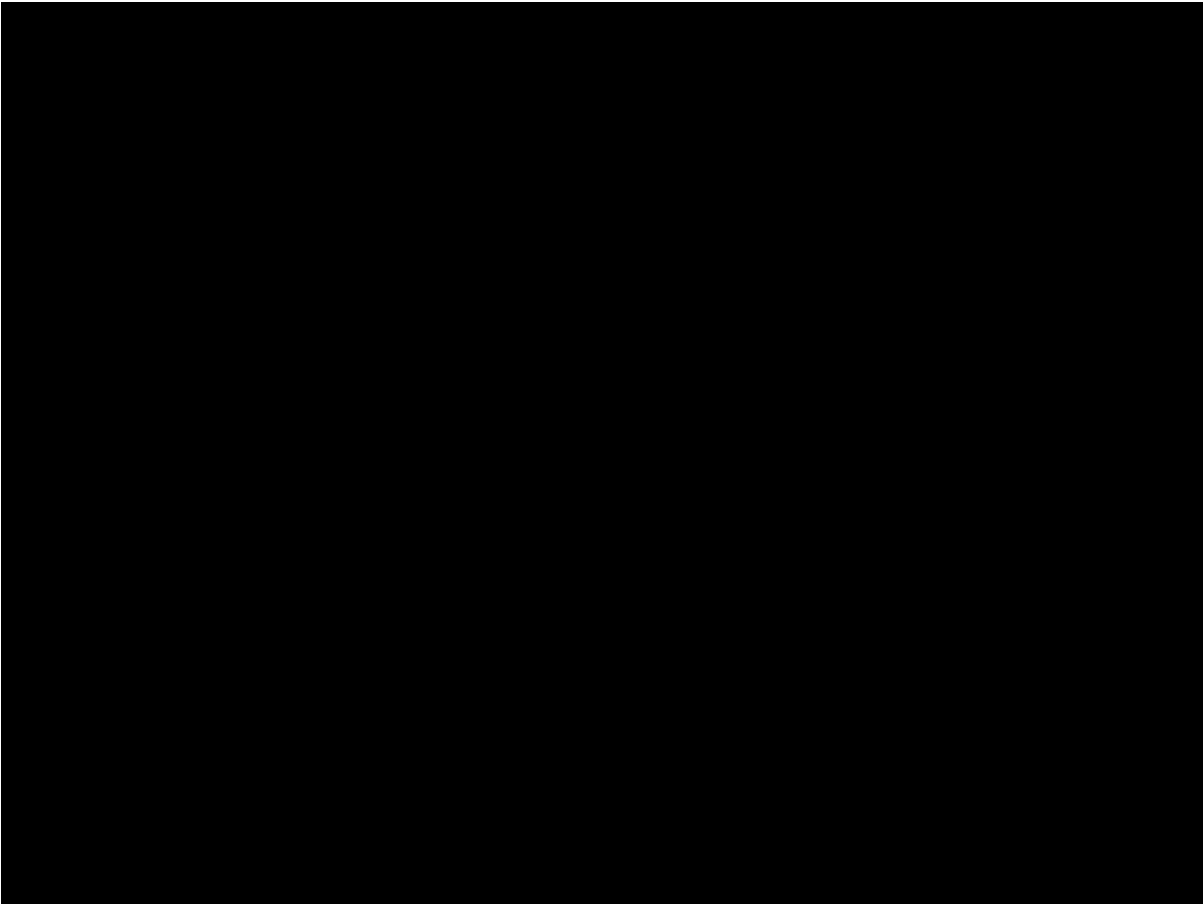
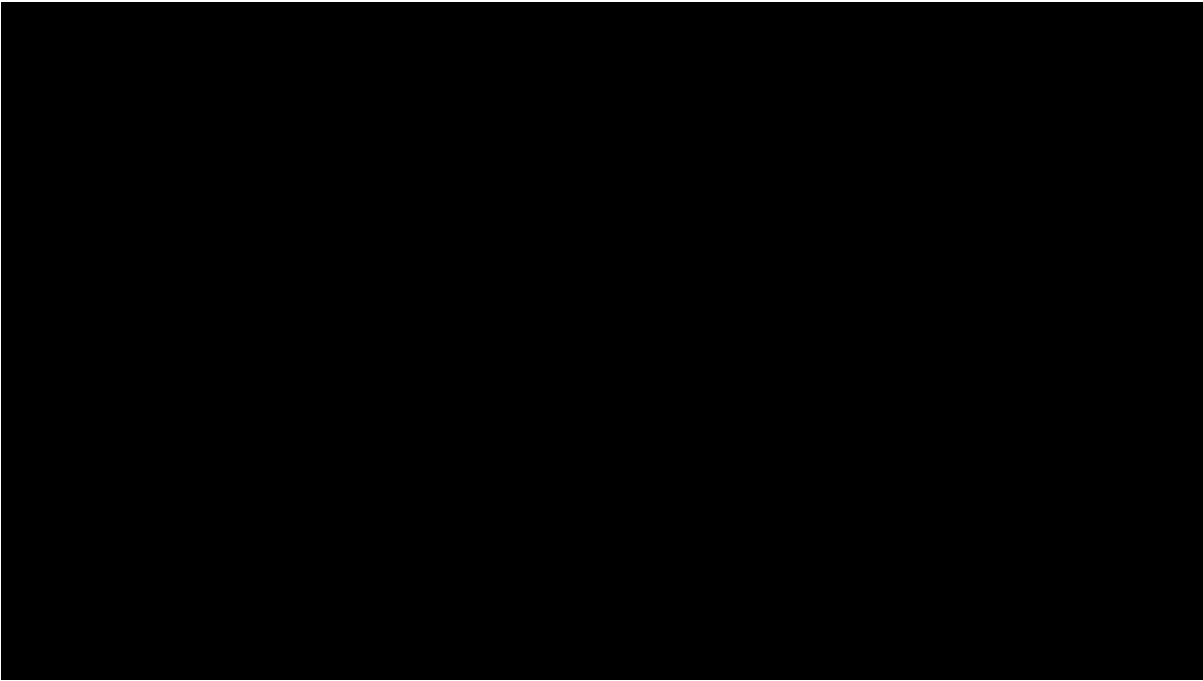
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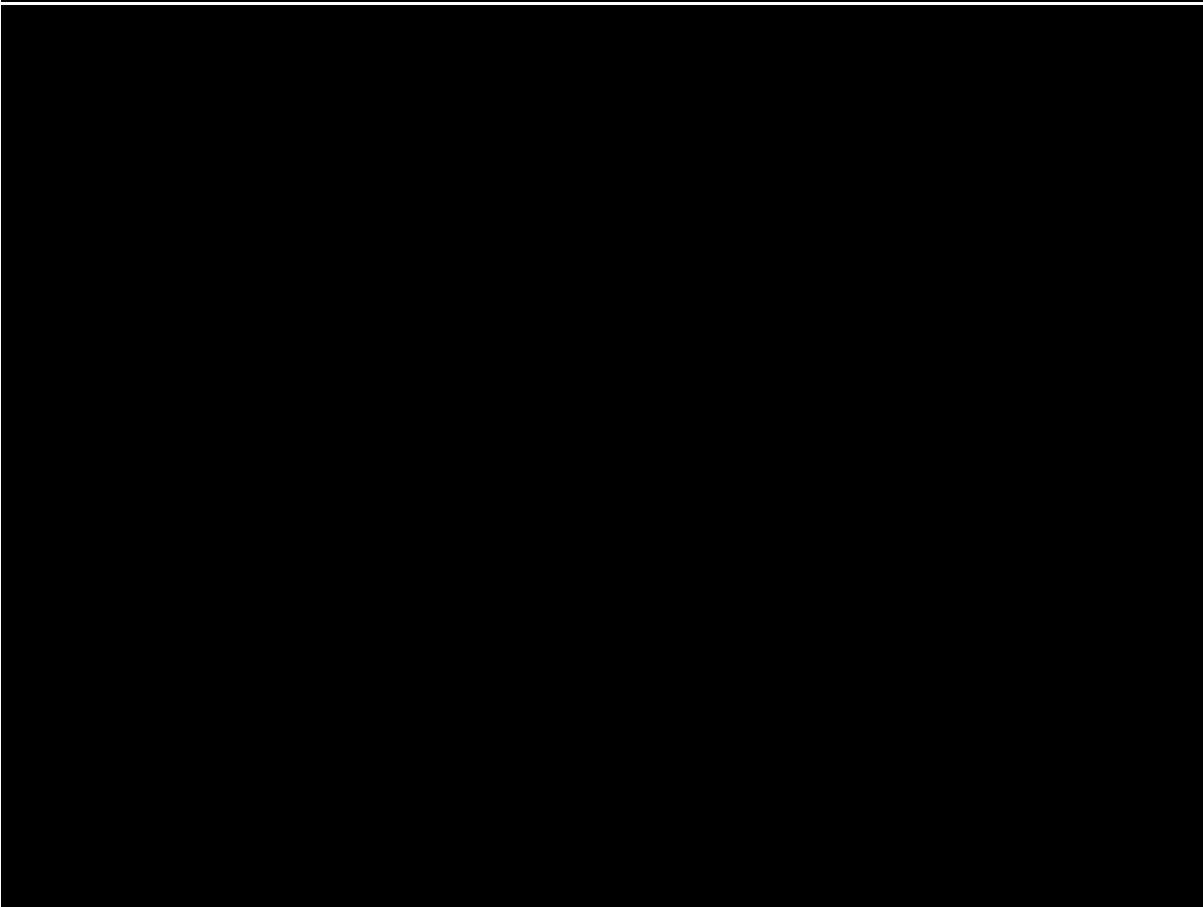
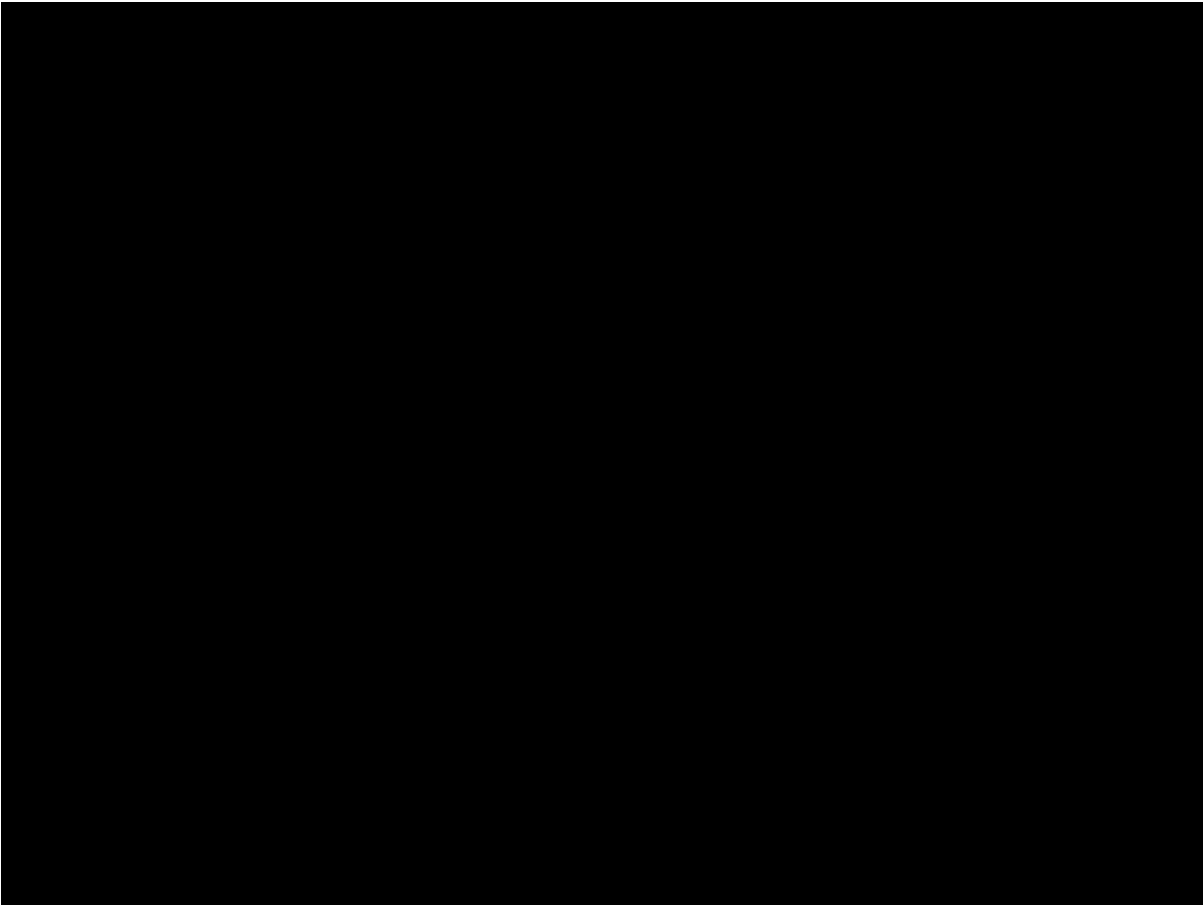


Trawlers creating sediment plumes in the Gulf





at the protest- She has just handwritten a letter to David Attenborough asking for him to help save the Exmouth Gulf.





[REDACTED] - trying to save their back yard.

100 Plus Locals gathered at Qualing Pool beach to protest against the GGL Deepwater port and the Industrialization of the Gulf.

Please see link to news story

<https://www.watoday.com.au/national/western-australia/exmouth-port-proposal-could-destroy-jewel-of-the-crown-of-wa-s-tourism-industry-tour-operators-warn-20201107-p56cde.html>



Kangaroos in the CARE Group rehabilitation compound-inside the GGL proposed land boundary