



Jo Bruyn  
Department of Transport  
5 Newman Court  
FREMANTLE WA 6160  
Via email: [REDACTED]

Dear Jo

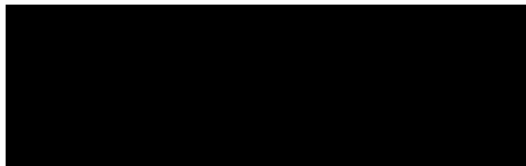
### LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE TANTABIDDI BOAT RAMP PROJECT

The Gascoyne Development Commission (GDC) is a statutory authority established by the *Regional Development Commissions Act 1993* (WA). The objectives of the GDC include developing and broaden the economic base of the region, identifying infrastructure services to promote economic and social development within the region, and supporting job creation opportunities. We do this in many ways, including by identifying and encouraging regional investment.

The State Infrastructure Strategy recommends prioritising investment in regional centres based on their strategic importance to the State's economic and population growth. Exmouth is widely acknowledged as a tourism destination of global appeal. Exmouth was recently celebrated as the gold medal winner of the 2022 Australian Top Tourism Awards.

Exmouth's boat ramps are essential tourism infrastructure supporting growth of the sector, with Tantabiddi Boat ramp the only available boat launching facility for commercial and recreational users on the west side of the North West Cape. The Commission is pleased to support the Department of Transport's proposed redevelopment of the facility to better meet the needs of users now and into the future.

Yours sincerely



Tym Duncanson  
**Chief Executive Officer**

12 October 2022

Carnarvon  
33 Robinson Street  
PO Box 781 Carnarvon WA 6701  
Tel: (08) 9941 7000  
Email: [info@gdc.wa.gov.au](mailto:info@gdc.wa.gov.au)

Exmouth  
2 Truscott Crescent  
PO Box 266 Exmouth WA 6707  
Tel: (08) 9949 2090  
Email: [info@gdc.wa.gov.au](mailto:info@gdc.wa.gov.au)

[www.gdc.wa.gov.au](http://www.gdc.wa.gov.au)

13 October 2022



**Department of Transport**

23 Eastward Road, Geraldton WA 6530

[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Tony,

As the Exmouth Chamber of Commerce Chief Executive officer, I would like to provide my support for the Tantabiddi Boat ramp upgrade formally.

Each year the Ningaloo Reef brings thousands of visitors to our region, supporting the lively hood of our entire community. The existing facility was initially utilised mainly by recreational boaters. However, with the increase in visitation, commercial operators now increasingly use the ramp. As a result, this facility is under significant pressure and cannot meet the level of demand in peak times.

With the increasing conflict between the recreational users and commercial operators for access to the facility, as an award-winning tourist destination, our operators need to offer high-end products and experiences to their customers.

The new Tantabiddi facility will provide an improved 'Gateway to the Ningaloo Reef' and visitor experience that recognises the Reef's importance to the Exmouth region's tourism and recreational users. Alongside this, the new facility will also increase levels of safety by separating recreational and commercial vessels providing improved access and contributing to a better user experience.

We look forward to seeing the Tantabiddi boat ramp business case continue to move forward and eagerly await the opening of the new facility in the years to come.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

Sarah Booth  
(ECCI) Chief Executive Officer  
Exmouth Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc (ECCI)  
PO Box 907, Exmouth WA 6707  
Email [ceo@exmouthchamberofcommerce.com.au](mailto:ceo@exmouthchamberofcommerce.com.au)

*SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL CHAMBER, BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!*





Mr. Tony McCann  
Manager Operations & Projects  
Regional Services  
Department of Transport  
23 Eastward Road  
Geraldton, WA  
6530

28/9/2022

Dear Mr. McCann,

### **RE: Proposed Tantabiddi Boat Ramp Redevelopment**

The Exmouth Game Fishing Club (EGFC) would hereby like to voice its formal support for the proposed redevelopment of the Tantabiddi Boat Ramp facility.

For EGFC members, the Exmouth community and visitors to the region, Tantabiddi Boat Ramp is Exmouth's most important piece of maritime infrastructure, as it provides trailerboat access directly to the Ningaloo Reef and the Continental Shelf edge which runs along the western side of North West Cape. These are vital recreational fishing grounds, famous for their sport and game fishing opportunities which are genuinely world class.

In recent years however, demand on the Tantabiddi Boat Ramp from both commercial and recreational users has exceeded the capacity of the facility. Couple this with sand silting caused by numerous rain events and summer south-westerly trade winds which often see the ramp down to one lane or unusable around low tides, and the ramp facility is simply not adequate for the volume of users it receives.

These inadequate boat launching facilities risk significant economic impact to a region which depends heavily on tourism. A prime example of this is the EGFC's annual GAMEX tournament, which is Western Australia's biggest fishing event and generates well in excess of \$1million\* for the local economy each year (\*2016 economic impact study), as well as forming a critical revenue stream for the EGFC.


Having travelled from across the state, country and even internationally to participate, GAMEX competitors use the Tantabiddi Boat Ramp facility almost exclusively during the 9 day event. A compromised Tantabiddi facility means a compromised GAMEX, and in recent years we have seen GAMEX entrants pull out of the event purely due to the current state and crowding of Tantabiddi Boat Ramp.

The EGFC also supports the relocation of the proposed new Tantabiddi facility slightly to the south and away from its current location adjacent Stinky Creek. We believe this new location will help prevent reoccurring sand silting caused by rain events, as well as assuage construction timeframe pressures as the existing ramp could continue to be used while works were being carried out on the new facility.

Recreational fishing is an integral part of the Exmouth lifestyle and a key driver of tourism within the region, attracting visitors from around the state and country. Therefore, this improvement in recreational boating facilities within the region is likely to deliver social and economic benefits to the Exmouth community.

With this in mind, we strongly support the proposed redevelopment of the Tantabiddi Boat Ramp facility for the benefit of both recreational and commercial users. We look forward to the long term benefits that this exciting project will deliver for years to come.

Regards,



Darren Roche

President

Exmouth Game Fishing Club

Madaffari Drive

Exmouth, WA 6707

Steve Jenkins  
Executive Director  
Maritime Division  
Department of Transport  
GPO Box C102  
Perth, WA, 6839

Dear Steve,

### **LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR TANTABIDDI BOATING FACILITY PROJECT**

Recfishwest is the peak body representing the interests of the estimated 740,000 recreational fishers in Western Australia. Recfishwest are a not-for-profit community-based organisation that endeavours to ensure high quality recreational fishing experiences are maintained and enjoyed for all in the community. Aside from the recognised health and wellbeing benefits of participating in fishing activities, a recent study has shown that recreational fishers in Western Australia contribute an estimated \$2.4 billion to the state's economy each year. This shows clear proof of recreational fishing being a vital economic driver in Western Australia, especially for regional centres. Given the importance of recreational fishing to the state, I would like to provide this letter of support for the proposed Tantabiddi Boating Facility Project in Exmouth.

Exmouth is the premier fishing location in Western Australia and attracts international attention for the iconic recreational angling opportunities that exist on the regional centers doorstep. However, the existing Tantabiddi facility, the infamous access point to the world-renowned Ningaloo Reef, has received significant increase in usage over the years with increasing community and marine tourism demands. Ongoing issues including the location of the current facility at the mouth of the Tantabiddi Creek has led to the build-up of sand and restricted access for boat launching, which require significant and expensive sand management or dredging works.

The ongoing issues and management of the Tantabiddi Boat Ramp have been raised by the Shire on a regular basis which have led to the current investigations for an alternate site and new facility. Recfishwest support the Tantabiddi Boating Facility Project and understand it will provide great benefit for the Exmouth community, travelling fishers from throughout the state, and the marine tourism industry, cementing the project as a great asset for the town.

The proposed boating facility will provide a broad range of benefits towards recreational fishers, marine tourism and community members, including, the separation of commercial and recreational users contributing towards improved visitor experience and safety, purpose-built infrastructure to meet operational and community needs, and a facility that provides a range of additional amenities onshore to improve traffic/parking and public amenities.

Furthermore, safe, and accessible fishing platforms provide land-based fishing opportunities for those who do not have access to boats. Recfishwest believes this to be an important project which will provide great benefits to not only community members, but those from throughout the state which travel to the tourist destination that is Exmouth.

Recfishwest looks forward to seeing this project being delivered and will continue to provide support for this project as it progresses. Should you require any further information in this regard, please do not hesitate to contact me on [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely



Matt Gillett  
Operations Lead

27 September 2022





**MARINE  
RESCUE**  
EXMOUTH

P.O. Box 280, EXMOUTH WA 6707  
Phone: (08) 9949 2426  
Email: [evmrgrescue@bigpond.com](mailto:evmrgrescue@bigpond.com)  
ABN 11 630 788 730

Commander: Darren Mossman 0433414654  
Treasurer: Grace Keast  
Secretary: Bec Chryplewicz

11/10/2022

Dear Tony McCann

I am writing this letter in full support of the Tantabiddi Boat Ramp Redevelopment on behalf of Marine Rescue Exmouth. Due to the increase tourism the two-lane facility is not coping with the increased demand put on the number of vessels using this boat ramp.

As a Marine Rescue Exmouth point of view, we have a number of safety concerns with the current facility.

With the increased boating traffic and with the number off rescues we are experiencing on the westside, we are finding it very frustrating with launching our vessel because majority of the time the southern ramp is sanded up and always need dredging, this means 90 percent of the time with the size of our vessel we can only use the northern ramp which depending on traffic flow delays our time in launching our vessel and furthermore our response time.

The other main safety concern is that there is no protection from the wind, wave and tidal surges we are experiencing with launching and retrieving our vessel which makes it extremely dangerous for our volunteers.

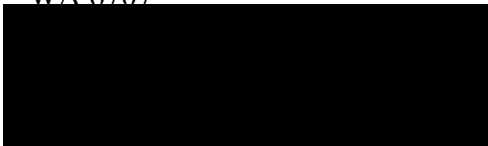
Parking is another concern during the peak times where a number of times we have found ourselves parking on the main road which again delays our response times for emergency callouts, it would be great if we could have a designated parking bay for emergency vehicles at the new facility.

The last issue is the width of the walkways are too narrow, for transferring casualties from the vessel to the ambulance using a stretcher.

I am happy to discuss these issues going forward with the Tantabiddi Boat Ramp Redevelopment committee or yourself, thank you for allowing us express our concerns with the current facility.

Kind regards

Darren Mossman  
Commander  
Marine Rescue Exmouth  
PO Box 280  
Exmouth  
WA 6707



**MARINE  
RESCUE**  
EXMOUTH

Our Ref: D22/35443  
Tourism WA File: DAD/052



Mr Iain Cameron  
Managing Director  
Department of Transport

Attention: Jo Bruyn

Email: [REDACTED]

1. William Street  
PERTH WA 6000  
GPO Box X2261  
PERTH WA 6847  
Telephone +61 8 9262 1700  
Facsimile +61 8 9262 1702  
info@tourism.wa.gov.au  
tourism.wa.gov.au

Dear Mr ~~Cameron~~ *Iain*

### **SUPPORT FOR TANTABIDDI BOATING FACILITY**

Tourism Western Australia (Tourism WA) is pleased to provide this letter of support for the Business Case for the Tantabiddi Boating Facility Project at Exmouth.

The Ningaloo Reef is a key driver of visitation to the Australia's Coral Coast and marine tourism is an integral element of the visitor experience in the region. Data from Tourism Research Australia shows that during the 2017-2019 period, 73.4 per cent of all visitors to Exmouth engaged in a marine activity on their holiday, with 95.7 per cent of international visitors to the area doing so.

Tourism WA's research has identified that accessibility and quality of the reef, beaches and coastal activities are rated as motivations to visit Ningaloo. Accordingly, the Tantabiddi Boating Facility is considered an important piece of tourism infrastructure, facilitating access to the Ningaloo Reef for visitors to engage in these tourism activities.

The Tantabiddi Boating Facility Project, which includes replacement of the ramp, will better enable tourism and recreational experiences for fishing, diving, whale shark and humpback whale tours, and provide better amenity and facility provision for users. A new facility will provide an improved 'Gateway to the Ningaloo Reef' experience for visitors that recognises the reef's importance to Exmouth and will, in turn, benefit the local community.

It is noted that through the development of Tourism WA's Tourism Development Management Plan for the Australia's Coral Coast, which is currently being progressed, upgrading the Tantabiddi Boat Ramp has been identified as a priority project to facilitate tourism experiences and enable private investment in tourism product on the Ningaloo Reef.

Tourism WA recognises the benefits the Tantabiddi Boating Facility Project will provide to Exmouth and the Ningaloo Reef in enhancing the visitor experience in the region, and wishes the Department of Transport every success with the development of its Business Case to support this project.

Please note that while Tourism WA is supportive of the project, this letter does not commit any financial assistance from this agency.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

CAROLYN TURNBULL  
Managing Director

5 October 2022





PO Box 21  
2 Truscott Crescent  
Exmouth  
Western Australia 6707

Phone: (08) 9949 3000  
Fax: (08) 9949 3050  
Email: [records@exmouth.wa.gov.au](mailto:records@exmouth.wa.gov.au)  
Web: [www.exmouth.wa.gov.au](http://www.exmouth.wa.gov.au)  
ABN: 32 865 822 043



File No: GR.SL24 / Record No: OCR32879

27 October 2022

Jo Bruyn  
Senior Project Officer  
Department Of Transport

[REDACTED]  
Dear Jo

### **LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR TANTABIDDI BOATING FACILITY PROJECT**

The Shire of Exmouth is pleased to provide a letter of support for the Department of Transport's proposed redevelopment of the Tantabiddi Boating Facility.

The Shire of Exmouth facilitated the development of the State Government led Tantabiddi Taskforce after presenting the Tantabiddi Boat Launching Facility report which identified that the current facility has 50% commercial use and that 80% of all use is by non-Exmouth residents.

Currently, the Shire manages and maintains the facility and the sand management with no revenue from the facility or the commercial operator fees.

The Tantabiddi Boat ramp is a crucial piece of community infrastructure, being the only boat launching facility within the Shire on the west side of the cape, providing direct access to the world heritage-listed Ningaloo Reef.

The facility, which is used by both commercial and recreational boat users, is not meeting the needs of the users having been built for recreational fishing prior to the whale shark tourism phenomena which is critical to the State's tourism industry.

A new facility would give visitors and tourists an experience that reflects the value of tourism and marine tourism at Ningaloo to the Exmouth Region. At the moment passengers are loaded from a narrow finger jetty onto a rubber tender dinghy and transferred out to the larger vessels. The design for a new facility separates the commercial and recreational users and provides universal access passenger loading jetty where the larger boats would tie up and load passengers. This also provides universal access and mobility options for passengers. Currently mobility impaired passengers are not able to be transferred safely.

The proposed new facility will provide a new 'Gateway to the Ningaloo Reef' and a visitor experience that recognises the Reef's importance to our region's tourism and recreational users.

The Shire of Exmouth is highly supportive of this project and wishes the Department of Transport every success with their application.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]  
Ben Lewis  
Chief Executive Officer