

# ABROLHOS RESERVE AND FISH HABITAT PROTECTION AREA

Consultation Report 2022



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## Executive Summary

### Background

The Houtman Abrolhos Islands is an archipelago of 122 islands surrounded by coral reef located about 60 kilometres west of Geraldton. There are three island groups: Wallabi, Easter, Southern and North Island.

In 2007, the Minister for Fisheries entered into formal land lease agreements with four Bodies Corporate: North Island, Wallabi, Easter and Southern Groups. Bodies Corporate members currently represent the commercial rock lobster and aquaculture industries, with occupied land consisting of fishing shacks, jetties and supporting infrastructure.

Both the reserve and Fish Habitat Protection Area (FHPA) are managed by DPIRD in accordance with relevant fisheries legislation and the Body Corporate leases. A management plan for the reserve and FHPA has been in place since 2012.

In October 2017, the State Government made a commitment to “develop a new whole-of-government approach to better protect the Abrolhos and create tourism opportunities”, including the creation of a national park and \$10 million Royalties for Regions funding allocation. In July 2019, the Premier announced the creation of the Houtman Abrolhos Islands National Park. This has resulted in the reserve being reduced to approximately 3% of the total land area of the Abrolhos, with Body Corporate leased land comprising approximately 85% of the reserve.

A Strategic Direction document has been developed through the Inter-agency Project Team (IPT) which has been established to implement government objectives. This includes the development of contemporary management plans and governance arrangements to enable effective management of the national park, reserve and the FHPA.

DPIRD is preparing Draft Management Plans for the reserve and the FHPA to be released in 2022. DPIRD is seeking the drafting of these plans to be informed by the views of key stakeholders.

### The Project

The Consultation Project that this report summarises has facilitated community stakeholders to identify their aspirations and management issues to be addressed in the development of the Abrolhos Islands. The brief was to capture all views and to hear them impartially across stakeholder groups. The project was not required to reconcile the views or debate them, but to ensure that all the major stakeholder groups views were represented.



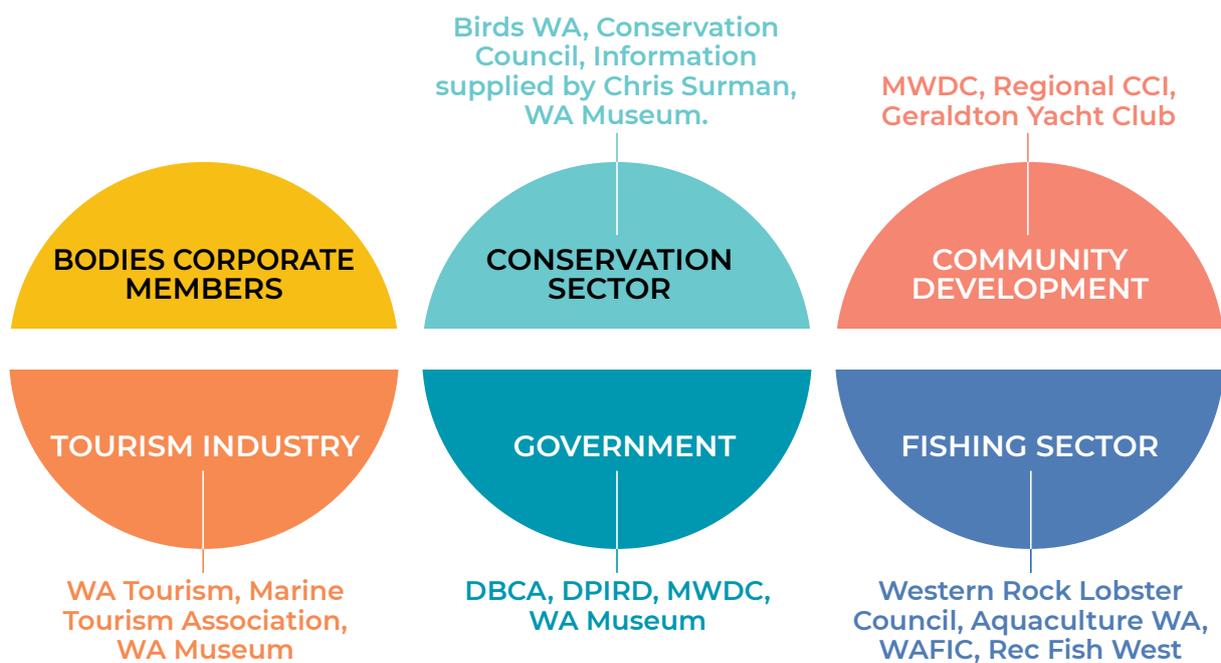
# Stakeholder Consultation

The Abrolhos is an area that a broad range of stakeholders feel very connected to and want to protect. They also want to be able to use the islands and its resource base, but want to see a long term sustainable future for them. The balancing of the needs and expectations of the Government, community, industry and conservation sector within the Abrolhos is not an easy nor a simple task.

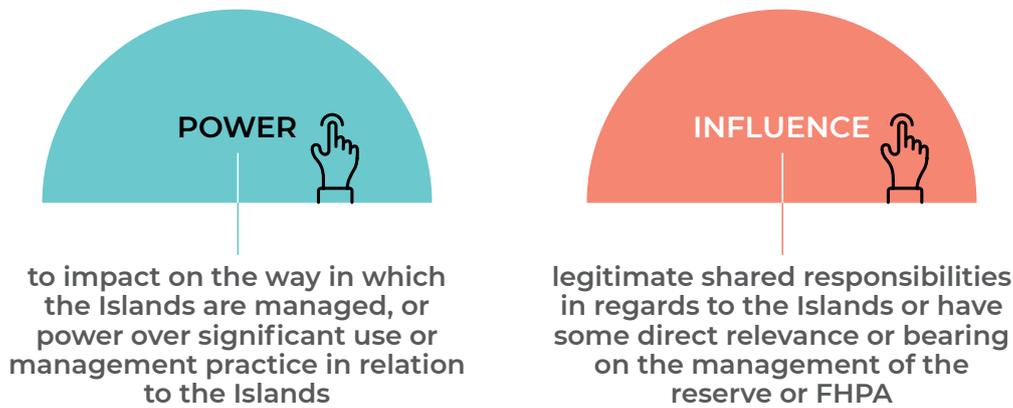
The main purpose of this project was to capture the views of the differing stakeholders who have a stake in the management of the Abrolhos Reserve and FHPA, and to summarise those views for the Government. DPIRD are tasked with the job of managing the multiple aspirations and expectations of a complex and sometimes conflicted group of stakeholders in a precious and significant Reserve area and FHPA.

This report summarises the stakeholders and their views. It is in part, the stakeholders vision for the Abrolhos Islands, their expectations of the Management Plans, the concerns they have about the future use and management of the islands, their concerns about the sustainability of activities at the Islands, and the solutions they have proposed as to these disparate concerns and opportunities could be managed into the future.

The major stakeholder groups approached are shown in the diagram below.



The consultation focussed on key stakeholders. The stakeholders were mapped based upon their power and influence. How was this defined?



The main stakeholders (high power, high influence) were prioritised in the process. It is quite important that management of planning for the islands reflects the aspirations, values, needs and concerns of the key people and organisations who will play a key role in the future management. This does not mean other stakeholders are not important, but for the purposes of determining how to manage this space, the people with “skin in the game” were prioritised because they will be most likely to be the key part of the management process going forward.

The consultation process was mainly a breadth process, but achieved depth for some stakeholder groups where possible. Stakeholders on the ground in the island groups were consulted several times to attempt to build trust in the consultation process, and to enable them to have some say over how and when the consultation occurred.

The consultation was conducted independent of Government whilst being for Government. This was important as some of the key stakeholders expressed distrust of the process in initial meetings; “the report is already written, why should we engage, it’s all been decided already”.

In this report, each of the major stakeholder groups consultation is summarised. Where a view has already been presented in a section, it has not been repeated.

The key findings from the consultation have been summarised in the front of the report to enable key insights from the consultation to be the guiding framework.

## Summary

The outcome from this stakeholder consultation showed almost universal agreement on the vision for the future of the Houtman Abrolhos Islands. While there are differences on how that vision should be delivered, there is a shared view on the destination. The Abrolhos has the potential to be a significant tourism, aquaculture and fishing brand for the state of Western Australia.

Overall, the clear message was everything should be managed to achieve low impact and light touch. Stakeholders aspirations are for the Abrolhos to remain a place for community to connect, to belong, to share with the next generation, and to keep it as a place of wonder and peace, and not to be just a tourism destination.

The natural beauty and ‘wilderness factor’ of the Abrolhos is deeply valued by all stakeholders, who want to see these values protected.

Culture, nature and work is invisibly woven at the Abrolhos. Stakeholders talk about the Abrolhos as something deeply treasured and valued, and as a precious resource they want to retain.

Many stakeholders also believe it should be shared with current generations, but only in a well controlled, monitored, low impact, and sustainable manner. The stakeholders believe there is much to protect at the islands, and all new developments – tourism, aquaculture, or commercial fishing – need to demonstrate that they can protect the resource and protect the Abrolhos brand.

By managing a healthy co-existence between the needs of nature, those that want to visit and those that work here and have for generations, a special place can be retained for the future and shared sustainably with this generation of the Abrolhos community.



## Findings from consultation:

### 1 The natural environment of the Abrolhos is a unique asset

The Abrolhos is one of the most significant seabird breeding locations in the eastern Indian Ocean. This is nationally significant as seabirds are under threat around the globe, and the Abrolhos has the capacity to secure these populations. Seventy-six per cent of the Abrolhos are used by breeding seabirds (source: Dr Chris Surman).

The Abrolhos also has unique cultural values, including maritime and fishing heritage, that can be preserved and used to create a world-class visitor destination.

The type and level of visitation that should be encouraged is universally agreed by stakeholders to be low impact with capacity limits. In some vulnerable or highly significant locations, only guided tourism should be permitted.

### 2 There is a very strong and deeply connected Abrolhos community

Whilst the main purpose of land tenure has been to support a dominant fishing industry, the level of care and interest in the natural environment expressed across stakeholder groups, and their desire to invest their time and effort to continue caring for this space, has been a key stand out element of the consultation. Some of those community members also want to share it sustainably with visitors (at low impact and small scale), and can be involved in planning activities and development.

### 3 Management of Islands to support diversified businesses

Decision-making about what and how to manage the Abrolhos can support multi-use industry in a sustainable manner. To enable multi-use industry (as occurs in land use planning), usage zones and management regulations can be created to reduce the level of conflict between users.

### 4 Well managed governance to support industry needs

The decision making for the islands needs to reflect the needs of all the users. Whilst there is a very critical and high economic impact industry being managed from the Abrolhos which needs access to be competitive and sustainable, the decision-making needs to also reflect the needs of other industries and diverse community members views. Governance frameworks and decision making need to reflect all users interests.

### 5 Linkage to and need for regional tourism planning and effort

Management planning for the National Park, Reserve and FHPA is invaluable. The Abrolhos is a valuable regional asset which requires broader tourism planning effort that references and links to other regional tourism effort and initiatives.

The Abrolhos is an iconic asset and fits within regional assets such as Kalbarri, Shark Bay and Monkey Mia, wildflower country, and the Pinnacles.

Tourism planning for the Abrolhos, including key visitor experience development, access, linkage to events, engagement of local community and complemented by training for volunteers and operators, should be completed separate to the Management Planning activities.

## 6 Risk based approach to new development

One of the greatest areas of feedback is new developments require a greater level of transparency and understanding of the process to manage risk on the islands. The Bodies Corporate have also expressed a great deal of concern about having unmanaged risks impact their ability to run their businesses and impact their families when they are on the islands. A detailed planning and development process that assesses the risks of the development can be put in place to support management of risk for existing users.

A proposed framework that has been developed by the Wallabi group was given as an example of how to assess risks and plans for their management at a place based level.

- Assess where the activity happens, and what the activity is
- Determine the rules that govern it
- Identify issues and opportunities relating to it
- Consider if (or how) it would change the leases – is a sub-lease the best solution
- Consider Insurance for activity
- Identify upgrades to infrastructure required
- Identify how to assure quiet enjoyment and safety of current tenants/families
- Identify how compliance can be managed by DBCA or DPIRD

## 7 Regional intermediary function

The Abrolhos benefits greatly from its local and regional champions. The Government has regional staff who work closely with the local community, but the management arrangements are complex and multi-jurisdictional.

The Government could interface with an intermediary organisation that binds and links existing regional organisations and development efforts and creates a contact point. Regional and local organisations can multiply the effort and investment of State Government, and can generate more leverage opportunities than the State Government acting alone can achieve.

The purpose in this finding is not to create a new function that takes away from groups' core governance functions – it is proposed to support the key groups to value-add to what they already do well, but in a highly linked and coordinated manner.

This intermediary function could be hosted by a regional development organisation such as the Mid West Development Commission. Functions would include the relationship building between the key regional stakeholders; creating an interface point for the State Government; supporting broader development activities; attracting investment; and leveraging State Government investment to build the Abrolhos into a WA brand for fishing, aquaculture and low impact nature tourism activities and maritime history experiences.

It would also create a local community engagement point for embedding Abrolhos products and experiences into the local community and region.



## 8 Abrolhos community plan

Developing and implementing a community plan would bring together the efforts of all agencies and create a development narrative for the Abrolhos, which is broader than State agency plans but references them closely.

The Plan could be supported by a ten year Infrastructure plan which also reflects the Abrolhos community plans for the schools, community centres, essential infrastructure such as telecommunications, energy, waste management, public jetties, airfields, tourism access and infrastructure, and any links to marine based infrastructure. This plan could also include essential service provision such as health and or emergency services.

The plan could also include projects which develop the amenity of the community eg. community art projects, and engagement by the local Geraldton community with the Abrolhos.

## 9 Improved resources for body corporate governance

The bodies corporate are a key and integral part of the Abrolhos Community. Ownership is an incredibly important part of creating good governance and decision making that is deeply contexted in local spaces. The key framework that can provide this is the Bodies Corporate Structure.

The consultation has involved a range of feedback related to the Bodies Corporate, and the strengths and weaknesses have been identified by the Bodies Corporate themselves. To unlock the local capacity for development, it is incredibly important that this governance mechanism is sufficiently resourced to succeed.

The Bodies Corporate should be resourced (from lease fees or other industry or government mechanisms) to create professional organisational processes, including, but not limited to: Terms of References Bodies Corporate, Code of Conduct, Board Charter, board member recruitment including recruiting independent board directors, Board Performance assessments, professional meetings including agendas, minutes and actions to be undertaken, conflict of interest processes with demonstration of their application, application of risk management frameworks, strategic planning and succession planning for the boards.



# What they told us

The Abrolhos is a significant tourism, aquaculture and fishing brand for the state of Western Australia. All development should be low impact and light touch. The Abrolhos is a place of wonder and peace, where culture and environment is invisibly woven. The Abrolhos should remain a place for the community to connect, to belong and share with future generations.

## Summary of Stakeholder Views

### ABROLHOS BRAND

The Abrolhos is a unique and precious brand for WA. Its remoteness, sense of wildness, natural and cultural values and deep community connections should be preserved and shared with future generations.

The brand needs to be both developed and protected. Efforts to ensure this need to be across sectors and aligned.

All industry sectors sustainably using the Abrolhos brand including all wildcatch, WRL, aquaculture products, tourism products, events and tours will create a stronger and more resonant brand.

### PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Multi-jurisdictional planning approaches are complex at the Abrolhos. The relationships between and across agencies is a concern for community stakeholders who already have low trust in government processes. Government can play a useful role as catalyst, facilitator and partner, as well as regulator.

Separating out land uses and adopting a land tenure approach may support decision making to reduce conflict between user groups. Decision making processes need to be consistent and transparent to build trust, and all stakeholders have reported concerns.

A risk based framework has been proposed by a stakeholder group that will enable all users and the Abrolhos community to check if their concerns have been adequately dealt with in approval and condition of development processes. There are real concerns about theft, injury, damage to infrastructure or marine habitat, poor behaviour (noise and partying), speeding boats and a lack of respect from visitation.

### FISHING

Support for better protection of marine values is widespread across stakeholder groups. There is a dominant industry that operates from the Abrolhos and this is an important industry to the state. It should be supported, and the product and people that create it celebrated as a key part of the brand.

Management plans need to deliver on multi-sectoral and water use enabling businesses to have diverse offerings, including aquaculture options.

Support for more measures to future proof fish stocks ensuring abundance, and the wilderness fishing experience is maintained. Explore opportunities to reduce fish take, and build broader recreational activities on tours and recreational boats.

Future proof planning for Aquaculture in this zone across whole supply chain (including on shore infrastructure).

Improve access for marine tourism operators to have some island space (storage space) to develop other recreational or cultural history product for their visitor markets.



## TOURISM

Tourism is taking place, increasing, and causing impact, and needs management. Excessive tourism and destruction of the resource upon which it can be based is a risk. Further tourism planning that aligns with the management plans and regional tourism activities is critical.

Bodies Corporate support marine based tourism (71%), have mixed support for tourism on non lease land (47%) and the majority do not support on Bodies Corporate lease areas (23% support). There are Bodies Corporate members who do wish to diversify into tourism, and some already have (23% have a charter licence).

Tourism training is required for all operators, volunteers, shore side community members that interface with visitors, and for all who are involved in regional tourism. The Abrolhos narratives can be developed with passionate champions, and they should be involved in the training process.

There is widespread support for Tourism accreditation and compliance activities to ensure over tourism and loss of integrity in the product does not occur. Capacity limits, licence limits, and guided tourism is preferred by most stakeholders. There should be minimal footprint on land, and where the natural resources are vulnerable, access should be restricted on a seasonal basis.

Building digital resources and interpretation to support visitation and building demand for the iconic location is essential, particularly given the market characteristics.

## NATURAL RESOURCE CONDITION

There is an opportunity to not only maintain condition of natural resources to rebuild habitats through investment from groups other than the Government.

There was strong support for underpinning data on the state of the natural resources of the Abrolhos and participatory approaches to monitoring and assessing impact of industry activities and usage.

The impact of any planning or development decisions need to be closely monitored. Biosecurity is a key risk at the Abrolhos and unmanaged camping or access could introduce species that could have a large impact on native species.

Some stakeholders expressed a strong desire to be more involved in research and development in their industry sector.

Key natural resources on the islands have been identified, and various stakeholders would like to see an increase in community engagement in the monitoring activities. Citizen science or NRM projects can be developed at the Abrolhos across the landwater interface.

## GOVERNANCE

Ensure consistent decisions on multi-sector land and water use are enabled across Bodies Corporate and Government agencies. This will support certainty for investors and the Abrolhos community.

Whilst strengths and weaknesses in the Bodies Corporate model have been outlined during the consultation, overall the Bodies Corporate support using this governance framework and improving it. The Bodies Corporate have formed a Council and there are offers to assist the Council to be better resourced and managed across the four Bodies Corporate.

Areas of governance improvement that relate to the weaknesses outlined include creating consistency across leases, constitutions, rules and their consistent application and improving governance through processes such as conflict of interest processes, board member selection and training and performance monitoring, Terms of Reference and Codes of Conduct.

## INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNITY

Stakeholders are concerned about the level of policing and compliance activities and they want clear regulation, management and resources to control and administer all activities at the islands.

Digital capacity is an underpinning infrastructure, and given visitor numbers, exploring high capacity technologies for peak times and enabled real time monitoring for other times is needed.

Across stakeholder groups there is a high level of ownership of the Abrolhos. The level of connection is extraordinary. Strong community level social capital at the Abrolhos should be fostered and supported.

There are various infrastructure needs that the consultation has captured. They could be best managed through an infrastructure plan for the Abrolhos including marine and land infrastructure and their resourcing, maintenance and management over time.

Access to community services such as emergency and health services is variable and based upon where you are in the islands. If there is a planned increase in useage, strategic investment in these services is required.

# Body Corporate Consultation

The Consultation Process for the Bodies Corporate was the most extensive part of the overall consultation process. The Bodies Corporate expressed the greatest distrust and anxiety over the process, of all the key stakeholder groups. The Bodies Corporate are also the “boots on the ground” at the islands, and in particular are very vested in the Reserve area, and are very connected to place, environment, and form a key part of the ‘Abrolhos community’. They are significantly invested in the environment, infrastructure, community and culture of the islands. They are both important and influential as a stakeholder group, and critical to the future management of the Reserve and FHPA.

The process that was followed with the Bodies Corporate is summarised in the diagram below.



The survey resulted in 75 replies out of a possible 110 sent, out of which there are a number of entities or families that are on multiple islands. This survey response rate is extremely high. The average time spent on the survey was 54 minutes, which is also extremely high, and the skip rate was 3, which is incredibly low in a complex survey with open ended questions.

This demonstrates the high level of buy-in for this stakeholder group, and also gives the Government a high level of confidence in the survey responses. They are summarised in this section.

## Body Corporate Member Views

The detailed views have been captured under the six areas which will feature in the Management Plan for the Reserve and FHPA:



The survey also asked questions that related to the specialness of the Abrolhos, how the Members feel connected and their vision for the future. These questions were designed in response to the initial meetings at which the Bodies Corporate Members expressed a high level of ownership and deep connection to the islands.

The following sections also include feedback from interviews and meetings with Bodies Corporate members.



## What makes the Abrolhos special to you?

The Abrolhos is an incredibly special place and community to the Bodies Corporate members. They speak about the spirit of the place and the uniqueness and distinctiveness of the islands. The level of connection goes back for several generations for some of the members, and many have lived their young lives there, fished there for 40-50 years and had significant family and community events at the islands that have created a deep connection.

The Bodies Corporate members love the remoteness, the raw and natural beauty, the pristine natural environment and the wild and fragile nature of the islands. They also value the migrant history, the stories of previous fishermen, and being able to share that with the next generation of their family.

Many value the opportunity to base their business there to reduce the operating costs of their fishing business, but also the peer support and sense of community they get from their island base. It is not just a place of work, but they do value the opportunity to work from the islands.

Culture and environment and work has been invisibly woven at the Abrolhos – the stories, the art, fishing memories, beliefs, family histories, woven together with the raw, natural beauty and the sometimes fierceness of the environment, has created something incredibly unique and precious.

The Abrolhos is genuinely cherished by the Bodies Corporate members. The story of the islands is woven into the fabric of their families lives, and vice versa.

The deep sense of place and community the Bodies Corporate members express is quite profound. Verbatim quotes from the survey and consultation process have been used throughout the report and any grammatical or punctuation used by the respondent has been used. The quotes are highlighted.



*It is my familys spiritual home for four generations.  
It is very significant to our well being. The ashes of our  
family members who have died are in the lagoon.*

*My sister was born there. I was raised there and  
have raised my family there. It is our home.  
It is not only our home but our community.*

*I have been to 64 countries in my life so have travelled,  
nowhere do I feel at peace, breath fresh air and experience the  
diversity of nature and ocean as I do at the Abrolhos Islands.*

# How do you feel Connected to the Abrolhos?

The Abrolhos is where the Bodies Corporate members families connect. They are connected to the community, to the environment, to the infrastructure they have built, and to each other in this space. They are vested in the place, its history, its cultural significance, and believe they have a key role to play in protecting it.



*My family have been cray fishing at the islands from just after World War II. I have spent many years going to school, working and holidaying at the Abrolhos. For me it is spectacular.*

*It's a place of peace and wonder;  
you can experience the natural world daily.*

*It's the place I feel most at home.  
Many of my family have passed on and being at the  
Abrolhos always makes me feel closer to them.*

*It's in my blood.*





# Nature Conservation and Protection

The Bodies Corporate members think the most important values of the islands are natural beauty and the wilderness factor. They value the ecology of the islands, nature and the endemic species eg. Sea birds. They also place importance on family values and the human history of the islands. It is also important as a place to base their business. They want to see all these values protected.

The key environmental or nature values they want to see protected include:



## How do they believe they can be best protected:

<b>REDUCE TAKE</b>	Reduce bag limits, lower fish take, record access and how much is taken, regulate recreational fishers better, better shark control, limit charter boats and recreational vessels.
<b>CONTROL ACCESS</b>	Don't allow large number of people onto islands, reduce quad bike use, develop walkways and reduce footprint on islands, have a strict code of conduct for tourism operators.
<b>DEDICATED TOURISM PLAN</b>	With strict controls, and resource permanent Ranger services.
<b>BETTER EDUCATION</b>	For people planning to visit and those that visit.
<b>BETTER CONTROLS ON VISITORS</b>	Signage on islands alerting people to the fragility of the ecosystems and bird nesting sites.

***You need to have FHPA and no go zones in the National Park or you will get what we are seeing now with people illegally camping on the islands, leaving their rubbish behind. As more people visit, we need to look at lowering the fish take otherwise the things that make it special will disappear.***

# Cultural Heritage Protection

The most important parts of the cultural history the Bodies Corporate members thought should be preserved were:

- History of the cray fishing industry – early fishing shacks and history of the families and the communities
- Batavia and other wreck history
- Fish habitats and coral reefs
- Guano mining history

## How it could be best done and where:

Open up tourism near the Batavia wreck – site to be marked	Information and interpretation at Beacon Island
Touch point at Geraldton Museum (display)	Build an Interpretation Centre in Geraldton – for tourists and charter operators to guide people to
Develop some of the stories through the community halls or schools on the islands	Land based tourism on small scale at East Wallabi
Eco-friendly walk ways on some of the islands	Create a reserve around the ship wrecks for fish and coral and protect the old huts
Education program in local schools (could be coordinated through the Museum)	More research and monitoring of significant populations and sensitive sites
More permanent based policing and more Fisheries patrols	Education courses for everyone that uses or visits the islands

**“Need to have surveys for guests on boat charters for catch numbers. Signage alerting people to the fragility of the ecosystems and bird nesting sites on many of the islands. Signage for historical information. Fisheries guidelines in an online or hard copy resource that requires people to abide by protecting certain areas above and below the water before they can enter.**





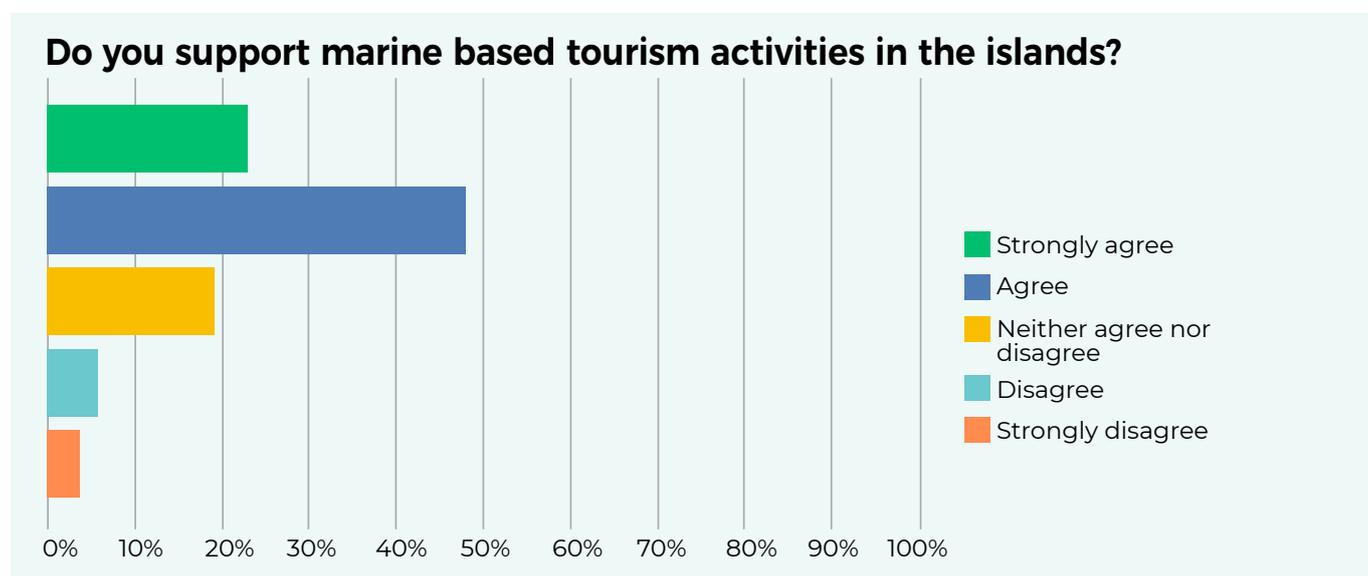
## Tourism

One of the biggest drivers for the Management Planning process is the management of tourism on the islands.

The Bodies Corporate explain that tourism is already happening at the islands. There are a number of local operators running eco-tourism charters to the islands, scenic flight tour operators, charter boats servicing the west coast region (from Augusta to Shark Bay), and a large number of recreational boats that visit the islands each year.

Tourism as an activity is not inherently incompatible with other activities at the islands. The consultation discovered it has been a source of conflict due to a range of factors, all of which are resolvable. It has however, resulted in some negativity and fear about activities which create risk for the existing Bodies Corporate members and they want to know how that risk will be managed.

### Support for Tourism

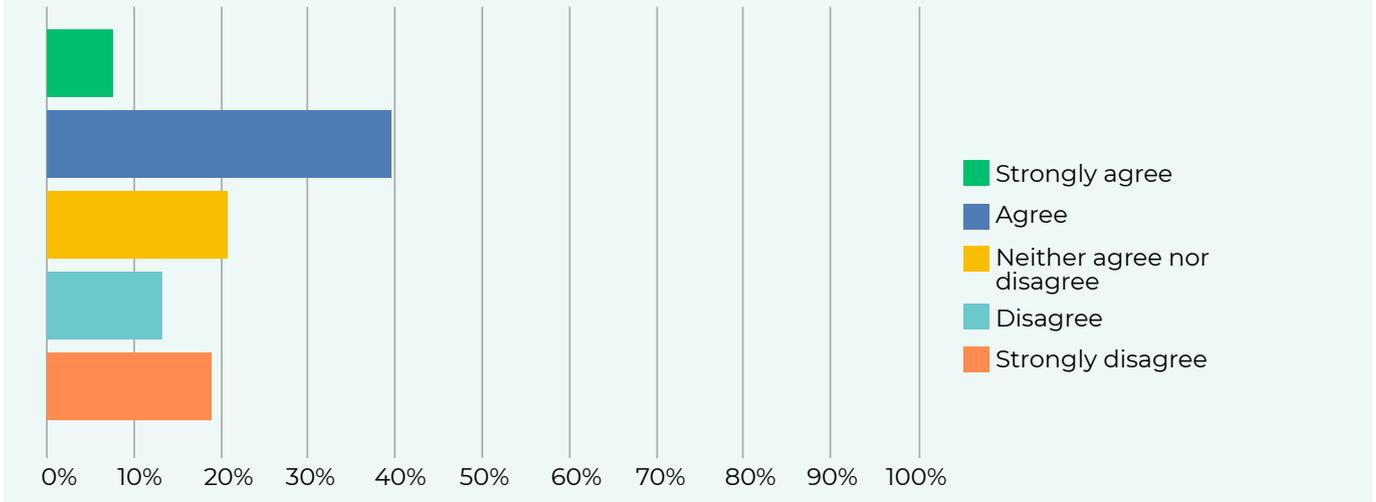


Seventy-one per cent of Bodies Corporate members support (strongly agree or agree) with Marine Based Tourism activities in the islands. A further 19% neither agree nor disagree.

When asked why the members responded (a sample):

- I think it belongs to everyone and people should be able to access it in a responsible manner. The Abrolhos is a spectacular Western Australian resource and its needs to be showed off to tourists.
- It has no environmental impact on land based flora and fauna, and it doesn't leave a waste problem.
- Its is happening now, and seems to not impact the land based fishermen and there is a level of respect between most charter operators and recreational fishermen.
- Who better to promote education on the Abrolhos than a local who has a vested interest in the ongoing well being of the islands.

## Do you support land based tourism activities on non Body Corporate Lease areas?



Fourty-seven per cent of Bodies Corporate members support (strongly agree or agree) with Land Based Tourism on non body corporate lease areas. A further 21% neither agree nor disagree. 32% disagree or strongly disagree.

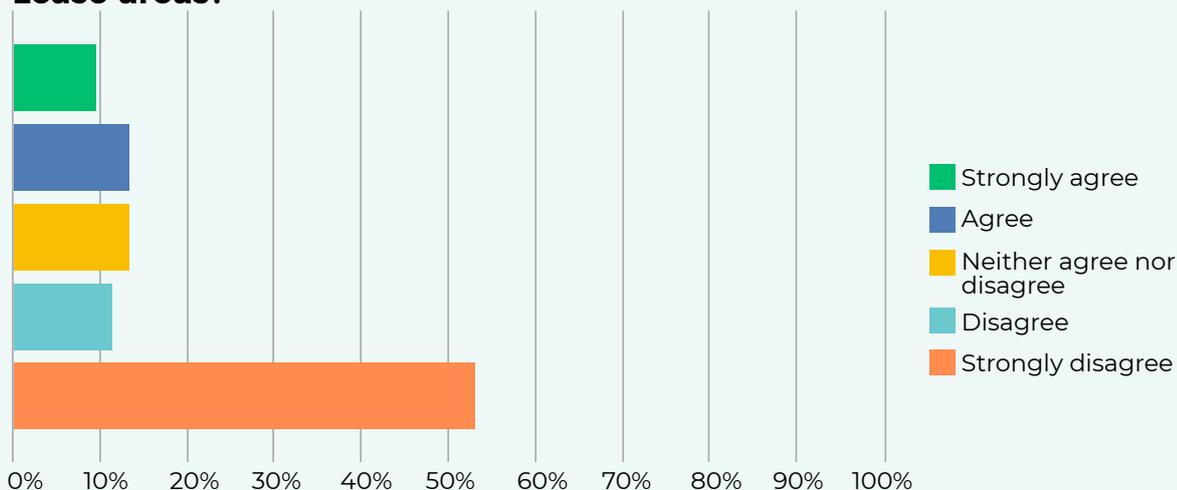
When ask why the members responded (answers are grouped):

- Numbers and areas accessed need to be limited, the islands are small and fragile and previous history show the damage large numbers can cause.
- There are vacant islands with more sand rather than coral available for development – those islands offer safe swimming, beautiful beaches and are a better opportunity for low lying development.
- Separate areas are a good idea.
- I think any land based tourism needs to be done right with minimal impact.
- Its happening already at East Wallabi and doesn't seem to be creating too many problems.
- It can't be done on Bodies Corporate leased areas, it could be done on non leased areas, but low scale eco sustainable tourism.
- If done with minimal impact and eco-based. Building at the islands is expensive, and I'm not sure if land based tourism would be cheap enough for the general public.
- Prefer boat or pontoon based.
- Controlled guided tour with respect for the environment.





## Do you support land based tourism activities on Body Corporate Lease areas?



Twenty-three per cent of Bodies Corporate members support (strongly agree or agree) with Land Based Tourism on Body Corporate lease areas. 13% neither agree nor disagree. 64% disagree or strongly disagree.

When ask why the members responded (answers are grouped):

- You cannot have tourists living amongst fishing families, we work early hours of the morning and leave our wives and children alone.
- Who wants to be a goldfish? Whilst I agree with tourism, I don't want to be a tourist attraction.
- Needs clear regulation and management to control and administrate.
- Charter operators bring passengers onto the islands for them to walk around looking at the shacks, its disconcerting having someone walking around hour house or taking photos of you. Noise complaints and disruptions already occur with the AirBnB's.
- An afternoon escorted tour is OK, but not overnight accommodation.
- It can be done by fishermen, because they know and respect islands, but with strict controls.
- Could have crews based there for tourism and to hold equipment needed for operations.
- It makes us liable for accidents and the fishers have to maintain the infrastructure. Many buildings and jetties are not built to standards, so there is a liability risk.
- We have been doing it for years and if there is a code of conduct and the operators manage their clients and its small numbers of people, it is OK.

The survey also asked what the key risks were in allowing more tourism activities. This received over 220 responses, which have been grouped into eight main groups.

- Over-fishing and depleted fish stocks
- Theft of property, safety, personal injury claims, private infrastructure damage, poor visitor behaviour, impossible to police, shooting of wildlife, no respect for people that have lived there for decades, inexperienced boaties creating risks, speeding boats around moorings.
- Devaluing the islands by building tourism infrastructure, damage to eco-systems, destruction of the habitat.
- Waste, rubbish disposal, sewerage and waste water discharge into environment.
- Damage to corals (dropping anchor – not using appropriate moorings).
- Medivac air craft – no quick return to Geraldton in event of emergency.
- Lack of telecommunications.
- Noise and disruption from partying.

The survey also asked what conditions should be applied for more tourism activities to occur? The responses were grouped into seven main categories:

The infographic is a teal-colored grid divided into seven sections by dotted lines. Each section contains an icon, a title, and a brief description of a condition for tourism.

- BETTER POLICING** (Eye icon): Park Rangers and Fisheries Officers.
- CONTROLLED NUMBERS** (Group of people icon): through access pass, regulated access, information available on numbers visiting, all sensitive sites to have guided access.
- MEDICAL UNIT** (First aid kit icon): in the Southern Group, Helicopter access/pad for emergencies.
- TRAINED TOURISM OPERATORS** (Clipboard icon): code of conduct, controlled eco-tourism, operators must know the weather conditions and history of the Islands.
- NO-TAKE** (Fish with slash icon): or reduce fishing limits, restricted pot areas.
- STRICT RUBBISH** (Trash bin with slash icon): and pollution controls.
- DESIGNATED AREAS** (Hand pointing to a circle with slash icon): for water activities, and change them to limit impact.

Overall there was an expressed need for better infrastructure, more policing and compliance activities, systems that support successful tourism (controls and licencing) and monitor and manage impact on the environment.

A large part of the negativity toward tourism is based upon the risks to families, community, businesses, safety and the environment and the low level of trust that the impacts will be managed. The Bodies Corporate members believe they will be left to manage the impacts, based upon their previous experiences, and they are not confident the Government has the resources to manage tourism in this special place.



## Cultural History and Tourism

The survey asked what cultural history could be shared through tourism and how and where that could best be done.

What the cultural history the Bodies Corporate think should be valued:

- History of the cray fishing industry – early fishing shacks and history of the families and the communities
- Batavia and other wreck history
- Fish habitats and coral reefs
- Guano mining history

The answers have been grouped into categories that reflect the areas of cultural history the Bodies Corporate members think should be valued. Table 1 below details the areas.

**TABLE 1: CULTURAL HERITAGE LOCATIONS**

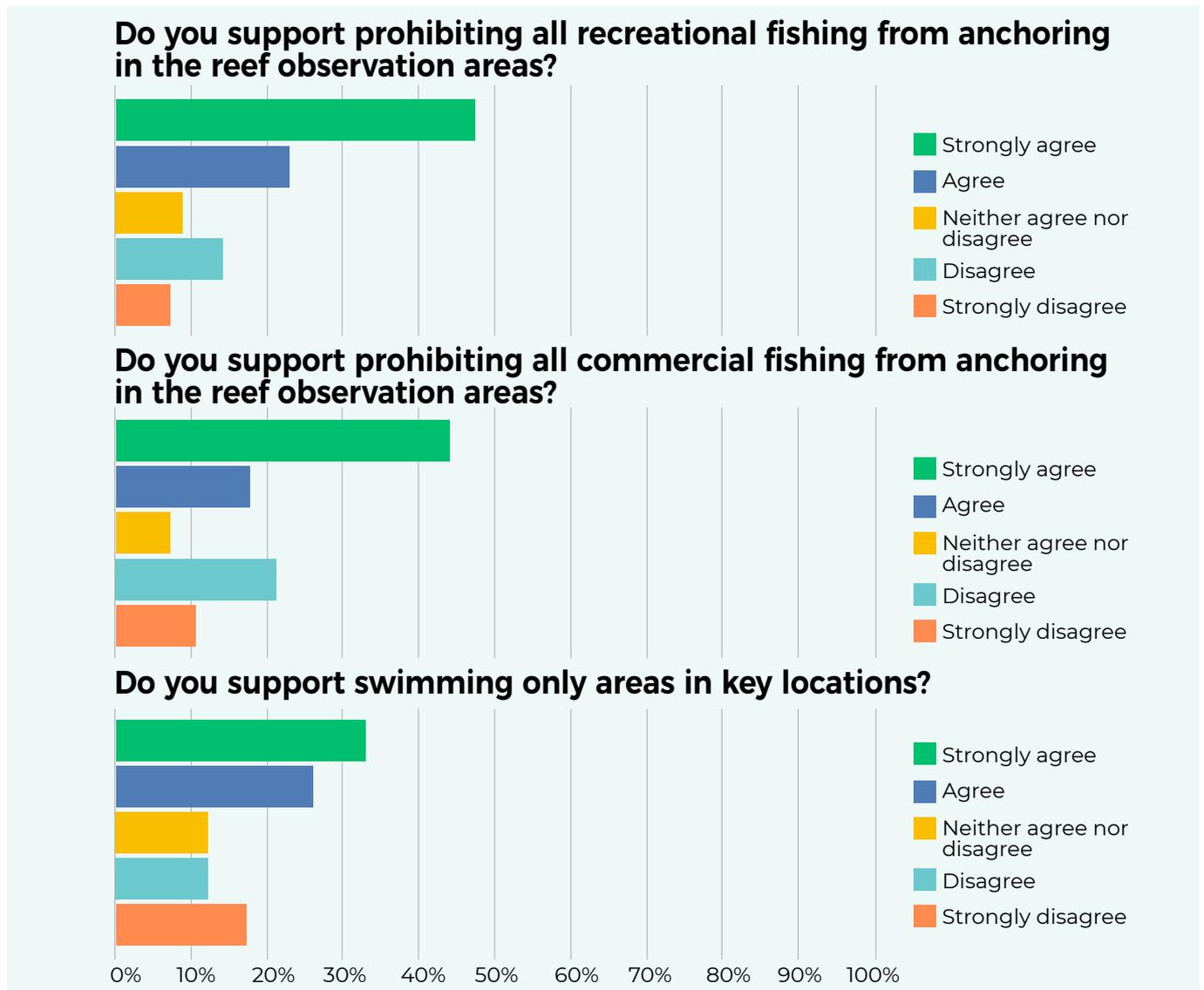
What Cultural Heritage could be shared?	Where could that be shared?
Shipwreck History	Batavia landings on various islands at Wallabis Beacon Island Zeewijk and Sloepie history at Gun Island (first european boat built in Australia)
Fishing History	Family history of life and times on the island with photos at community Halls or Schools (North Island for local Museum – linked to social clubs) Have an Italian coffee at 3pm on Basily Island History of how the fishing was passed from generation to generation Guided tour through staged camps that have been set up and interpreted Heritage trail through some of the islands. Islands suggested: Basile, Rat, Big Pidgeon, Beacon. Other suggestion is on the islands with air strips.
Guano Mining History	Guano mining story at Pelsart Island



*The Geraldton Museum has a fantastic amount of displays regarding the Abrolhos and in particular the Batavia. It would be beneficial for tourists that are coming to the islands to visit the Museum to gather some prior knowledge on the history of the Batavia and the fishermen that have lived there for decades.*

# Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture

The predominant feedback from the Body Corporate consultation was they would like to see nature values better protected. This applied to finfish stocks, cray and squid stocks, marine breeding grounds, coral reefs, bird nesting areas and seal colonies.



- There is strong support (70%) for prohibiting all recreational fishing vessels from anchoring in the reef observation areas (ROA's), 21% disagree
- There is reasonably strong support (61%) for prohibiting all commercial fishing from anchoring in the ROA's with 32% disagreeing
- There is reasonably strong support (59%) for swimming only areas in key locations, with 29% disagreeing

What activities do the Bodies Corporate believe are incompatible with the reef observation areas:

- Fishing, spear-fishing and cray pots are incompatible
- Oil and gas industry
- Restricted anchoring or public short stay moorings

Activities the Bodies Corporate believe are compatible:

- Low impact activities such as swimming, diving, snorkelling with low numbers
- Glass bottom view



Overall, there was a reasonably consistent view point expressed that there should be better protection of the shallow reefs, reduced take, more sanctuary zones, stop the overfishing, catch and consume while at the islands, or no fish take out.

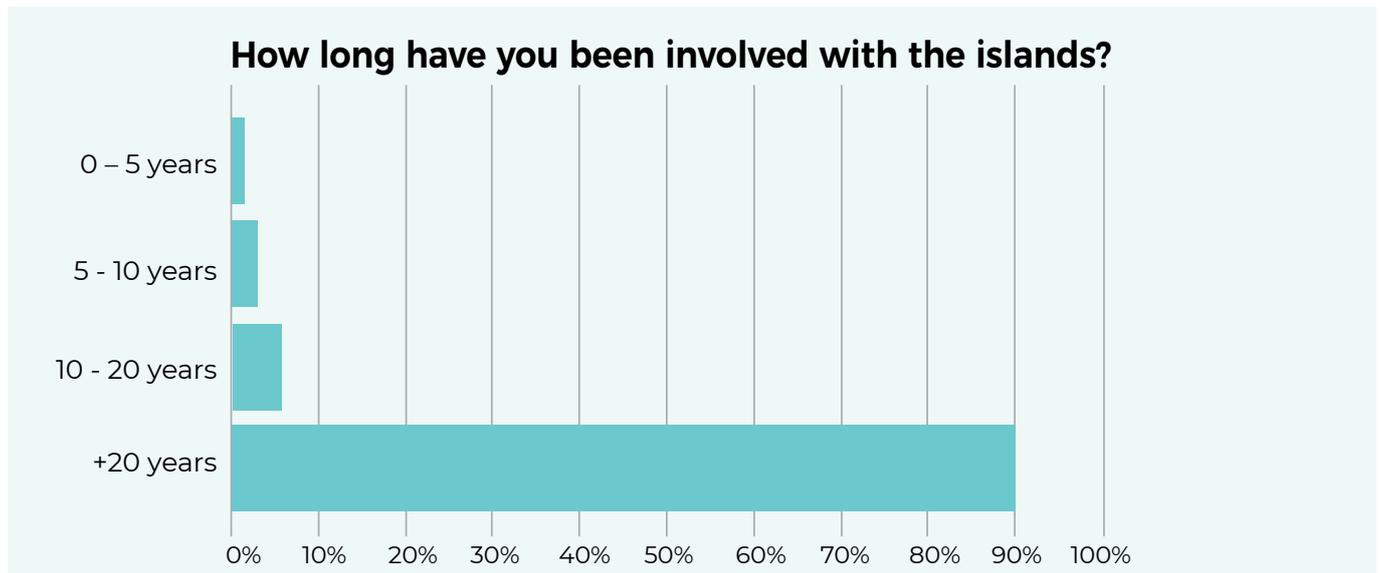
### A sample of the views expressed:

- Would like to see a no fish 1 mile exclusion zone around the islands.
- Reduce amount of recreational fishing and safe guard the shallow reefs.
- Controlled catch and consume, reduce total take.
- More sanctuary zones.
- Proper recording of visitors to the islands, their movements and how many fish are being taken.
- Reduce the fish take by 75%.
- Close some fishing areas and put in more policing eg. Anemone lump at Leos.
- Increase fish habitat no take areas, stop the over fishing, bring bag limits down to what you can eat while you are there, no fish take out of the exclusion zone.
- Shark culls.

## Abrolhos Community

For the purposes of the consultation report, the Abrolhos community has been defined as people who live in the same place or area and share a common interest, attitude or purpose. A community is linked by social ties and works on joint action for the better of a group of people who are part of the same place. Community is defined by the strength of the connections, the sense of belonging and the social capital within the groups that make up the community.

The length of association with the Abrolhos was a good indicator of community. 68 of the Bodies Corporate members (90% of answers) have over 20 year involvement with the islands.



Many of the members talk about intergenerational involvement with the islands that go back to their grandparents time.



*It has been one of my homes for 50 years*

*Everyone in my family grew up on Post Office Island, we fish for lobster and grow pearls. We spend a lot of time there.*

*Connection for 3 generations of family.*

*Kids grew up and went to school there.*

*It's a place of wonder and peace. You can experience nature there daily.*

The Abrolhos is where the Bodies Corporate members families connect. Social ties that are formed through everyday interactions – work, school, community, socialising, create strong communities. The horizontal ties between the community members are a key determinant of the communities capital and the 'civic infrastructure'.

The Bodies Corporate members have a reasonably clear vision for the future of the Abrolhos they would like to see created. There is some diversity in the answers around vision eg. Not all agree with tourism activities, but the majority want to see the islands remain unspoilt, by managing all activities carefully. Responses included:

- Well controlled, guided and monitored tourism which is low impact, sustainable and works with the fishing and aquaculture industry.
- Cultural heritage of the islands protected and highlighted and used as a key feature of the tourism product.
- Aquaculture industry that is well managed and promoted as the Abrolhos brand.
- Well managed recreational fishing sector, which places less pressure on fish stocks.
- Healthy co-existence between the environment, tourism and fishermen.
- Some want it to stay the same, and have no development pressure.

## Infrastructure

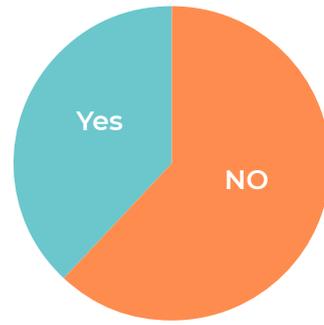
The survey asked the Bodies Corporate what physical infrastructure was important on body corporate leasehold land.

LAND BASED INFRASTRUCTURE	MARINE BASED INFRASTRUCTURE
Communication and emergency response infrastructure, runway at Big Rat needs to land RFDS plan, permanent mobile communications	Increase public moorings in designated areas
Increase building size limits, controlled building management	Suitable jetties in designated tourism areas (specific suggestions Pelsart and Gun)
Public toilets, signage, designated pathways	Large scale pontoons
Retain the community buildings, cyclone proof	Jetties linked to airfields
Commercial fishermen camps – Accommodation, storage and workshop, waste water treatment system and power shed facilities	Dedicated dive trails in Southern
Nursing station	

The majority of Bodies Corporate members (62%) thought there was not enough public moorings or pontoons.



## Do you think there are enough public moorings or pontoons?

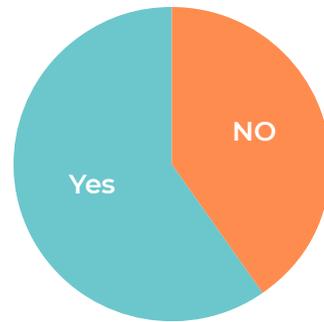


Suggestions for where to locate new ones included:

- Areas suitable for tourism, highly visited areas with protected waters – north end Big Rat, sandy parts Pidgeon anchorage.
- Pelseart – west of Pelseart near the Guano jetty, north of Pelseart, south end of Pelseart.
- Wallabies, Wooded, Gun, Middle Island, NW side of Post Office.
- Safe areas – leave room for Bodies Corporate moorings.
- Keep them together – easier to monitor and ensure compliance, more in current locations.
- Only in sand bottom areas.
- Outside of Sanctuary zones.
- Not in island anchorage because of waste from boats.

The majority of Bodies Corporate members (60%) thought there are enough public jetties.

## Do you think there are enough public jetties? eg: adjoined to islands with airstrips.



For those that thought there could be new public jetties, suggestions for where new ones could be located included:

- In close proximity to existing airstrips.
- Pelseart, Big Pidgeon, Turtle Bay, North Island, west of airstrip at Big Rat.
- Near Silver Chain.

# Waste Management

## WASTE

The survey asked about suggestions for improving waste management. The majority of Bodies Corporate members thought the current arrangements were working fine, and others offered some suggestions for improvement which included:

- Continue using the carrier boat.
- Supply wheelie bins for returning waste to the main land, more bins wharf-side.
- Burn cardboard and newspapers on the islands.
- Skip bins on public jetty – carrier boat take back to Geraldton – mainly for recreational boats.



*If you have room to take it over, then you have room to take it back.*

The survey did not test if water supply was an issue, but this was raised by one respondent in this section, and directly related to a need to keep numbers low on the islands due to this issue.

## WASTE WATER TREATMENT

The survey asked what wastewater treatment options are practical for the Reserve. Options were not clear cut and some members wanted to see more done, and some were happy with current arrangements.

### Views included:

- Testing around the islands show the current arrangements are working and water is cleaner than water around uninhabited bird islands, however the tanks are an eye-sore.
- Charter vessels need to dump away from islands.
- Composting toilet is sufficient.
- Approved septic systems.
- Macerated toilets to be installed, limits on numbers per camp.
- Sewerage treatment plant.

## UTILITY OPTIONS

The survey asked what are the key barriers to creating sustainable utility options such as solar and wind power.

### Key issues were:

- Impact on nesting birds at certain times of the year.
- Cost, repairs and rules - were cited as an issue for solar, but some are already using solar. Some mentioned that rules are preventing them from installing solar. Some mentioned getting repairs done was an issue, particularly given the corrosive environment. The need to isolate batteries in a separate enclosure was a barrier.
- Wifi access to monitoring remotely was a barrier.
- Rough conditions and weather was also cited as a possible barrier, and
- some thought visual impact was an issue.

The survey indicated that 42% of the respondents thought the Government should be involved in utility functions. Suggestions for Government involvement included funding, rebates, or financial incentives.



## MEDICAL FACILITIES

The survey asked if the Bodies Corporate have adequate access to the Silver Chain nursing post or other health facilities. The answer to this was evenly mixed and appear to relate to the proximity to the current nursing post. If you were in the island group where the current facility is, you didn't have an issue, and if you were further away, it was more likely to be an issue.

Responses were: 38% thought they have adequate access, 41% didn't think they had adequate access, and 21% neither agreed or disagreed.

### Improvements that they would like to see included:

- Government funding for flights to other islands (other than Rat).
- One for each Bodies Corporate group.
- Rescue helicopter.
- Emergency unit that works for tourism at the Wallabi's.
- Install phone towers.
- Install air strip facility in Southern Group.
- Air strip with night lights.

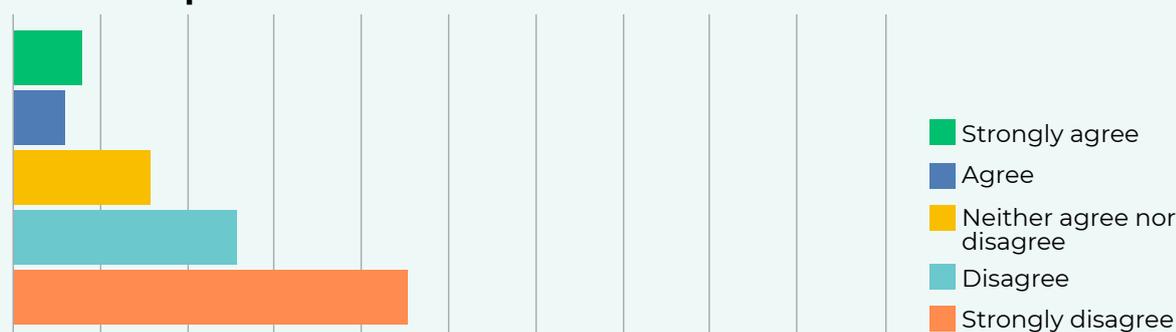


*The Silver Chain is based on an island close to us for about 3 months of the year, so in those months we are adequately serviced. For the remainder of the year, we need to return to Geraldton.*

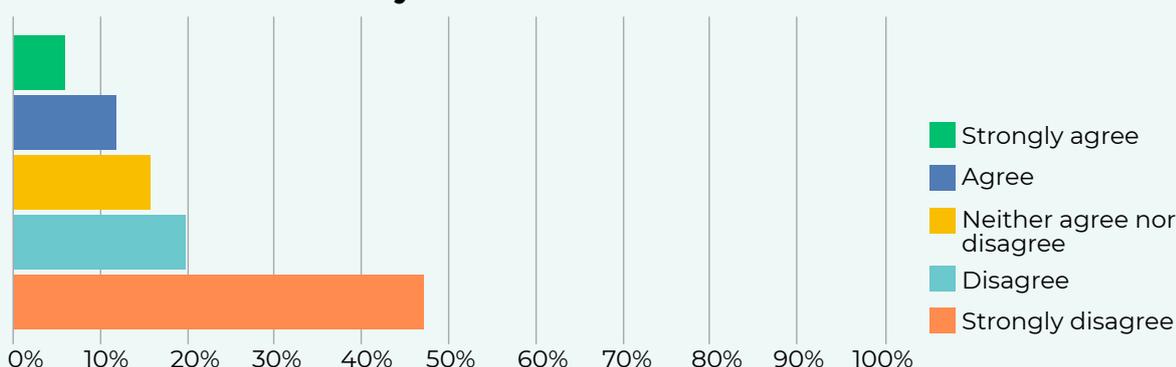
*Access is available but a long way away from Southern Group so only available by phone. We do have an RFDS box for local use.*

## TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACCESS

### Do you have adequate telecommunications infrastructure, in the form of mobile phone access



### Do you have adequate telecommunications infrastructure, in the form of internet connectivity



Mobile phone access and internet connectivity are both considered to be equally poor. 71% believe they have inadequate mobile phone access, and 67% believe they have inadequate internet access.

#### Improvement they would like to see:

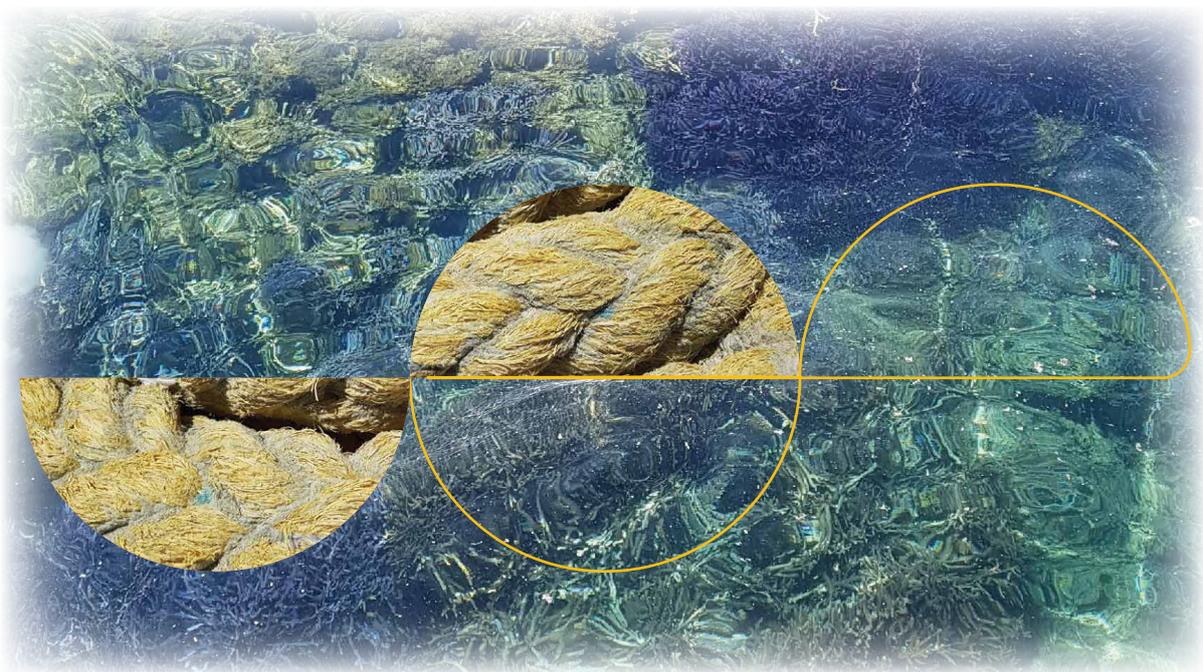
- All islands and immediate surrounds need good coverage if tourism is likely to increase safely.
- A communication unit based with the light houses on all the groups.
- During holiday times when there is a high number of vessels, there is zero connectivity.

*“We have paid for our own phone and internet connectivity – successive governments have promised infrastructure but none have delivered”*

#### MARINE SAFETY AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

The survey asked what improvements the Bodies Corporate members would like to see to marine safety and emergency responses, and the responses have been grouped:

- More access to phone service
- Helicopter evacuation services, rescue chopper stationed in Midwest permanently.
- Improved live weather stations.
- Better checks for people departing for the islands by boat.
- Upgrade air strips to Royal Flying Doctor Service compliant airstrip lighting.
- Speed limits in anchorages, signage at all moorings and jetty areas.
- All boats need radio communication and their radios turned on.





# Governance

Governance of the Abrolhos Islands was considered in the consultation in two contexts:

- Governance by Government – The different roles, decision making, relationships, policies, regulations and their enforcement and how that then translates to action on the ground in the Abrolhos – this is covered in the section on Government.
- Governance by the Bodies Corporate – their management decision making, reporting, the policies and their application through rules and decisions of the Bodies Corporate, how they view their own performance and the strengths and weaknesses of this governance model.

The survey asked what the Body Corporate think are the strengths and weaknesses of the model, and they are summarised in the table below:

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
Links to the Government and reduces the complexity, a voice for all, one voice, cohesive.	No power to control members who breach lease agreement – toothless tiger.
Central communication, connects the members, keeps us updated on changes.	Governing your friends/neighbours.
Gathers and uses the local knowledge and respects the history, years of experience.	Only as good as our elected representatives.
Gives us control of our future.	Disunity.
Managed by fisherman, who understand the industry.	Favouritism, and inconsistent decision making, old grudges and history has an influence.
Creates agreement, democratic, gives us input to how leases are managed.	Left to a few to do the work and it's a lot of responsibility.
Pools resources, cost effective management.	Funding.
Generates a sense of community, manages security.	Some members have their own agenda, some have not been out to the islands for 10 years.

For many of the members, the Body Corporate Governance system is seen as an effective way to create a unifying voice for the Bodies Corporate members and a way to use the years of experience and knowledge about the islands. It can create agreement, and create a way of gathering input on how leases should be managed.

They create a sense of community and where there is strong community there is generally stronger social cohesion. Sharing a common interest can create a feeling of fellowship and a stronger sense of belonging.

They create a communication mechanism, and a link to Government and help create one point of communication for the Government. They can allow pooling of resources to get jobs done that otherwise would be difficult for individual members to achieve.

For some of the members, the Bodies Corporate are unable to govern effectively and enforce action when there are breaches of the leases. There can be inconsistent decision making and the decision making can be influenced by personal factors which can be seen as playing favourites.

The Bodies Corporate model creates a work load that a few members shoulder and there is little funding redistributed from the leases paid. The Bodies Corporate are not particularly well resourced and whilst improvements in the model are possible, those improvements would require additional investment to achieve.

There is overwhelming support from the Bodies Corporate members to be involved through their Bodies Corporate. **90% of the members surveyed want to be involved via this means. 10% would prefer to see another structure.** When asked what another structure would look like, the responses were:

- Working committee.
- Through MFL or licence structures.
- Direct contact with Tourism operators.
- Direct one on one.

## Future management plans – other areas?

The following views were additional areas included in the survey responses in the final question:

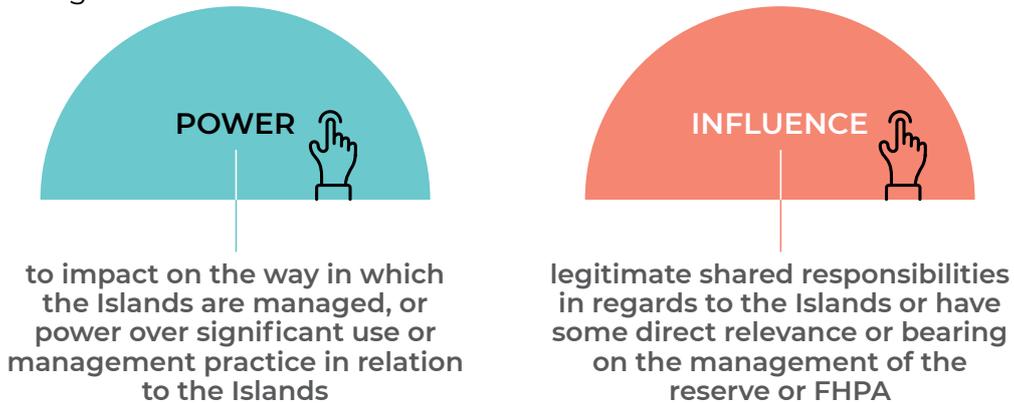
<p><b>Tourism members need to be allowed infrastructure on the islands and to become members of the Bodies Corporate, because it will be more forward thinking and help us to manage tourism.</b></p>	<p><b>Keep a close eye on the ecosystem at the Abrolhos and don't disturb it too much.</b></p>	
<p><b>There is too much emotion involved, engage a world class consulting company to develop Management Plans.</b></p>	<p><b>Put the onus of adhering to the lease conditions be put back on DPIRD.</b></p>	<p><b>Stop dumping of fish offal in mooring areas as it attracts the sharks, especially a concern when it is near dive trails (Morley Island).</b></p>





# Fishing sector consultation

The consultation for the Fishing Sector occurred through key organisations that have a high stakeholder rating.



These organisations included:

- **Western Rock Lobster Council** – CEO contacted
- **WA Fishing Industry Council (WAFIC)** - CEO interviewed and follow up questions emailed and reply received
- **Recfishwest** – CEO interviewed, follow up questions emailed
- **Aquaculture WA** – EO emailed the ACWA Abrolhos members and individual interviews were also conducted

Key not for profit organisations that have members that are significant users of the Abrolhos were consulted through the Marine Tourism Association, and the Geraldton Yacht Club was approached.

The detailed views have been captured under the six areas which will feature in the Management Plan for the Reserve and FHPA. Some categories have not been included if the consultation did not include specific feedback on an area.



## Nature Conservation and Protection

Members of the fishing sector raised concerns that there is little or no consultation or resources put towards understanding the risk and needs for the bird nesting areas. The pristine nature of the Abrolhos is highly valued, and there is a concern there is little or no monitoring of the state of the natural environment, particularly flora and fauna.

Many of the Fishermen mentioned that Chris Surman has educated all the fishermen on the islands and has done years of research on the birds, and bird nesting area. They would like to see an ongoing funded research program to protect bird habitat and conservation values across the island groups.

There was not strong support for seasonal island access restrictions from this stakeholder group, but there was support for strong conditions as to where you can go and when.

## Cultural Heritage Protection

This stakeholder group strongly expressed that the fishing industry story at the Abrolhos belongs to the fishing families. It's their story to be told, and they need to tell it to make it authentic. People want to 'go to the Abrolhos, look at the shacks and eat a lobster'. It would be worthwhile to enable authentic experiences that people are seeking at the Abrolhos to be provided by the fishing community resident at the islands.

## Tourism

Many operators believe that aquaculture and wild catch fishing are very compatible with tourism activities. However, many expressed a view that there should be some changes to the management of fishing and marine resources in the islands.

### The key view points shared by the Fishing industry were:

- Need for a consistent playing field for incorporating aquaculture and tourism. The Bodies Corporate have reported different rules across the four management committees and as a result it is possible in some areas to do tourism that values add aquaculture but not in others. Operators that wish to combine aquaculture and tourism activities to add value to their respective businesses report frustration at dealing with different decision-making processes by the Bodies Corporate.
- This value adding and building a broader tourism product would also help the marine tourism operators to have additional activities to do with their clients, to broaden the Abrolhos product offered by marine tourism operators. The idea expressed was that the Abrolhos can become known as 'more than a 10kg limit location fishing area', and the other unique values can be further developed.
- Reuse and revamp unused camps to other purposes ('use it or lose/share it' policy and implementation), so they can be made into commercial propositions for the lease holders and Bodies Corporate. This would enable the islands to get tidied up and enhanced as much as possible.
- Better waste management eg. rubbish bins at certain sites, to overcome the dumping of rubbish from boats.
- Public multi-user jetty where tourism is to be developed, so public use of public facilities can be managed appropriately. There are concerns about public use of private jetties because of the risk for the owners.
- Allocate more Reserve land for the express purpose of tourism, and through this zoning enable multi-faceted businesses to grow with the Abrolhos development process. Have go/no go areas for tourism and separate industry, conservation and tourism zones.
- Better booking system and more moorings. More multi-user moorings and more safe anchorage to protect corals.
- Enable school student visits and community visits to learn more about the environment and cultural history of the islands. Education is a form of tourism in the eyes of the fishing industry.
- Enabling eco-tourism that goes beyond "fishing tourism" to create a broader produce for the Abrolhos.
- Barge service that provides assistance for small businesses.



## Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture

### AQUACULTURE INDUSTRY – FEEDBACK AND VIEWS

The main view is that the Western Rock Lobster (WRL) industry has been dominant for many years, and although aquaculture is still emergent, it will become a significant industry in years to come. It is however a risky industry and needs good planning and regulatory support. The islands are an important area but need to get better prepared and future proof their planning and processes so they are ready for that future. Many suggested the legislation, and processes haven't kept pace with the needs and that has created business uncertainty for the operators.

Feedback included the need to overhaul the Bodies Corporate lease management process to enable multi-user land and water needs, rather than supporting a single sector dominant model. Suggestions included a clear and comprehensive Management Plan which enabled multisector land and water use.

Aquaculture lease holders would like more certainty across the island groups. There was a reported different set of rules across the constitutions which makes operation difficult for the operators. The difference creates conflict because some operators can do some things in some areas, and then other operators are unable to because of the different rules. Operators would like consistent administration and planning across the groups.

They would like to see access and use by all industry groups. They don't want to see any fishing operations lose any access, but they would like equal opportunity of access for all.

There is also a concern that aquaculture operations are being approved without appropriate set backs. There is a concern that incompatible operations are being approved in proximity to each other, and that will impact their capacity to operate, manage their biosecurity and be good neighbours and industry colleagues. There is also concern that non-endemic species are approved for aquaculture leases because of risk of disease moving between leases.

There is also a concern that aquaculture industry needs room to grow, and also use the Abrolhos as a place of work, and a place to call home.

There were views expressed the approval processes can set up unnecessary conflict between operators and cause relationship issues that impact the stability of the sector. The process described in the consultation was that it sets up an adversarial relationship between operators because they are required to object to a development after the application has been entered. It was observed that having a process that involves early consultation with operators could assist future planning for aquaculture, and could build relationships amongst operators.

The sector expressed a view they would like to see collaborative science projects where the operators provide data and information and learn together on issues that will enable everyone to own and drive the science behind the sector and the environment.

Aquaculture requires better digital communications, because it is a sector that can use real time analytics and internet of things (IOT) devices for monitoring/sensing that need high speed, low latency and symmetrical upload/download speeds (enterprise grade internet). That functionality is difficult if not impossible to deliver from satellite services or small cell solutions. Mobile phone towers are required for the future, or other technology such as low earth orbiting satellites (LEO's), and the Abrolhos could be used for trials to establish how to provide digital access at scale in remote locations.

Larger aquaculture operations will also need facilities back on shore at Geraldton for processing, handling, and maintenance, and there were concerns expressed there hasn't been adequate planning for the future of the aquaculture supply chain at the Abrolhos.

## FISHING INDUSTRY – FEEDBACK AND VIEWS

WAFIC is keen to support the Bodies Corporate as core members of their organisation. They view Tourism as a potential industry that could encroach on the livelihoods of the Bodies Corporate, and would like to ensure that the Management Plans do not impact negatively on the operations of the WRL operators in this zone.

Other commercial fishing operators proposed that take needs to be limited, and that 10 kg recreational take is not sustainable given the growth in boat numbers, and needs to be reduced. Others comment that sharks are eating half the fish before they get to the surface and there needs to be action on shark numbers in this zone.

Others comment there is support for regeneration of corals in popular anchorage sites and noted the need for more multi usage moorings to create more safe anchorage to protect the coral habitat.

## RECREATIONAL SECTOR – FEEDBACK AND VIEWS

There is a need for a holistic view of how to manage the Abrolhos to prevent conflict between user groups. There is potential for conflict and competitive pressure between the recreational sector and the charter sector (for example). Both sectors want to see the quality of fishing, abundance and the wilderness experience that the Abrolhos affords maintained.

The vision the recreational fishing sector would like to see created is to maintain the pristine, sport fishing area and wilderness fishing experience that is unique to the Abrolhos. They would like to see the fishing limits maintained and retain the capacity to take fillets home. Ten kilogram limit was considered to be about the right level.

They also agree that the vision for the charter industry is to have a well run industry which is smaller in capacity, and not expanded beyond current levels.

RecFish West believe that consumer tastes are changing and there is a move to value abundance more. There is an understanding that how to fish in the future will be different, and that maintaining the special and unique aspects of the Abrolhos is in everyone's interest.

There were no particular locations which were more important than others, and the recreational sector would prefer to talk through at a granular level any detailed propositions for changes to the reef observation areas etc, or any proposals that would impact the recreational fishing sector.

Fishing predominantly occurs in the southern area, although this can vary depending on weather conditions and 'everyone has their favourite spot'.





## ABROLHOS COMMUNITY

The main sector view is the Abrolhos is a state asset, and they would like to see community and public buy-in into the islands. Their view is that people would like to visit the Abrolhos, and many at the Abrolhos would like to share the history, beauty and environment, but there is a cost barrier for many members of the community in getting there.

There are also a range of issues and concerns with the level of infrastructure at the islands. There was a consistent view that there should be more public infrastructure to enable access, management, monitoring of the resource and of usage, and more protection of habitat areas particularly in coral zones. These are detailed below, and cover all the key infrastructure and service areas:

- Removal of rubbish including asbestos removal is required, because the asbestos litter effectively makes the relevant islands contaminated sites. Clean up support for specific islands may be required.
- Some of the waste can be turned into art/sculptures through community art projects.
- Dumping of grey and black water at sea will become more of an issue as boating pressure increases and the islands open up. Waste water disposal needs to be disposed on land. Needs to be rules to prevent people dumping grey water at moorings sites.
- Need for a multi-user jetty at a central island group which has access to an air-field. Many operators can't afford a jetty for the number of days they are at the islands but would like public access and could pay a usage fee. Operators need access to storage and land.
- Camps management– would like to see camps maintained, but if there is consistent lack of use of a camp that it is repurposed or removed.
- Communication infrastructure is critical not just for communications but for monitoring.

## Governance

The two main governing organising forces at the islands were discussed with fishing stakeholders – Government and Bodies Corporate. These are discussed in turn.

In addition, a governance suggestion came from WAFIC who expressed its interest in playing a coordination role to support the fishing industry and the Bodies Corporate.

### BODIES CORPORATE – GOVERNANCE

There was concern raised that Bodies Corporate do not get an opportunity to consider commercial aquaculture applications, and there was a concern raised that the Bodies Corporate can make adverse decisions against operations from people who have lived at the islands a long time and are trusted.

The observation from the feedback is the decision making can be arbitrary and based upon who is advancing the application. This issue was raised a number of times across Body Corporate areas. This has reportedly created concerns about the decision-making processes, and has introduced conflict and local politics into the governance processes. That then spreads as a broader 'trust issue'.

There was also a view that the Department is not providing any clear guidelines on how to manage the Aquaculture licence applications, and the Bodies Corporate are being put under pressure to assess applications they do not have sufficient guidance on.

Some stakeholders suggested that there be an overarching management body that makes development decisions on the islands eg. Rottneest Authority, Great Barrier Reef Authority.

The Western Rock Lobster Council indicated it is willing to support the Bodies Corporate to bring together the four Bodies Corporate under a Body Corporate Council so there is one point of contact for the stakeholders to collaborate with.

## GOVERNMENT – GOVERNANCE

There is a level of frustration with Government at the pace of their processes. There were reports about applications going through multiple departments and 'everyone has clout' so you don't know what matters most and how to address it in your application. One idea is to use an intermediary for development applications who then coordinates the Government Departments responses and can also create consistent application of the rules, with time bound process requirements.

There is concern that sufficient monitoring of resources is not occurring. It is believed there are changes occurring in the environment which are not being adequately captured and fed into management of the resources eg. warm water heat wave information.

There is no publicly available register of aquaculture sites and licences that is available to support to do planning for their operations. A publicly available water allocation map as per South Australia's model would assist the industry, along with information on operation's compliance with conditions. There is concern that multiple species developments are being approved in close proximity to one another to gain access to camps, and that this could be counter productive for biosecurity. There was views expressed that aquaculture licence applications are not proxies for camp applications.

It was suggested the Department could issue Research and Development (R&D) licences in early stage and then scale up to full production licences if the conditions of the R&D licence are met, rather than issuing a full production licence in the first instance. The point was expressed that an Aquaculture licence is not a guaranteed managed fishery, and 21 years is a long management period.

Overall the view that was expressed was that transparency in the decision making has decreased and trust has declined as a result. The capacity to appeal a decision has been diminished as the Statement of Decision is not made public anymore. It is not clear to the industry if the new Act (ARMA) will resolve or improve this.

The overall feedback is these issues are limiting confidence in investment in the aquaculture industry in the Abrolhos.

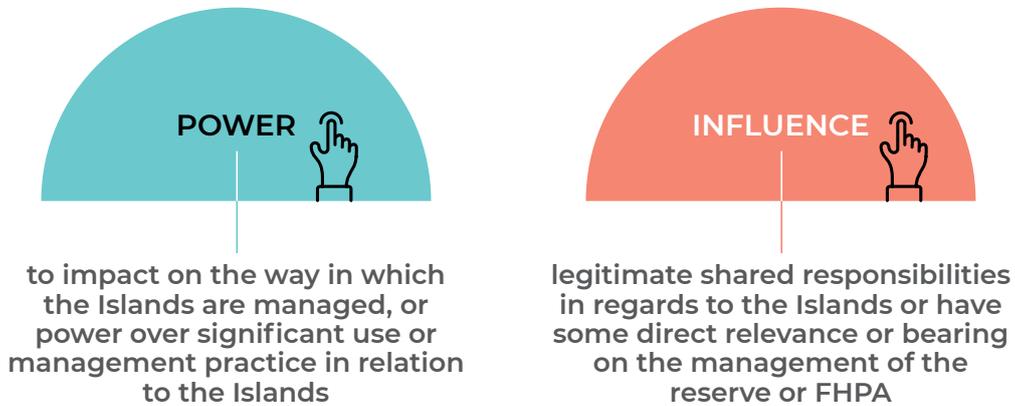




# Tourism Industry

## The Consultation Process

The consultation for the tourism sector also occurred through key organisations that have a high stakeholder rating. They were identified by a community referencing system and then prioritised, as there were more individual stakeholders suggested than could be resourced in the process.



These organisations included:

- Existing current eco-tourism Operators – interviewed
- City of Greater Geraldton – interviewed and Destination Management Plan summarised
- Mid West Development Commission – interviewed
- Mid West Regional CCI – interviewed
- WA Museum – interviewed
- Marine Tourism Association – Executive interviewed
- WA Tourism – interviewed

The detailed views have been captured under the six areas which will feature in the Management Plan for the Reserve and FHPA. Some categories have not been included if the consultation did not include specific feedback on an area.



## Nature Conservation and Protection

Tourism operators noted the Abrolhos Islands are highly significant bird nesting habitat, and are extremely significant in the Indian Ocean.

## Cultural Heritage Protection

The WA Museum noted there are key cultural and heritage values that need protection and considered developed. They include:

- Batavia site and the maritime wreck site.
- Aquatic and terrestrial natural sciences, including marine science.
- Shipwrecks and the underwater wonders.

The 'big stories' are the Dutch Shipwrecks and the story of human survival told through the artifacts found underwater and on the islands. The displays in the Regional Gallery also focus on the fishing stories and the natural history of the islands.

This aligns well with the broader regional key stories which include:

1. Abrolhos Islands
2. HMAS Sydney (II) and HSK Kormoran
3. Yamatji Culture and History
4. SKA – Biggest science project on the planet interpretation

The key sites where these stories can be told are Beacon Island, Long Island, East and West Wallabi. The preference for Beacon Island is for a guided experience. In the Southern Group, Zeeiwjk and Gun Island are also important cultural heritage sites.

Local knowledge suggested that the key stories or experiences are:

- Geology of the region – how the islands formed over thousands of years including their significance to First Nations people. The Abrolhos is the southernmost tropical coral reef on the West Australian coast. The islands have an unusual geology made up of limestone, sand and coral.
- Ecology of the region including the overlap of the systems and biological impacts of those complex systems. There are important seagrass and coral communities that support a huge array of marine invertebrate and fish species. Terrestrial vegetation includes mangroves, dwarf shrub and saltbush communities. The Tammar wallaby, southern bush rat, turtles, lizards, pythons and a colony of Australian sea lions are native to the islands.
- The islands are one of the most significant seabird nesting sites in the Indian Ocean.
- Cray fishing stories.
- Batavia story.

A hierarchy of narratives has been developed in the Draft Master Visitor Plan for the Wallabi Group of the Houtman Abrolhos Island, prepared for the WA Museum. There are many stories that can be told at each site. Some of the other areas proposed in this document are:

- Industry on the Abrolhos.
- Living on the Abrolhos – the Community.
- Discovery and charting.
- Leeuwin current.
- Other wrecks.

There are many rich and varied narratives which can be developed into visitor experiences which can value the local community and build experiences that link the islands to the broader social and cultural history of the region.



## Tourism

Various stakeholders noted the need for a 'whole of Abrolhos' assessment of how to approach tourism, including heritage across the islands. The view was expressed there has been a substantive conservation planning process but not a process that looked at how to develop tourism across the island groups. This has left a "vacuum" on what Tourism will look like and the operators are piecing together the narrative and future plans across the Government processes. Stakeholders report a feeling of uncertainty about the various processes.

The Draft Master Visitor Plan for the Wallabi Group (WA Museum) proposes a heritage assessment of existing fishing camps should be undertaken to determine the value and significance of these places. Such assessment should include extensive consultation with existing occupants and include recommendations to ensure identified values are conserved.

It proposes that a Tourism Masterplan for the whole of the Houtman Abrolhos Islands be prepared to provide for additional tourism activities and opportunities that may be more appropriate to other island groups.

The low hanging fruit available is to do smaller scale boutique experience-based tourism where there is infrastructure, an appetite to do something, the experience is rich, and where the culture and history of the families is available as an experience they would like to share. Some stakeholders thought that fishermen could diversify into tourism and upgrade their camps for accommodation.

Sustainable eco-tourism is the model most people consulted favoured. Some favoured light touch semi-permanent land based tourism (glamping or self contained cabins on DBCA land) and some preferred that tourists stay on water. Most agreed the priority is to improve the quality of the experience, not grow it bigger until there are controls, management and protections in place for the natural, cultural, heritage and families of the islands.

Most stakeholders felt the experience needs to be a guided one. They talked about the Abrolhos as a really powerful experience, and an opportunity to see and learn about sea animals and birds in a way that can't be done elsewhere. As well as the obvious benefits of guided experiences, it widens the economic benefits and diversification of the economy if knowledgeable, experienced guides in the region are trained by an institution such as Geraldton TAFE.

There are high quality regional tourism assets already established. The Regional WA Museum is an effective gateway to the Abrolhos and is an important way to get visitors inspired to do an Abrolhos trip. It can also give a great 'taster experience' and raise awareness of the islands, and enable a broader understanding of the fit of the Abrolhos stories into the cultural and heritage of the region.

The Destination Management Plan for the greater Geraldton area also reflects that the Abrolhos is an iconic product and considered a 'game changer'. It needs to be linked to other regional product to support the development of Tourism in this region. Geraldton is not seen as a destination in its own right but as a stop over point, and the development of strong linkages between the 'hub and spoke' elements in the region is important to developing tourism experience. Growth into the longer term will require strategic investment into attractions, experiences, access, infrastructure and industry capability. The Abrolhos is part of that broader investment and strategy process.

The pre-covid total known market size for the Regional WA Museum was 42,000 to 50,000 people each year. The cruise ship market is a big driver for visitation, and by visiting the museum tourists get a 'a taster' of the islands, and this generates inspiration to go to the Abrolhos one day. Small ship cruising requires moorings that are available and can be booked, and access to land through use of landings. The museum effectively functions as a gateway to the stories.

The Irwin District Historical Society in Dongara/Denison are developing a “Museum of Fishing and the Sea”, which will include the fishing grounds and links to the Abrolhos. The Fishing history goes back to 1846. Local community involvement in developing the narrative and the stories is critical, as they create the substance, colour, movement and flavour for the product.

The total number of visitors, excluding friends and family visiting Bodies Corporate camps is approximately 10,000 per year based upon the eco-tourism tour numbers, Fisheries data on recreational fishers/day trippers, and scenic flights. This approximate number excludes marine tourism operators who bring visitors to the Abrolhos and stay on their boats. The major age groups is 60 to 80 which is mainly based upon cost factors. Anecdotal community reports suggest there are peak times when the visitor load is unsustainable at the islands, and is not manageable through current governance mechanisms. The ability to manage capacity limits at sites is also an issue raised by stakeholders.

The rationale the stakeholders outlined for building slowly is to ensure the public infrastructure and management of visitors can be put in place ahead of demand. There are currently limited tracks, toilets, signage, public jetties, or other public amenities on the islands. They would like to see established a maximum carrying capacity for tourism locations at each island group, where it is to be encouraged, and facilities built to match average numbers, before tourism is widely encouraged.

One of the main elements of the product is the raw beauty. To retain that value, the wilderness factor, the special natural environment and the deeply authentic history of the families, tourism needs to be carefully managed. Stakeholders felt that people’s movements and activities on the islands need to be carefully controlled. Some proposed that carrying capacities for the islands should be quantified and managed.

Stakeholders expressed that the fishing industry has changed greatly in the past few decades. The number of families are declining, the community centres aren’t open as much and the schools aren’t being used. Tourism stakeholders would like to use this existing infrastructure for tourism but keep it as natural as possible. They express they only want to use camps where fishermen aren’t, and do activities at the islands where the fisherman aren’t running commercial operations.

More and bigger moorings are considered essential to prevent dragging. The view was expressed that boats are only getting bigger and the larger charter operators would like to come to this area, but are prevented by size and number of moorings. A booking system for the moorings was also raised by a number of operators. One operator has the goal of using a floating pontoon so they can ensure limited impact on the islands.

Tourism stakeholders also state the importance of having a base for staff on the islands. The trip over can be very rough, and staff being resident at the islands on short term stays would enable operators to relieve fatigue that comes from anchor watch. Smaller groups could be moved in and out of the islands cost effectively and prevent excess numbers at any time.

Most stakeholders supported the idea of a code of conduct for ecotourism, and that this could be put in place for all operators and guides. The Museum’s preference for all operators working in the islands is that they have had some kind of induction or accreditation process. Stakeholders think that Beacon Island is particularly important and potentially vulnerable, and should be only accessed with accredited tour operators and guides. Locals with deep knowledge of the Abrolhos commented that it takes years to truly understand the Abrolhos, so having training for operators and guides is critical. There was a view that you could build the capacity within the education system to train up young people that could be part of the industry, so can get the right young people involved that are interested and engaged in the area and some stakeholders thought the Geraldton TAFE would be able to provide this training.



Islands where there are birds or other wildlife, need signage, hides, congregating areas, and boardwalks to ensure tourists are managed and don't go near nesting birds. There was some support for restrictive seasonal island access, however tourism operators believe the weather conditions control access and they need to work when the weather permits. Their preference is to see the islands well managed, with infrastructure developed to manage and prevent impact, and have people guided on islands with limits (1 guide to 10 ppl was proposed), with viewing areas.

Some examples of tourism product that was used across the island groups included:

<b>EASTER</b> snorkelling, Lesser Noddy – Wooded Island	<b>SOUTHERN</b> community, birds (Terns and Cormorants), pearl tours, coffee at Scaputtas at 3pm, feed Samsons fish, Church tour, Armstrong Street – driftwood and shells, Basiles coral tour
<b>WALLABIS</b> good range of birds and Batavia story	

Local stakeholders thought that Pelseart could be developed as a light touch camping area as informal camping mostly occurs here already. City of Greater Geraldton expressed support for low impact short-term accommodation at the islands.

There are deeply knowledgeable local residents/historians who can provide the required level of knowledge about the geology, marine ecology, and the human history of the islands through the major story-lines. These knowledgeable local people can be employed as a resource for developing the level of authenticity in the product that the Abrolhos requires.

Key dates where engagement could be built around for Dutch shipwreck phenomena:

- 2022 – 300 yrs since discovery of Turtle Bay
- 2022 – 400 years Leewin
- 2029 – 400 years Batavia

Sometimes its also useful to say what a product shouldn't be. There was almost universal feedback that the Abrolhos should not be a resort product. A large, land-based hotel is not the way to provide the best experience is the view of the majority of stakeholders.

## Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture

Tourism stakeholders are divided on fishing policy. Some believe the product should move on from ten kilogram fillet fishing, to valuing the other values of the islands, and having a low or no take policy. Tourism operators expressed the challenge in changing the markets perceptions of what the Abrolhos product is, and the need to have storage areas linked to multi-purpose public jetties if they are to undertake different activities with their visitors eg. Water recreation equipment needs to be stored at the islands.

Everyone also agreed the recreational boats are getting bigger, and its getting harder to catch fish and there is a general belief fish stocks are declining.

There is support for shark fishing to be brought back to catch the smaller sharks in some sort of managed harvest operation.

There is support for swimming only areas in key locations eg. Turtle Bay, Squid hole, and operators would like to see no fishing near the jetties where the 'pets' live.

## Abrolhos Community

It is apparent that the Abrolhos community also involves many local people and tourism operators who aren't in-situ at the island but feel every much as part of the history and the place as the Bodies Corporate members. Building the community engagement in the Management planning and process will be an ongoing opportunity for the Government, given this high degree of buy-in and passion for the Abrolhos.

### INFRASTRUCTURE

There is strong support from tourism stakeholders to have a multipurpose jetty and lock up facilities that can be used for equipment eg. Dive, recreational gear. This would enable the operators to fly in customers and have the equipment on the islands.

Operators would like to use the airfields especially where they are connected to a jetty.

Operators all support solving the digital connectivity issues at the islands.

### WASTE MANAGEMENT

Tourism stakeholders felt the islands could benefit from a clean up, and felt they could support the process.

### WASTE WATER

Operators expressed interest in being able to establish black water treatment plant with desalinator at the islands to change the practice of dumping at sea.

### MARINE SAFETY AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

As per other stakeholder groups, there was concerns that there wasn't a clear evacuation chain of authority and infrastructure in place for the islands.

## Governance

Many stakeholders raised the idea of a marine eco-tourism licence for a small number of operators in the Abrolhos. There was operator support for this idea, and having a Tourism Provider Accreditation framework that was necessary to operate in the Abrolhos. Operators would prefer a better managed tourism licence system that limits numbers and has a carrying capacity approach. There was also a view that there is little compliance around the existing licence system, and that the system is relying on people to do the right thing. Regulating a product that is spread out over thirty nautical miles was raised as an issue, and the limited resources the Government has to do this properly.

The Bodies Corporate model was considered to be challenging to work with, for the tourism operators. Some proposed the leases should be discontinued and move to a broader rights based model, with fishing rights, tourism rights licenced by the Government. Some wanted to see consistent decision making across the Bodies Corporate groups.

Many talked about a degree of disengagement from the Government planning processes. The comment was made 'the plans are done in secret and don't involve us'. Stakeholders have a strong sense of ownership and are protective of the Abrolhos, and not want to lose the special factors that make it such a unique and highly valued place.



# Conservation sector consultation

## The Consultation Process

The consultation for the conservation stakeholders focussed on the key organisations or individuals who have a strong history of involvement in the management of the Abrolhos, or those that have a contributing role to any environment role in relation to the islands. They were identified by DPIRD and by the community members.

These organisations and individuals included:

- Birds WA – Nic Dunlop – interviewed.
- Conservation Council – approached but not interviewed.
- Houtman Abrolhos Conservation Network – emailed but not interviewed.
- Chris Surman has kindly supplied information which has been referenced.

The detailed views have been captured under four main areas which will feature in the Management Plan for the Reserve and FHPA. Where views have occurred in previous sections, they have not been repeated in this section.



## Nature Conservation and Protection

There is a risk that biodiversity values will be threatened by development. Many of the management issues that will arise come from the need to control visitation and have appropriate capacity limits in place that are appropriately managed. An example is that new mooring locations has an impact on the surrounding land-water interface and can disturb colonies of birds and sea lions.

Infrastructure that services tourism eg. communications Towers can have high bird mortality, so its important this is considered particularly where there is endangered species eg. Only 150 Sooty Terns nest per season at the Abrolhos. Airstrips are also a risk as eighty per cent of Fairy terns nest on the air strips in winter, so any, work on the air strips needs to take this into account.

Stakeholders expressed concern about the degree of wildlife management that is resourced at the islands. They mentioned there are no specific resources for wildlife management in the Governments plans.

The Abrolhos ecosystem was badly damaged by the heat wave in 2011, and the ecosystem has remained vulnerable since that time. Its is important to understand any tipping point issues for the islands, and climate change will continue to create hot water from La Nina systems. Cyclones frequency will also increase which has a direct bearing on how infrastructure should be future proofed.

Specific issues for management include:

- Lesser Noddy Seabirds at Easter and Southern Groups can be managed with appropriate infrastructure.
- Southern end of Pelseart should only be accessed by people with licences.
- The challenge in managing bird habitat is the birds are not static and can nest in different locations each year.
- There is a need to close some parts of the islands in a seasonal way but the challenge in doing that is that it will be dynamic and will change each year.

## Cultural Heritage

There is a fascinating story to be told about the connection of Guano Mining and the birds. Rat Island was mined from the 1880s to 1930s and there is a lot of infrastructure still on the island. In 1890, the Manager of the guano facility recorded the largest sea bird colony in the eastern Indian Ocean of 1.1M nesting pairs. The miners introduced rats and then cats to clean up the rats. By 1938, the last group of Brown Noddies was wiped out and from 1938 to 2003 it was devoid of all nesting birds. In 1991 the rats were eradicated, and in 2000 the last cat died. The birds started coming back, and there are now 35,000 nesting pairs. This is an instructional story to share, because its both fascinating, links a range of elements, and is a precautionary tale about biosecurity and the need to ensure vessels don't introduce new pests and ferals to the islands.

## Tourism

Tourism product is being pushed to East Wallabi which some stakeholders believe is not as good as at other islands. Camping on islands is not recommended due to biosecurity risks, particularly in the Southern Group. Boats and people create a risk of transferring exotic species to the islands. Risks include introduction of species such as cockroaches, house mice and feral invertebrates.

Flood lights used on jetties are an issue for birds because they disorientate them and can cause mortality. Tour operators need to be aware of this issue and have a management plan to reduce or eliminate flood light use at the islands, particularly in the areas where birds are nesting.

## Abrolhos Community

There was a view expressed there is a lot of redundancy in the infrastructure on the islands, due to the changes in the fishing industry and there are a lot of legacy issues which require concerted effort to resolve eg. asbestos.

## Governance

Stakeholders believe is an issue with there being no regulations in regard to people movements. There needs to be far greater investment in licencing, regulation, policing and managing the key environments.





# Government sector consultation

## The Consultation Process

The consultation for the Government Stakeholders focussed on the key organisations involved in the Management of the Abrolhos, or those that have a contributing role to any planning that has an impact or influence on the islands. They were identified through consultation with DPIRD staff and were interviewed individually.

These organisations included:

- DBCA
- City of Greater Geraldton
- Mid West Development Commission
- WA Museum
- WA Tourism

The detailed views have been captured under three main areas which will feature in the Management Plan for the Reserve and FHPA.



## Tourism

The Government announced the National Park to overcome the challenges of co-management in a space with the fishing industry. The views expressed was there are significant issues around visitor safety and movement and that the co-management would be a better arrangement. There is and opportunity medium to long term position for DBCA is to form a Marine Park and have one Department manage it through that mechanism as per other marine parks in Western Australia.

DPIRD have the capacity to manage tourism through their legislation. Tourism is a permitted purpose under the Land Administration Act, and is within the Ministers powers to grant, and within the Fish Resources Management Act there are provisional powers for the Minister to grant licences under the Act.

The WA Museum is also a very key player because it has jurisdiction over the ship wrecks, and has also conducted an archaeological dig on Beacon Island. The Museum have been a proactive partner in helping to develop the possible visitation options for the Abrolhos, and have a key role in the future management.

The Mid West Development Commission are keen to see more development occur through the Management Plans including both tourism development and aquaculture industry development, and linking back to infrastructure development on shore including the Port Masterplan, the Marine and the Esplanade. An example of linking infrastructure is the \$8M Finfish nursery being build adjacent to the Batavia Marine Institute which will be operated by DPIRD or the \$8.6M infrastructure package being invested at Pink Lakes. DPIRD and Mid West Development Commission also are a strategic partner in trying to solve the telecommunications issues at the islands.

The local government are responsible for the guidelines for wastewater, compliance around the building code and guidance on sewerage systems. They also have a role in developing tourism in the local government area and a strategic role in driving and leading tourism development within the region.

## Governance

The Government stakeholders acknowledged they need a clear strategy for the Bodies Corporate and how to work effectively with them. There is concern about the Bodies Corporate capacity to apply consistent decision making and to align those decisions with broader planning processes. In the consultation, the Bodies Corporate expressed clearly in their survey and in meetings, that they wish to work together as a group of Bodies Corporate either individually or as a group of four. The Bodies Corporate have formed a Council which is a voluntary alliance of the four Bodies Corporate may be able to coordinate across the four groups.

Some Government stakeholders believe that self guided tourism can occur on islands with some infrastructure eg. With board walks, signage, bird hides etc. Others are more vested in the idea of guided tourism only on the vulnerable sites eg. Beacon Island. The majority of the tours are guided but the difficult component to manage is recreational boats where visitors don't understand the historical or recreational values. It is proposed there will be Rangers for high impact/high level visitation periods but in other periods, it may be possible to manage through a park pass. This could also be done through the fisheries system which boats have to sign into when in the Abrolhos area. These options will be further developed through the various plans of the different agencies.

DBCA have a commercial operators licence which is audited annually and used with marine tourism operators. The Tourism Council has a Marine Tourism Accreditation system in which businesses can demonstrate their professional and ethical conduct to operate in the states marine environment. This training could include Museum WA in the development of interpretation of key narratives, and key digital resources to support visitation. Abrolhos bird and fauna specialists (eg. Chris Surman) and local historians (eg. Howard Grey) could be part of the training process and resources.

There is also some concern that applications from other tourism operators are not being managed in the best manner, and may be going ahead without appropriate insurance in places.

Overall there is a need to resolve the lease, constitution, tourism licencing, development approval processes and there needs to be an alignment process across the governance framework for the islands. This may need to include enhanced legislation to support the Reserve Management in appropriate ways.

## Community – Telecommunications Access

The solution that is being proposed for the Abrolhos is three telstra small cell towers. These will create a small footprint at the locations they are installed. This will be limited access and they would need to be provisioned for tourism season so the towers don't become congested and fail.

Another solution would be to work with a Wireless Service Provider to build a point-to-point wireless network across the islands connecting to land. This project could be developed by the community, and they could work with the State Government to apply under the Regional Communications Program to build their own network, and sell access to the retailers. This would also create greater coverage and have more capacity to the Aquaculture operators. Locations would need to be appropriate given the bird nesting populations.



# Community sector consultation

## The Consultation Process

The consultation for the Community Stakeholders focussed on the key organisations or individuals who have a strong history of involvement in the management of the Abrolhos, or those that have a contributing role to any development or planning role that has an impact or influence on the islands. They were identified through a referral process within the local community over several visits.

These organisations included:

- City of Greater Geraldton
- Mid West Development Commission
- Regional CCI CEO – Joanne Fabling
- Local Historian – Howard Greg
- Laurie Caphorn – Ex Fisheries Manager, passionate local community member

The detailed views have been captured under two main areas which will feature in the Management Plan for the Reserve and FHPA; Tourism and Governance. Where views have occurred in previous sections, they have not been repeated in this section.



## Tourism

The overall concerns with the planning process (for the National Park) the community has expressed is that it is the process doesn't have a strong development function and doesn't link to the broader development efforts in the region, or for tourism.

Local stakeholders would like to see the shacks that are no longer needed for the fishing industry converted for tourism. They reflected the tourism sector views to a large extent, and outlined the need for the tourism operators to have a base at the islands to be make the visitation more efficient.

There are major events being developed in the region around the Abrolhos theme eg. Shore Leave festival which has become a significant regional event. Local tourism is driven by events to a large extent and the Abrolhos theme is a unique product in which the key stories can be told on shore to encourage visitation. Stakeholders reflected they would like to see a much stronger linkage with onshore infrastructure eg. WA Museum.

The cruising market will become established again post COVID, and the impact in economic terms is planned to be significant from this market. International boats will disembark 700 passengers at a time, and obviously not all can go to the Abrolhos but it would be good to offer as many as possible an experience, and if not on the islands then on-shore at Geraldton.

The Abrolhos theme is a strong tourism pull factor. Stakeholders suggested it should be more strongly connected to Kalbarri and the Sky Walk product, and the HMAS Sydney Memorial. The themes can be interconnected into a strong midwest tourism destination pull factor.

Key themes that stakeholders through could be developed at the islands and linked to product on shore included:

- Maritime heritage.
- Guano heritage on islands.
- Fishing heritage – camp life stories.
- Community stories from the island – good history exists in the community halls, and tell the story of island life through the schools.
- Living with nature – sustainability and authenticity are key themes in travel – use the islands as a way of telling the story about to look after nature.

Overall the feedback was there needs to be a well presented, well designed experience that is well managed.

## Governance

The Bodies Corporate need to coordinate across themselves to have a united voice to Government. The Stakeholders reflected its not a perfect system but the members are very engaged so it's a system that can be make to work better, rather than setting up a new system. There are grey areas between the constitutions, act and the leases which need to be reviewed and worked through. There was agreement that doing this now to pre-empt lease review in 2027 was good timing.





# Linkages to other development opportunities

A number of key linkages have been examined to understand how other processes (planning or development oriented) can contribute to the overall achievement of the vision for the Abrolhos.

The planning or development processes included:

- Houtman Abrolhos National Park Management Plan
- Destination Management Plan for Geraldton
- WA Museum Development Activities
- The Aquaculture Development Plan 2020 for Western Australia
- Regional Fishing Tourism Announcement 2020

The following table is a summary of the key linkage opportunities and the brief summaries of the reports are included after the table.

PLANNING OR DEVELOPMENT PROCESS	LINKAGE	IMPLICATIONS FOR MANAGEMENT PLANNING
<p><b>NATIONAL PARK PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT</b></p>	<p>The priority for the development of visitor facilities and infrastructure for day use will be on East Wallabi, and Beacon Islands. The development of day-use facilities will also be considered on North, West Wallabi, Long, Rat, Leo, Morley, Wooded, Pelsaert and Gun Islands over the life of the plan.</p>	<p>The Draft Management Plan (and the Government Strategic Direction) outline the Management processes and Planning framework for the Abrolhos.</p> <p>The intent and outcomes generated from the implementation of the Management Plan align closely to the majority of stakeholder views gathered through this consultation.</p> <p>It provides a joint decision-making framework for the Government, and outlines how that overall Management Plan will then cascade to other more detailed plans eg. Operations plan, Biosecurity Plan, Research and Monitoring Plan.</p>
<p><b>REGIONAL TOURISM DESTINATION PLAN</b></p>	<p>Abrolhos is a catalyst project for the region but will need the right leadership, structure and significant resources.</p> <p>The market is aware but not knowledgeable about the regional tourism product, and it is seen as a stopover not a destination.</p>	<p>Marketing and interpretation – digital first strategy to build knowledge of market to build on existing awareness (make the region a destination).</p> <p>Linkage to other regional tourism product is important eg. Kalbarri, Shark Bay and Monkey Mia, Pinnacles and Wildflower Country. Ensure Management planning links to key tourism organisations.</p> <p>Support broader tourism planning for region as per Destination Plan - develop product, infrastructure, build capability and skills, marketing execution, grow visitation, and deliver growth projects.</p>

PLANNING OR DEVELOPMENT PROCESS	LINKAGE	IMPLICATIONS FOR MANAGEMENT PLANNING
<b>WA MUSEUM - TRAVELLERS GUIDE EBOOK</b>	Travellers Guide ebook is an important resource to build knowledge of the history and product	<p>Investment in digital interpretation and training resources for all operators is important.</p> <p>Investment in digital resources which inform and excite visitors before arriving at the Arolhos, or encourage visits in a sustainable manner are recommended.</p> <p>This also supports the marine history product which is a differentiating competitive advantage for visitation to this region.</p>
<b>AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2020</b>	WA's reputation for premium, quality, sustainable aquaculture product is a key brand opportunity.	<p>Arolhos aquaculture is a key branding opportunity for the industry, and also supports food tourism to brand the region eg. Margaret River or Great Southern's reputation for quality wines.</p> <p>Whilst the midwest aquaculture zone is fully allocated, there are many family aquaculture operators in the Arolhos who can be supported to grow the sector.</p>
<b>REGIONAL FISHING TOURISM DEVELOPMENT</b>	Government is working with RecfishWest to develop a state-wide marketing campaign for iconic fishing experiences and destinations.	<p>Arolhos is acknowledged as a key wilderness fishing experience.</p> <p>Working closely with RecfishWest, the fishing experience could be built out to encourage sustainable visitation to the heritage, cultural and recreational elements of the Arolhos.</p> <p>This could include sustainable catch limits that maintain the abundance of the fishing experience of the Arolhos into the future.</p>



## Linkage opportunities with Government Strategic Direction

The Houtman Abrolhos Islands Strategic Direction 2020-24 (Strategic Direction) provides the overarching vision, direction, and key initiatives for the Abrolhos and sets out the framework that will guide the collaborative management of the lands and waters of the Abrolhos by DBCA, DPIRD, WA Museum and other relevant State Government agencies.

## Linkage opportunities with the National Park Development Options

The sections of the Draft Management Plan relevant to the key themes within this consultation have been summarised from the plan.

The Vision for the Houtman Abrolhos Islands is outlined in the Draft Management Plan as:



The Plan covers 189 islands (184 unoccupied islands and parts of five occupied islands) of the archipelago which make up Houtman Abrolhos Islands National Park (the park). The park was created on 25 July 2019 commemorating the 400-year anniversary of Dutch navigator Frederick de Houtman's sighting and naming of the islands and surrounding waters and coral reef of the Houtman Abrolhos (the Abrolhos).

The Draft Master Plan outlines the priority areas for encouraging the tourism industry and increased visitation to the Abrolhos. The development of visitor infrastructure, interpretation and appropriate access is initially focused on East Wallabi and Beacon Islands.

The plan proposes the consideration and possible development of visitor infrastructure at North, West Wallabi, Long, Rat, Leo, Morley, Pelsaert and Gun Islands, to enhance visitor experiences and protect natural and cultural values.

The Draft Plan outlines that of the value rich islands, 11 also have important visitor values:

- North Island
- West Wallabi Island
- East Wallabi Island
- Beacon Island
- Long Island
- White Bank
- Leo Island
- Morley Island
- Wooded Island
- Pelsaert Island
- Gun Island

Throughout the plan, a range of management strategies specifically address the protection of these value rich islands from the impacts of visitation. A summary of these islands, their values and relevant management approach is provided in Appendix 2 of the Draft Management Plan.

The Draft Plan (guided by the Strategic Direction) outlines key management priorities for the agencies and their responsibilities across the lands and waters of the Abrolhos, especially the development and management of new tourism opportunities.

The Strategic Direction also advocates development of a governance framework built on collaborative partnerships across key government agencies, with management responsibilities at the Abrolhos, and other stakeholders.

Other plans to be developed under the Abrolhos Planning Framework include:

<b>OPERATIONS PLAN</b>	<b>BIOSECURITY PLAN</b>	<b>VISITOR MASTER PLAN</b>
<b>INTERPRETATION PLAN</b>	<b>RESEARCH AND MONITORING PLAN</b>	<b>OTHER PLANS AS REQUIRED</b>

New jetties are being constructed at East Wallabi and Beacon Islands to allow safer access for fishers, commercial tour operators and visitors. Vessels up to 20m (65 feet) in length will be able to access the East Wallabi Island jetty and smaller vessels, up to 7m (22 feet) in length, the Beacon Island jetty. The construction of public jetties at other islands in the park may be considered over the life of the plan if required.

Boardwalks and walk trails will be constructed on East Wallabi, Beacon, Leo, Morley, Pelsaert and Gun Islands where required to protect these fauna values, protect cultural heritage values, improve visitor safety and provide pedestrian access from air strips and jetties to visitor destinations and facilities in the park. Other walk trails may be considered on other islands over the life of the plan if required.

Seasonal visitor access restrictions will be considered for all or parts of West Wallabi, Leo, Morley, Wooded, White Bank, Pelsaert and Gun Islands due to their importance for sea lion pupping and seabird breeding. Other value rich islands (see Appendix 2) will also be subject to seasonal visitor access restrictions. However, these have limited appeal for visitation and visitor access to them will not be promoted over the life of the plan.

Typically, most seabirds that breed in the park have eggs and chicks between September and February (Surman 1998). Therefore, it is likely that visitor access closures to all or parts of these islands will be considered at this time each year. These closures will fall outside the peak periods for visitation (between March and May). The Australian sea lion, breed and have pups at different times each year. Sea lion breeding and pupping will be monitored and seasonal closures to visitor access will be based on monitoring outcomes.

Over time, if other sensitive areas are being impacted by visitor use, further visitor access restrictions may be considered, subject to monitoring outcomes, scientific advice, and stakeholder consultation.



The plan acknowledges there is demand for low-impact, low-cost camping in the park. Therefore, low-impact camping will be permitted at designated sites for small numbers of campers in the park, subject to:

- a booking system
- a code of conduct and rules for camping
- campers being self-sufficient and adopting 'leave no trace' principles (ie removing all toilet waste and rubbish)
- no campfires
- no disturbance of wildlife, biodiversity, or cultural heritage values
- the seasonal closure of campsite areas to manage wildlife, biodiversity, or cultural heritage values (for example, during periods of seabird breeding and sea lion pupping) and
- monitoring the impacts of camping and making changes to management based on monitoring outcomes.

Potential locations are the northern end of Pelsaert Island and on North Island. Other locations will be considered for camping over the life of the plan, providing that impacts to important natural and cultural heritage values can be minimised.

The plan outlines that tourism development including overnight accommodation will only be approved where there are no unacceptable impacts on the significant natural and cultural heritage values. Development on most of the islands within the park is not likely to be appropriate or viable due to their small size, low profile above sea level, difficulty in gaining safe access and significant natural and cultural heritage values.

In considering built tourism development, particularly overnight accommodation, there will be a preference that this occurs on inhabited islands within the park (North, West Wallabi, Rat, Leo, and Newman Islands) and these are likely to hold the most potential for further tourism development.

It should also be noted high-end overnight accommodation would likely seek a location away from key day trip destinations to obtain a sense of exclusivity. Other island locations may be considered over the life of the plan, but proponents may be required to provide further justification and address additional criteria, especially in relation to value rich islands.

The Plan notes there has been significant research conducted at the islands over many years. It also notes however, there are still many gaps in knowledge and understanding. The Plan outlines the Department will collaborate with other agencies, universities, and other research organisations to address these gaps, with a focus on those with the highest priority for research.

Research that is strategic and informs and improves management of the park will be prioritised. Currently gaps in knowledge where further research is required includes (but is not limited to):

- Abundance, dispersal and taxonomy of Abrolhos painted button-quail and impacts of predation by and competition with the house mouse.
- Breeding seabirds (lesser noddy and brown noddy) and burrowing seabirds.
- Assessing the health of mangroves at seabird breeding sites.
- Identification of efficient techniques for monitoring the impacts of visitation, climate change and other threats on other conservation significant fauna.
- Developing surveillance and monitoring techniques for identifying introductions of high-risk weeds and pest animals.

## Capacity to link to other Development Opportunities for Region

One of the main linkages that was explored was to understand if the tourism potential of the Abrolhos made sense within the broader Tourism market for the region. The Destination Management Plan for Geraldton was examined to understand the link with the Abrolhos.

### DESTINATION MANAGEMENT PLAN SUMMARY – GERALDTON



The Destination Management Plan is a strategy and approach for making Geraldton a destination of choice. The opportunities from the Destination Management Plan have been summarised to demonstrate any links between implementation of those actions and possible Abrolhos Management options.

The destination that the Destination Management Plan seeks to grow is the region within a daytrip of Geraldton. Geraldton will be a 'hub and spoke' structure; being either a starting point for exploring the region, or a stopover in a longer journey.

The plan acknowledges that Tourism in the Coral Coast region has been flat for some years, and requires 'catalyst' projects to trigger new and higher visitation. The plan outlines that Geraldton is currently positioned as a stopover. The plan notes that greater Geraldton faces intense and well-funded competition, so it needs to collaborate on a small number of high impact initiatives.

Growth into the longer term will require strategic investment in attractions and experiences, access, infrastructure and industry capability. The plan outlines a narrow focus on a core market, and selected strategic niches, and targeted brand and marketing activity to stimulate demand will be important. One of the key attractions the plan identifies are the Abrolhos Islands.

GERALDTON'S VISITOR ECONOMY	CONSUMER PERCEPTIONS AND MARKET
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The most valuable visitor group is domestic overnight leisure tourists – 23% visitors, 72% of spending</li> <li>• Cruise ship passenger segment is making significant contribution of \$7.1M (pre-covid)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The triggers to make a Geraldton visit are outside Geraldton.</li> <li>• 91% of leisure visitors are self drive, intrastate, 72% are over 50 and spend 2-3 days in Geraldton.</li> <li>• Geraldton can be a hub for visiting iconic 'bucket list' destinations – Kalbarri, Abrolhos, Wildflowers, Shark Bay, Pink Lakes, Pinnacles.</li> <li>• Experience areas that can be leveraged are seafood and maritime history.</li> </ul>
ACCESS AND INFRASTRUCTURE	BRAND AND MARKETING
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cruise shipping is a strength</li> <li>• Air links are dominated by business travel</li> <li>• Geraldton is overwhelmingly a self drive market</li> <li>• Vibrancy in town is identified as an issue</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intra-state market awareness is high, but knowledge is low.</li> <li>• Geraldton – Take a Fresh Look brand needs clearer identity, personality and set of supporting stories/narratives.</li> <li>• Visitors prefer tourism information online – any future marketing investment should be digital first.</li> <li>• Market activity should focus on 'en route' and 'in market' stages: improving yield and filling the itinerary.</li> </ul>



The Destination Market plan identifies the attractive and easier markets that are relevant to the Arolhos as:

- Perth Self drive overnight leisure market
- Perth self-drive day trip leisure
- Cruise ship day trip

The plan also identified a full-time Tourism Growth Facilitator role within Progress Midwest. It also identifies the need to support the development of the Tourism Industry Leadership Group. Three subBodies Corporate committees proposed (that are highly relevant to the Arolhos) are:

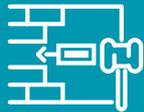
- **FLY TOURISM** – which includes flights over the Arolhos
- **FOOD AND WINE TOURISM** – ‘Crayfish to the plate’
- **MARINE TOURISM** – includes Arolhos Islands, Boat Cruises and Charters

The plan suggests collaboration between the key ‘spoke’ partnerships – Kalbarri, Shark Bay & Monkey Mia, Wildflower Country, Arolhos Islands, and the Pinnacles) to drive visitor traffic.

The Arolhos has been listed as a Catalyst project in the plan, and is considered a “game changer”, but notes it will need the right leadership, structure and significant resources. It suggests the right model is to incorporate both land and marine conservation, with an integrated model that incorporates tourism.

Finally, the plan outlines that any investment in formal marketing should be digital-first, and focused on activating demand that provide specific offers that support the destination strategy. It should align strongly with the RTO, Australia’s Coral Coast, and Tourism WA Brands. The plan suggests taking advantage of partners channels, and particular Australia’s Coral Coast, to distribute compelling stories and images online and to selected media.

The Roadmap for implementation outlines the following stages:



**1. BUILDING FOUNDATIONS**  
secure funding, secure resourcing,  
marketing planning, implementing  
quick wins, establish projects



**2. DEVELOP**  
develop product, infrastructure,  
build capability and skills, marketing  
execution, grow visitation, deliver  
growth projects

## LINKAGE WITH WA MUSEUM DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES (information provided by WA MUSEUM)



The WA Museum is planning the development of a Travellers Guide ebook which will take the form of a digitally immersive enhanced e-book and interactive website. It will have integrated and immersive links between a wide range of digital formats that support the variety of learning and information seeking approaches used by tourists and travellers. The guide will also be available as an educational resource for schools or other education groups with an interest in Maritime History and Heritage.

The key features of the ebook are:

- WAM authored and facilitated overview on National Heritage Listed places related to the Batavia story;
- Authoritative selection of content and story perspectives that best showcase the cultural and natural heritage of these sites;
- An augmented experience of revealing data in addition to the text such as:
  - (i) Interactive maps
  - (ii) Short form audio content
  - (iii) Landscape and aerial photography
  - (iv) Video including WAM archival, interviews and drone footage
  - (v) 3d photogrammetric models (sites and objects);
- In-text references to WAM museums and collections including linking objects on display to specific island locations.

The guide will tell the story of Batavia using the places and sites where the events occurred as the foundation of this storytelling. It will include information on the history of the VOC, the wrecking of Batavia and subsequent mutiny, the discovery of the wreck site in 1963, and the Museum's maritime archaeological work over the following four decades. Natural history expert knowledge as well as community perspectives will also be included. The primary sites are the Batavia wreck site, Beacon Island ('Batavia's Graveyard'), West Wallabi Island, and Long Island.

The ebook's primary aim is to introduce visitors to the environment, history and heritage of these islands. Along with providing site information it will also highlight links between objects on display at WAM sites to specific island locations as well as other objects and sites in the region, Indonesia and the Netherlands.

This virtual guide will allow the visitor to move around the islands meeting a number of historically referenced human and non-human actors along the way. In the process, visitors will gain a broader understanding of life in the seventeenth century and at other periods relevant to the Batavia story.



## AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL AND LINKAGES



Department of  
**Primary Industries and  
Regional Development**

The Aquaculture Development Plan 2020 for Western Australia outlines the Government is committed to creating Australia's largest aquaculture zones, and notes a key change in Australia's seafood production from wild caught to aquaculture products.

The Aquaculture plan addresses key issues that have presented barriers in the development of Aquaculture in Western Australia. It also notes the importance of WA's reputation for premium, quality, sustainable aquaculture product.

Benefits of investing in the Aquaculture industry will be:

- Diversification of the regional economy
- Creation of upstream and downstream businesses eg. Feed input supplies, value adding

Specifically the large scale development related to the Abrolhos will be the Mid West Aquaculture development zone which is fully allocated. At full production, it will equate to an annual production of 48,000 tonnes and \$400 million in income.

The Plan also outlines the Aquatic Resources Management Act 2016 (ARMA) will support regulatory reform and streamline processes that may be unclear. The implementation of the Act will increase flexibility in management, and address issues associated with security of tenure, and disclosure of biosecurity and environmental practices.

The Plan also proposes that the WA Government will seek to establish a distinct brand and strong marketing campaign to attract increased investment to the sector.

## REGIONAL FISHING TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND LINKAGES



**recfishwest**

The WA State Government has announced it will work with RecfishWest to develop a state-wide marketing campaign for iconic fishing experiences and destinations.

## People involved in consultation:

Name	Organisation	Survey/Attended Meeting/ Interview
<b>BODIES CORPORATE MEMBERS</b>		
Tom Hillcoat	North Island	✓
Kerry Davidson	North Island	✓
Gregory McDonald	North Island	✓
Bradley Mouchemore	North Island	✓
Benjamyn McDonald	North Island	✓
Paul Hewitt	North Island	✓
Mike and Cath Davidson	North Island	✓
Paul Patience	North Island	✓
Robert J McDaniell	North Island	✓
Ricki Mouchemore	North Island	✓
Tania Rees-Weldon	North Island	✓
Peter Mouchemore	North Island	✓
Peter Groom	North Island	✓
William McDonald	North Island	✓
Joel Burnett	North Island	✓
Mark Flannagan	Big Pigeon	✓
Ian Augustson	Big Rat	✓
Barry Mitchell	Uncle Margie	✓
Stephen Maddren	Big Pigeon	✓
Jamie O'Byrne	Big Pigeon	✓
Allan Rogers	Big Pigeon	✓
Anthony Pirrottina	Little Pigeon	✓
Darren Bailey	Big Pigeon	✓
Richard Gedero	Big Pigeon	✓
Mark Ayling	Big Pigeon	✓
Gavin Ashplant	Big Pigeon	✓
Dale Wheatley	Little Rat	✓
Maggie McGilvray	Big Rat	✓
Bruce Starling	Bushby	✓
David Vanderood	Big Rat	✓
Michael Brooke	Big Rat	✓
Stephen Sipila	Leo	✓
Matthew Fong	Little Rat	✓
Radley Woodcock	Big Rat Island	✓
Anthony Haygarth	Little Rat	✓
Russell Mankelow	Big Rat	✓
Pili Maria Watts	Little Rat	✓
Peter Gaunt	Big Rat	✓
David McShane	Little Rat	✓
Natalie Shields	Rat Island	✓
Charlies & Lorraine Arnold	Little Rat	✓
Matthew Pirrottina	Roma Island	✓

Name	Organisation	Survey/Attended Meeting/ Interview
<b>BODIES CORPORATE MEMBERS (CONT.)</b>		
Robert Mann	Big Rat	✓
John Labruyere	Little Rat	✓
Jane Liddon	Post Office	✓
Kim Newbold		✓
Bruce Cunningham	Coronation	✓
Warren Kalajzich	Jackson	✓
John Lee	Nook	✓
Peter Armstrong	Basile	✓
Peter Scarpuzza	Basile	✓
Sydney Fong	Jackson	✓
Andrew Basile	Basile Island	✓
Ashley Newton	Burnett	✓
Ashley Sutton	Jackson	✓
Julie Boschetti	Basile	✓
George Bass	Post Office	✓
John Thorn	Coronation	✓
Kris Carlberg	Jackson	✓
Phillip Miragliotta	Robertson	✓
Peter Brown	Uncle Margie	✓
Ronald Franceschi	Burnett	✓
Perry Minissale	Basile	✓
Justin MacDonald	Newman	✓
Peter Armstrong	Basile	✓
Sandra Rae Basile	Burnett	✓
Jerram Hill	Foale	✓
Mark Newbold	Robertson	✓
Justin Pirrottina	Jackson	✓
Deon Brown	Uncle Margie	✓
Pia Boschetti		✓
Ash Minissale		✓
Murray Davidson	Rat	✓
Marcus Lessmeurier	Little Pigeon	✓
Sally McGilvray	Easter	✓
Philip Martin		✓
Adam Schram		✓
Kath Davidson		✓
Kylie Hillcoat		✓
Gavin Lovedee		✓
Jo Lovedee		✓
Ken Lovedee		✓
Jared Groom		✓
Paul Facchini		✓
Leonie Noble	Easter	✓
Peter Douglas		✓
Steve Weldon		✓



Name	Organisation	Survey/Attended Meeting/ Interview
<b>BODIES CORPORATE MEMBERS (CONT.)</b>		
Tiffany O'Bryne		✓
Colin Suckling		✓
Mark Davidson		✓
Matt Davidson		✓
Kerry Davidson		✓
Noah Davidson		✓
Sam Hewitt		✓
Bob McDaniell		✓
Paul Ruediger		✓
Tim Campbell		✓
Frank Facchini		✓
Geoffrey Weldon		✓
Brad Woodcock	Big Rat	✓
Kel Pirrottina	Roma	✓
Kale Wheatley	Little Rat	✓
Austin Noble	Little Rat	✓
Sally Gilbertson	Big Rat	✓
Ron and Kerry McDaniel		✓
Greg Finlay	Chair, Council of Body Corporates	✓
<b>TOURISM AND AQUACULTURE</b>		
Erica Starling	Aquaculture Operator	Interviewed
Jay Cox	Eco-Abrolhos	Interviewed
Wendy Mann	Geraldton Air Charters	Interviewed
Nathan Boothman	Aquaculture Operator	Interviewed
<b>GOVERNMENT STAKEHOLDERS</b>		
Nigel Sercombe	DBCA	Meeting
Kathleen Lowry	DBCA	Interviewed – Meeting
Sue Hancock	DBCA	Interviewed – phone
Clare Atkins and Alena Van Schoubroeck	DBCA	Interviewed – online
Nathan Greenhill	DBCA	Interviewed – online
Shane Van Styn	City of Greater Geraldton	Meeting
Trish Palmonari	City of Greater Geraldton	Meeting
Catherine Belcher and Leigh O'Brien	WA Museum	Meeting and interview
Nicole Nelson	WA Tourism	Interview
Gavin Treasure	CEO, MWDC	Meeting

Name	Organisation	Survey/Attended Meeting/ Interview
<b>GOVERNMENT STAKEHOLDERS (CONT.)</b>		
Mike Bowley	Regional Director, MWDC	Meeting
Rob Smallwood	Digital Economy, DPIRD	Meeting
<b>KEY INDUSTRY STAKEHOLDERS</b>		
Andrew Rowland	CEO, Recfishwest	Emailed questions + Meeting
Matt and Michelle Howard	Marine Tourism WA	Emailed questions + Meeting
Joanne Fabling	CEO, Mid West CCI	Emailed questions + Interview
Jude Tyzack + Aquaculture Operators	EO, Aquaculture Council	Emailed questions + Interviews
Darryl Hockey	CEO, WAFIC	Meeting, email questions and interview
Piers Verstegen	Conservation Council	Emailed, phoned, and followed up, used information Abrolhos Island Conservation Network previous submission
Birds Australia	Nic Dunlop	Emailed, phone interview, information supplied
Matt Rutter	CEO, Geraldton Fisherman Cooperative	Emailed, phone conversation, Agreed to use Body Corporates consultation, and come back for more detail if required
Secretary	Geraldton Yacht Club	Emailed questions
Chris Surman	Bird Expert and Author	Used reference sources
Laurie Caporn	Background in BC governance	Interview
Howard Gray	Local Historian and Author	Interview

