



Department of  
Primary Industries and  
Regional Development

Protect  
Grow  
Innovate

# Houtman Abrolhos Islands Reserve

Management Plan 2022 – 2032



*Image 1 (Front cover) – Basile Island shacks. Credit: Colin Ingram, DBCA.*

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# Introduction

The Houtman Abrolhos (the Abrolhos) is an archipelago of 210 islands, islets and rocks surrounded by coral reef located about 60 kilometres west of Geraldton. The marine and terrestrial environment of the Abrolhos is unique and supports outstanding natural, cultural heritage, fishing and recreation values. It has long been identified as a “jewel” of Western Australia and the islands were originally declared a Class A Reserve in 1929. Visitors come from far and wide to enjoy the remoteness and beauty of this world-class destination and to undertake a range of marine-based and land-based activities.

In October 2017, the Western Australian State Government made a commitment to develop a new whole-of-government approach to better protect the Abrolhos, and in July 2019 the Houtman Abrolhos Islands National Park (the National Park) was created. The establishment of the National Park, together with State Government’s release of the ***Houtman Abrolhos Islands Strategic Direction 2020 – 24***<sup>1</sup> (the Strategic Direction), signals the intention to better position the Abrolhos Islands and surrounding waters as a sustainable, nature-based tourism destination, and to support regional economic growth.

The National Park is managed by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) under the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (CALM Act), on behalf of the Conservation and Parks Commission. The National Park includes the land of all uninhabited islands and uninhabited portions of islands to the high-water mark, making up approximately 97% of the land area.

The remaining terrestrial island area comprises Class A Reserve 20253 (**the Abrolhos Reserve**), which is managed by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) on behalf of the Minister for Fisheries for the purpose of “conservation of flora and fauna, tourism and for purposes associated with the fishing and aquaculture industries”. Most of the Abrolhos Reserve is leased to the owners of ‘camps’ who are operating pursuant to commercial rock lobster and aquaculture licences in waters surrounding the Abrolhos Islands. The Abrolhos Reserve also includes the intertidal areas around all islands, including around the National Park islands.

The Abrolhos Islands Fish Habitat Protection Area (the Abrolhos FHPA) surrounds the islands and extends from the high-water mark to the limit of State waters. The FHPA – already a popular tourism destination – is associated with exceptional marine biodiversity and remarkable maritime heritage values.

The Strategic Direction shares the State Government’s vision (refer below) and key initiatives that will inform future management of the Abrolhos across the land and water, i.e., the National Park, the Abrolhos Reserve and the Abrolhos FHPA.

The Western Australian Government’s vision is to provide a world-class sustainable tourism experience and create new jobs and economic opportunities in the Mid West Region, while protecting the unique natural, cultural heritage, fishing and community values of the Abrolhos.

*Houtman Abrolhos Islands Strategic Direction 2020-24*

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<sup>1</sup> [www.dbca.wa.gov.au/parks-and-wildlife-service/plan-for-our-parks/houtman-abrolhos-islands-national-park](http://www.dbca.wa.gov.au/parks-and-wildlife-service/plan-for-our-parks/houtman-abrolhos-islands-national-park)

DPIRD's strategic intent<sup>2</sup> and goals to protect, grow and innovate align with this initiative. DPIRD is committed to working collaboratively with our partner agencies and stakeholders to achieve Government's vision for the Abrolhos Islands and the Western Australian community. Our purpose is to create enduring prosperity for all Western Australians by ensuring that primary industries and regions are key contributors to the Government's agenda for economic growth and diversification, job creation, strong communities and better places<sup>3</sup>.



*Image 2 – Roma Island, Easter Group. Credit: Tourism WA.*

**The Houtman Abrolhos Islands Reserve Management Plan 2022 – 2032** (this plan) relates specifically to the terrestrial islands of the Abrolhos Reserve. The plan seeks to address current pressures and issues facing management of the Reserve and takes account of the current and anticipated growth in tourism. The plan sets out the State Government's aspirations and priority objectives for the Abrolhos Reserve and identifies growth and development opportunities that will be considered during the life of the plan through further close engagement with partner agencies, the Abrolhos Islands Bodies Corporate, the tourism industry, the conservation sector and other important stakeholders. The management objectives and actions set out in the plan seek alignment with the Strategic Direction and are grouped into six priority focus areas, or themes:

1. Nature conservation and protection
2. Cultural heritage protection
3. Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture
4. Tourism on the Reserve
5. Abrolhos Community
6. Governance

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/departments/departments-of-primary-industries-and-regional-development/about-the-department-of-primary-industries-and-regional-development#strategic-intent>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.wa.gov.au/government/publications/primary-industries-plan-2020-2024>

Ultimately, the plan aims to achieve an appropriate balance between the needs of nature, visitors, and island workers. Looking forward, Government seeks to transition the Abrolhos Reserve into a place focused primarily on supporting commercial operational activity for the fishing, aquaculture and tourism industries that operate at the Abrolhos. A low impact and light touch approach to tourism and visitation will be supported and facilitated, where these activities are able to coexist with operational activity on the Reserve, and complement visitor experiences on the National Park and within the Abrolhos FHPA.

This plan should be read together with the following documents:

1. *Houtman Abrolhos Islands Strategic Direction 2020 – 2024*;
2. *Houtman Abrolhos Islands Fish Habitat Protection Area Management Plan 2022 – 2032* (the Abrolhos FHPA Plan); and
3. *Houtman Abrolhos Islands National Park Management Plan 2022*.



*Image 3 – Aerial view of Pigeon Island, Wallabi Group. Credit: DPIRD.*

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# 1. General Overview

## 1.1 Planning Area and Use

There are three main island groups at the Abrolhos: Wallabi (including North Island), Easter and Pelsaert, spread over 100 kilometres from north to south. The State waters surrounding the Abrolhos have special status as a gazetted FHPA which includes all waters from the high-water mark of the Abrolhos Islands out to three nautical miles, an area of approximately 2,500 square kilometres. Refer **Map 1**.

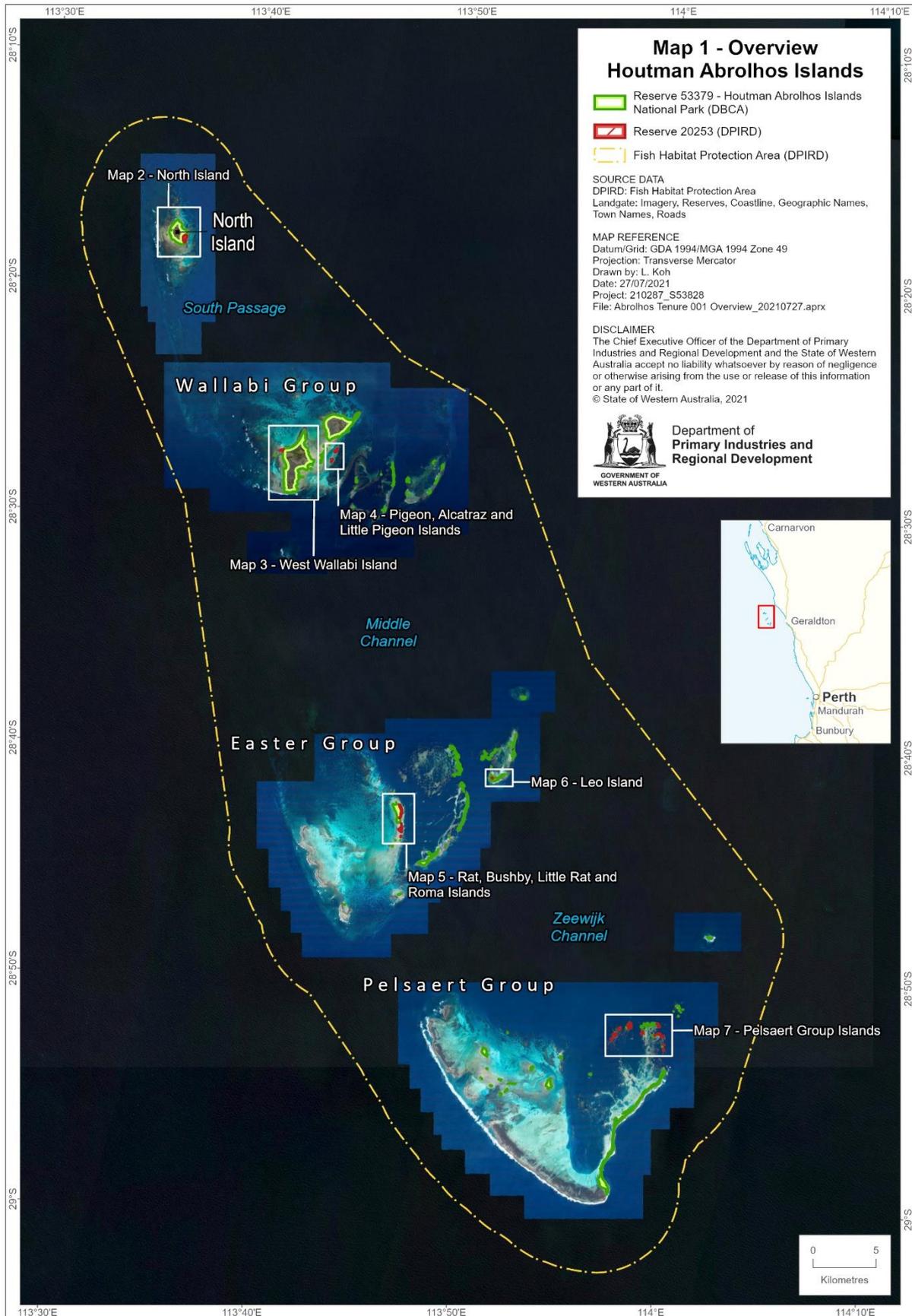
This plan covers the Abrolhos Reserve which comprises 22 occupied islands (including five parts of islands), equating to 58 hectares, or approximately 3% of the total land area to the high-water mark (refer **Maps 2 to 7**). Most of the Abrolhos Reserve land is leased to the owners of 'camps' who are operating pursuant to commercial rock lobster and aquaculture licences in waters surrounding the Abrolhos Islands. The Abrolhos Reserve also includes the intertidal area between high-water mark and low-water mark on all the islands of the Abrolhos, including those in the National Park.



*Image 4 – Aerial view of Uncle Margie Island, Wallabi Group. Credit: DPIRD.*

The remaining terrestrial area outside the Abrolhos Reserve is a national park, vested in the Conservation and Parks Commission and managed by DBCA. The National Park makes up approximately 97% of the total land area to the high-water mark and comprises 189 islands (184 unoccupied islands and parts of five occupied islands). The National Park boundary is at the high-water mark for all the islands except Beacon and East Wallabi Islands. On these islands a portion of the park extends over the intertidal and adjacent water as a curtilage to include the jetties which provide boat access. Five Abrolhos islands comprise both National Park and Abrolhos Reserve tenure: North, West Wallabi, Rat, Leo and Newman Islands. The Abrolhos Reserve portion of these islands are covered by this management plan.

Map 1 – Overview map of the Houtman Abrolhos Islands.



Map 2 – North Island, Wallabi Group.



Map 3 – West Wallabi Island, Wallabi Group.



Map 4 – Pigeon, Alcatraz and Little Pigeon Islands, Wallabi Group.



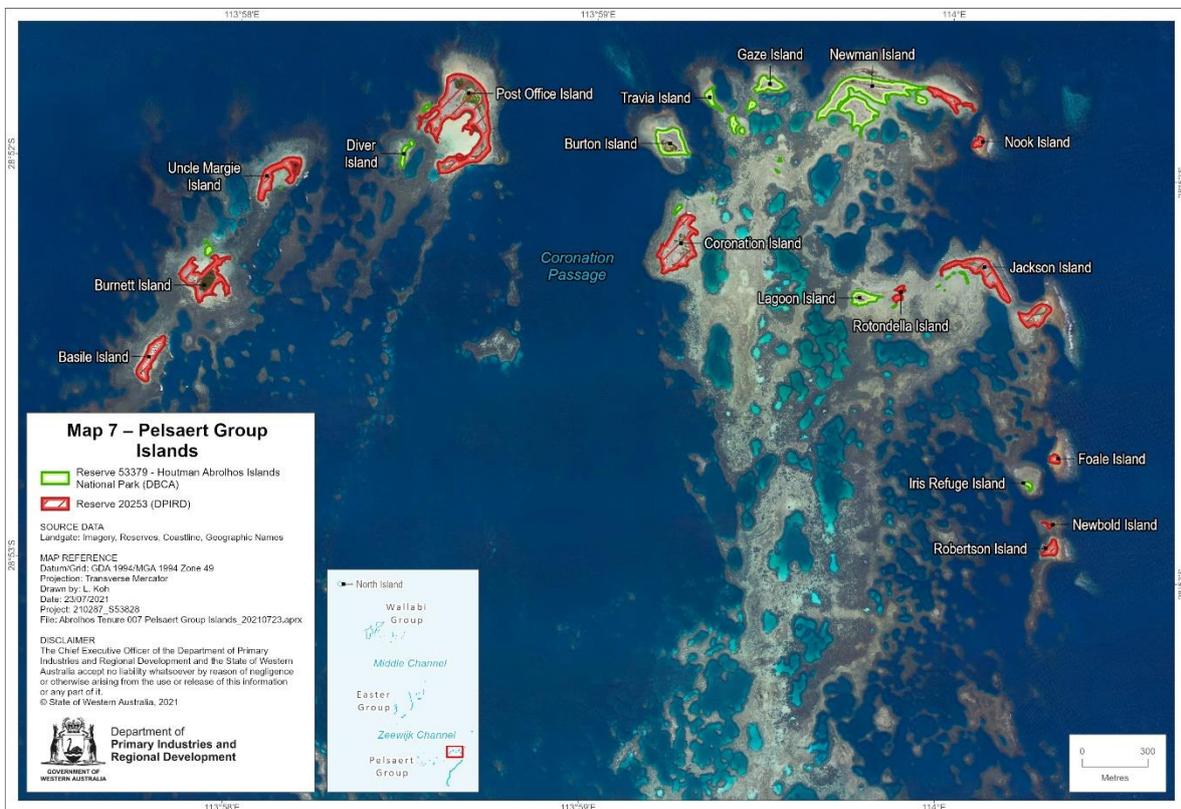
Map 5 – Rat, Bushby, Little Rat and Roma Islands, Easter Group.



Map 6 – Leo Island, Easter Group.



Map 7 – Pelsaert Group Islands.



## Current Industry Snapshot

### West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery

Today, the major commercial fishery at the Abrolhos is the West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery, which targets the western rock lobster (*Panulirus cygnus*). The Fishery has a long-standing commercial and economic history at the islands and with a landed value of \$417 million (2019-20) is Australia's most valuable single-species commercial fishery, with around 20% of the season's catch coming from Abrolhos waters. Some commercial rock lobster fishers have camps and jetties on the Abrolhos Reserve to support their commercial activities.



Image 5 – Carrier boat receiving rock lobster catch. Credit: DPIRD.



Image 6 – Western rock lobster.

Credit: Abrolhos Adventures.



Image 7 – Cray fishing gear, Rat Island.

Credit: DPIRD.

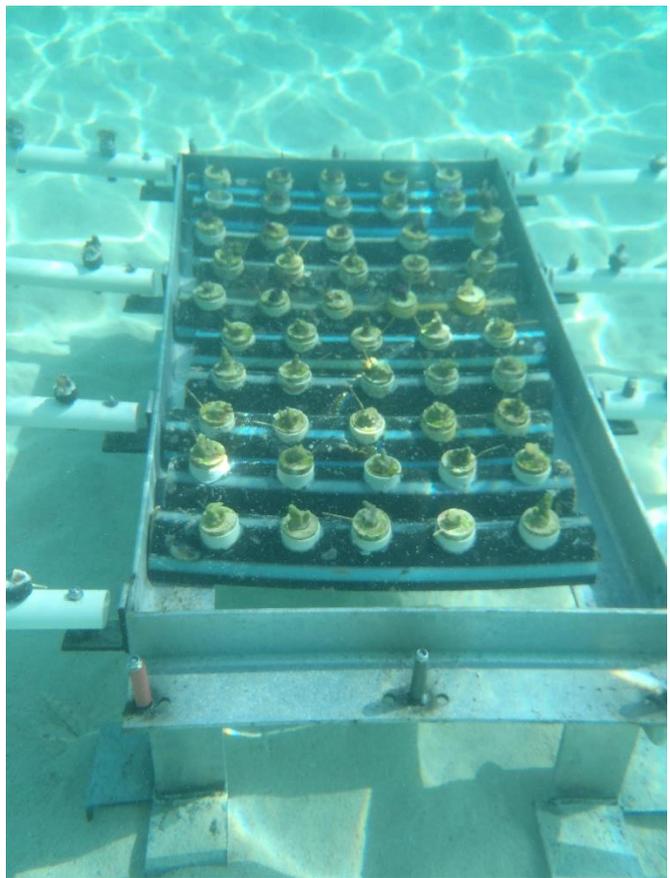
## **Aquaculture**

A range of aquaculture enterprises operate or are proposed within the Abrolhos FHPA, including western rock oysters, coral, seaweed, clams, sea cucumbers, sponges, sea urchins, cuttlefish, green algae and marine finfish (yellowtail kingfish). Australian pearls are also farmed in the pristine Abrolhos waters. Pearling and aquaculture operators also have camps and jetties on the Abrolhos Reserve to support their commercial activities. The 3000-hectare Mid West Aquaculture Development Zone has been established in the FHPA to encourage large-scale commercial aquaculture development in the area.



*Image 8 – Sorting pearl shell.*

*Credit: Simon Cowling.*



*Image 9 – Commercial live coral racks.*

*Credit: Abrolhos Coral and Live Rock.*

## **Tourism**

There are multiple commercial tour operators that visit the Abrolhos offering largely marine-based tourism experiences, such as diving, snorkelling, fishing and wildlife viewing. Passengers can access the National Park to go for walks, relax on the sandy beaches, or visit cultural heritage sites associated with the remarkable 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century shipwreck history. Visitors are also attracted to the unique sense of place and vibrant fishing communities located on the Abrolhos Reserve and have a keen interest in learning about the island industries and fishing culture.



*Image 10 – Tourists visiting the Abrolhos Islands. Credit: DPIRD.*



*Image 11 – Charter flight over Rat Island. Credit: DPIRD.*

## 1.2 Management Context

### Legislation and policy

The *Land Administration Act 1997* (the LA Act) deals with the management of Crown land and provides for the creation, administration and management of reserves over Crown land or waters. Reserve tenure is usually applied to Crown land that holds intrinsic community value or is of high conservation value that should be preserved and maintained for the benefit of future generations.

Under the LA Act, the Abrolhos Reserve is classified as Class A, which provides the greatest degree of protection. The LA Act places the care, control and management of the Abrolhos Reserve with the Minister for Fisheries in accordance with a s46 Land Management Order (refer Appendix 1). The Reserve is managed by DPIRD on behalf of the Minister for Fisheries for conservation, tourism, fishing and aquaculture purposes. It is managed in accordance with the Reserve Land Management Order, the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* (the FRMA) and the *Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995* (the Regulations), whereby regulations can be made to provide for any matter necessary for the protection or management of the Abrolhos Reserve. Part 9 of the Regulations apply specifically to the Abrolhos Reserve.

*The Aquatic Resources Management Act 2016* (ARMA) will replace the FRMA and the *Pearling Act 1990* in the near future to become the primary legislation used to manage fishing and aquaculture activities, and aquatic resources in WA. New, separate regulations for the Abrolhos Reserve (and the Abrolhos FHPA) will be developed under the ARMA.

Other State, local laws and policies apply to the management of the Abrolhos Reserve, and these are mentioned throughout this plan.

### Whole-of-government management

The State Government is committed to developing a collaborative, whole-of-government approach to managing the Abrolhos and creating sustainable economic opportunities.

*Houtman Abrolhos Islands Strategic Direction 2020-24*

A range of State Government agencies have management responsibilities at the Abrolhos. With the creation of the National Park in July 2019, the State Government has committed to developing a collaborative, whole-of-government management approach.

**DPIRD** has primary responsibility for management of the Abrolhos Reserve and Abrolhos FHPA in accordance with the FRMA. DPIRD and the Mid West Development Commission (MWDC) are also responsible for facilitating regional opportunities to drive economic growth and job creation.

**DBCA** has primary responsibility for managing the National Park in accordance with the CALM Act, including protecting its natural, cultural heritage, visitor use and economic and resource use values. DBCA also facilitates land-based tourism and recreation experiences for the community within the National Park.

DPIRD and DBCA have several areas of shared responsibility across the Abrolhos Reserve, FHPA and National Park, including:

- management of flora and fauna, terrestrial habitats and coastal use;
- conservation of maritime heritage;
- shared infrastructure, jetties and airstrips;
- management of tourism and visitation;
- scientific research and monitoring;
- joint patrols, shared vessel use and cross-authorisation of staff; and
- joint community engagement, education and interpretation.

The **WA Museum** is responsible for management of underwater cultural heritage and maritime archaeological sites under the Commonwealth *Underwater Cultural Heritage Act 2018* (UCH Act) and the State *Maritime Archaeology Act 1973* (MA Act).

The Abrolhos Islands are within the local government area of the **City of Greater Geraldton** (CoGG) and as such local government by-laws and local planning schemes apply, including the *Building Act 2011* and *Building Regulations 2012*. The CoGG is responsible for administering State and local law relevant to the Abrolhos Reserve, particularly in relation to emergency management, building, waste and wastewater. The CoGG also has an important strategic role in driving and leading tourism in the region.

There are multiple agencies which have applicable legislation and deliver important services that support management of the Abrolhos including Tourism WA, the Department of Transport and the Department of Health (DoH).

During 2020, the State Government developed and released the Strategic Direction which outlines key management priorities and initiatives across the land and waters of the Abrolhos. The Strategic Direction advocates development of a governance framework built on collaborative partnerships across key agencies. This plan is informed by the Strategic Direction, together with management plans for the National Park and the Abrolhos FHPA. The DPIRD Abrolhos planning framework is shown in **Figure 1**.

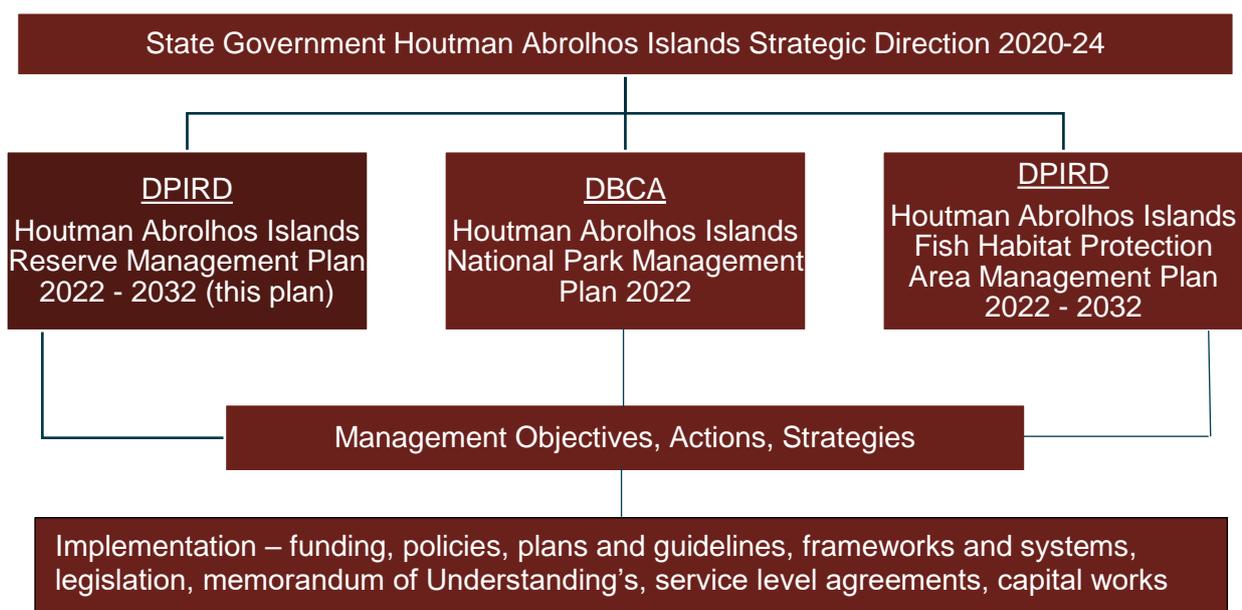


Figure 1: Planning framework for the Houtman Abrolhos Islands.

## Abrolhos Islands Bodies Corporate

Under the Reserve Land Management Order, the Minister for Fisheries may lease or licence land used or occupied on the Abrolhos Reserve for a period of up to 42 years. Most of the Abrolhos Reserve is leased and occupied by holders of a commercial rock lobster Managed Fishery Licence (MFL) with Zone A units and aquaculture operators licenced to conduct aquaculture activities within the Abrolhos FHPA or Reserve. These licensees are permitted to establish camps, jetties and other supporting infrastructure on, or adjoining to, the Abrolhos Reserve, to support their business operation.

Prior to 2007, land occupancy of the Abrolhos Reserve by rock lobster fishermen was governed through an individual annual *Abrolhos Land Occupancy License*. In 2007, the lease holders formed the Abrolhos Islands Bodies Corporate (the bodies corporate) which comprise four incorporated associations: North Island, Wallabi Group, Easter Group and Pelsaert Group. In entering into the four lease arrangements with each incorporated association, the Minister for Fisheries and the 'body corporate' agreed for the land subject to the leases to be used and occupied in accordance with the terms and conditions of the leases. The North Island, Wallabi Group and Pelsaert Group Body Corporate Leases provide for the leased land to be used for purposes directly related to the rock lobster, tourism, charter fishing and aquaculture industries. The Easter Group Body Corporate Lease provides for the leased land to be used for purposes related to the rock lobster and aquaculture industries only.

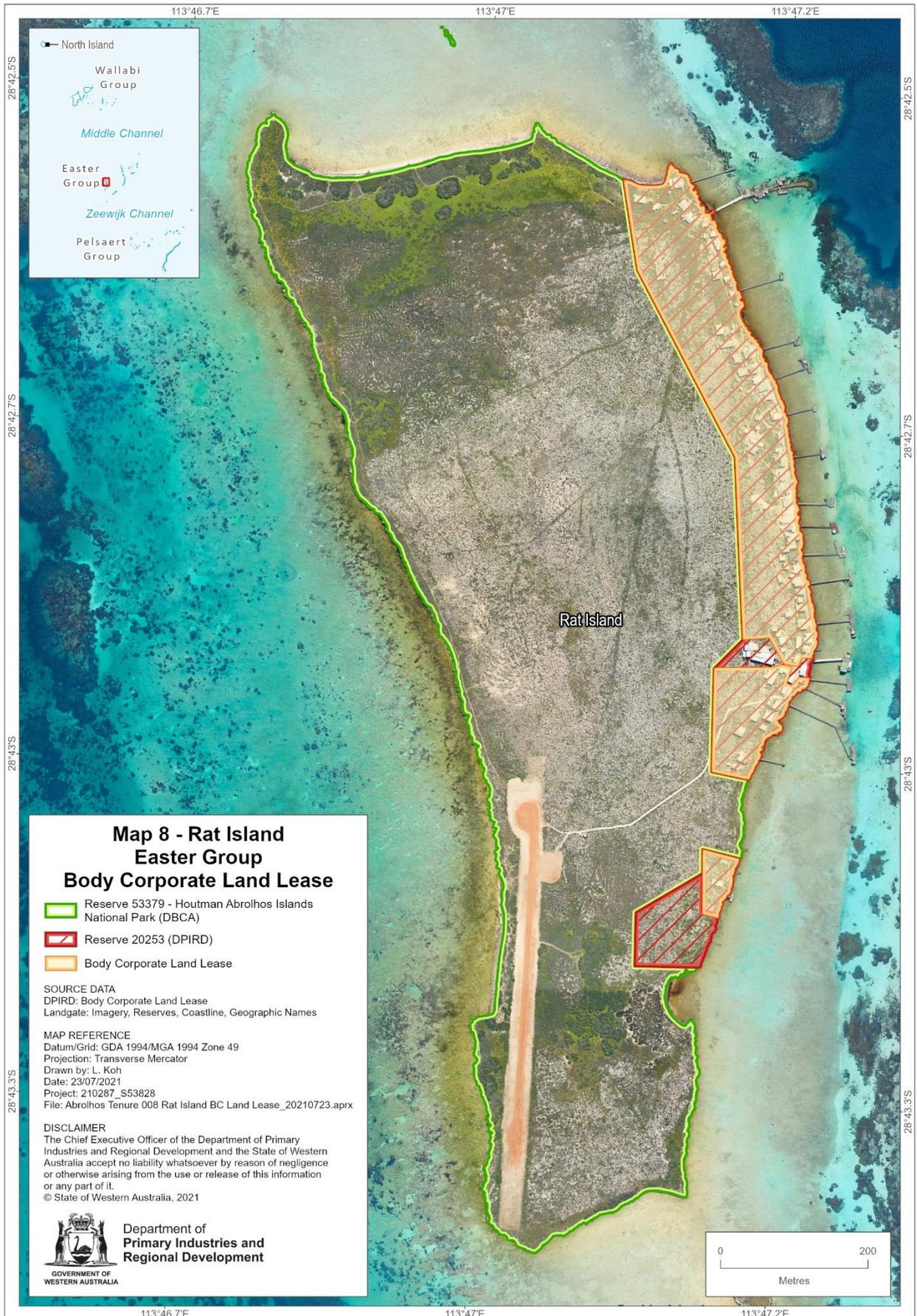


*Image 12 – Pigeon Island with rock lobster and aquaculture camps. Credit: DPIRD.*

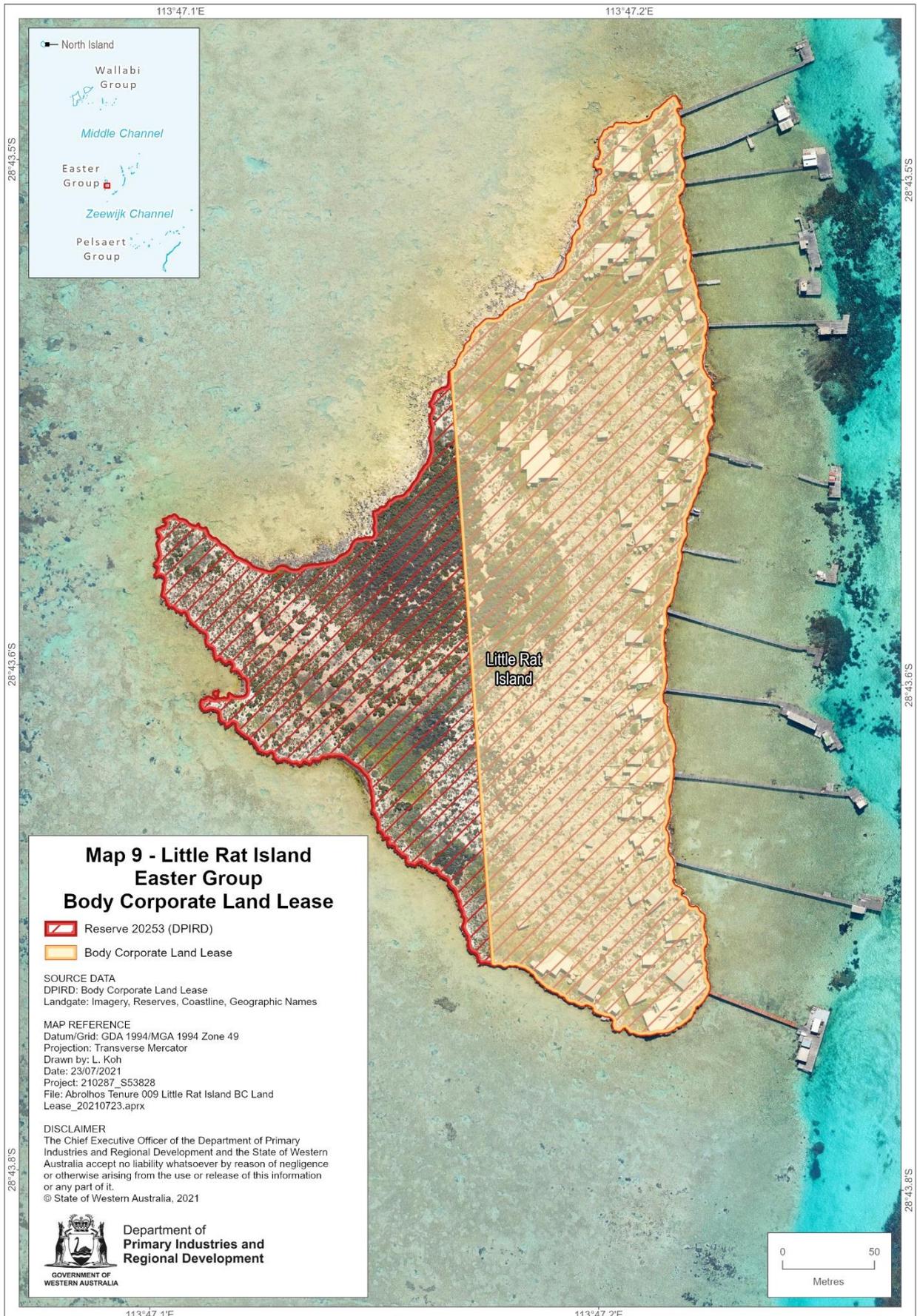
Each incorporated association (as four separate bodies corporate) holds a 21-year lease with the Minister, with three of the bodies corporate signing new leases in 2013. The Easter Group Body Corporate continues to operate with a lease signed in 2007. All leases have an option for a further term. Leases may be reviewed and varied during the term, subject to agreement by both parties.

Prior to July 2019, the Abrolhos Reserve included the entire terrestrial area of the Abrolhos Islands. Following creation of the National Park, the Abrolhos Reserve reduced to approximately 3% of the total land area to high water mark, with body corporate leased land now comprising about 85% of the Abrolhos Reserve. All Reserve islands (or portions of islands) are comprised entirely of leased land, with the exception of Rat, Little Rat, Post Office and Coronation Islands, which also include small areas of unleased land (refer **Maps 8 – 11**).

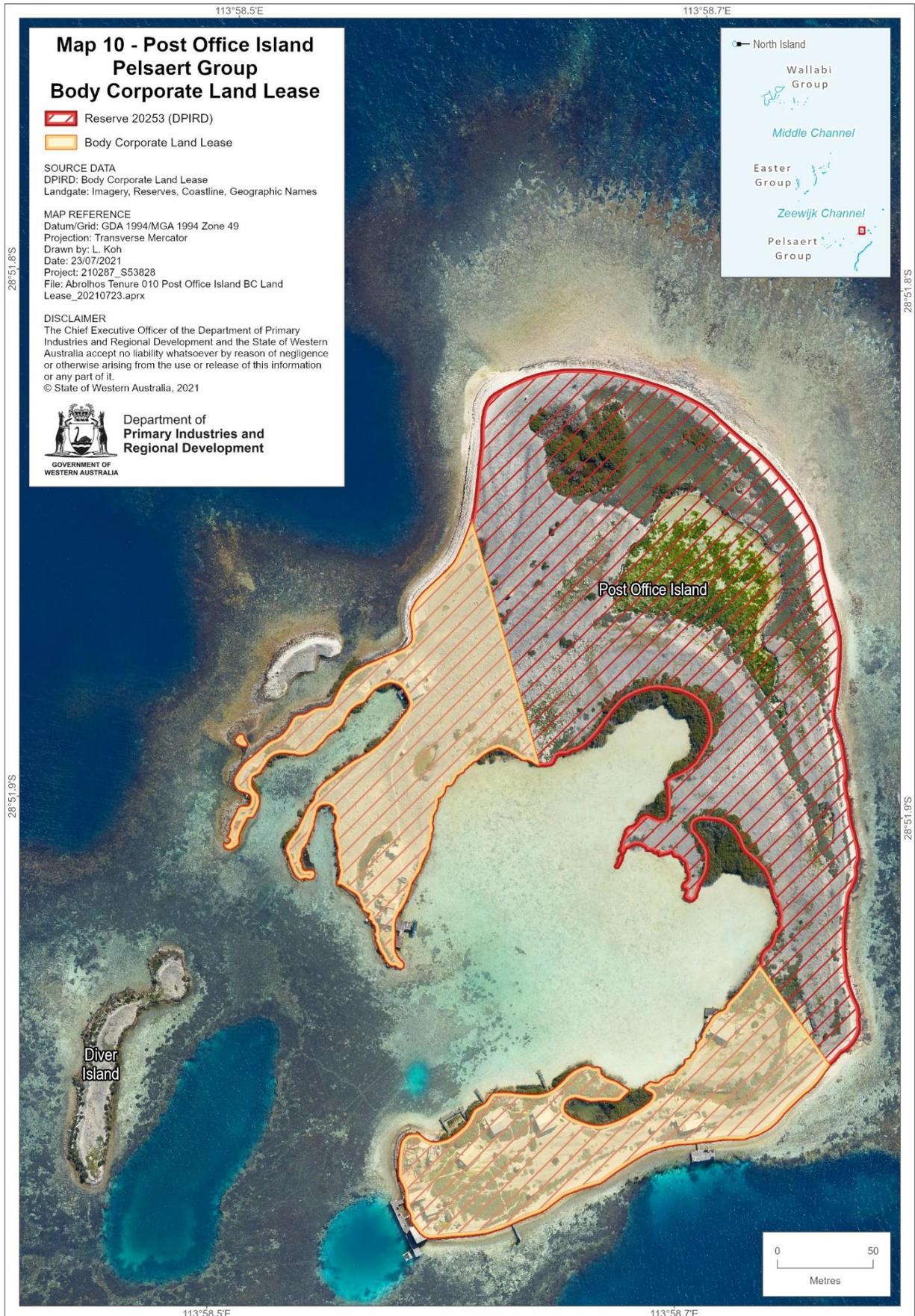
Map 8 – Rat Island, Easter group Body Corporate Land Lease.



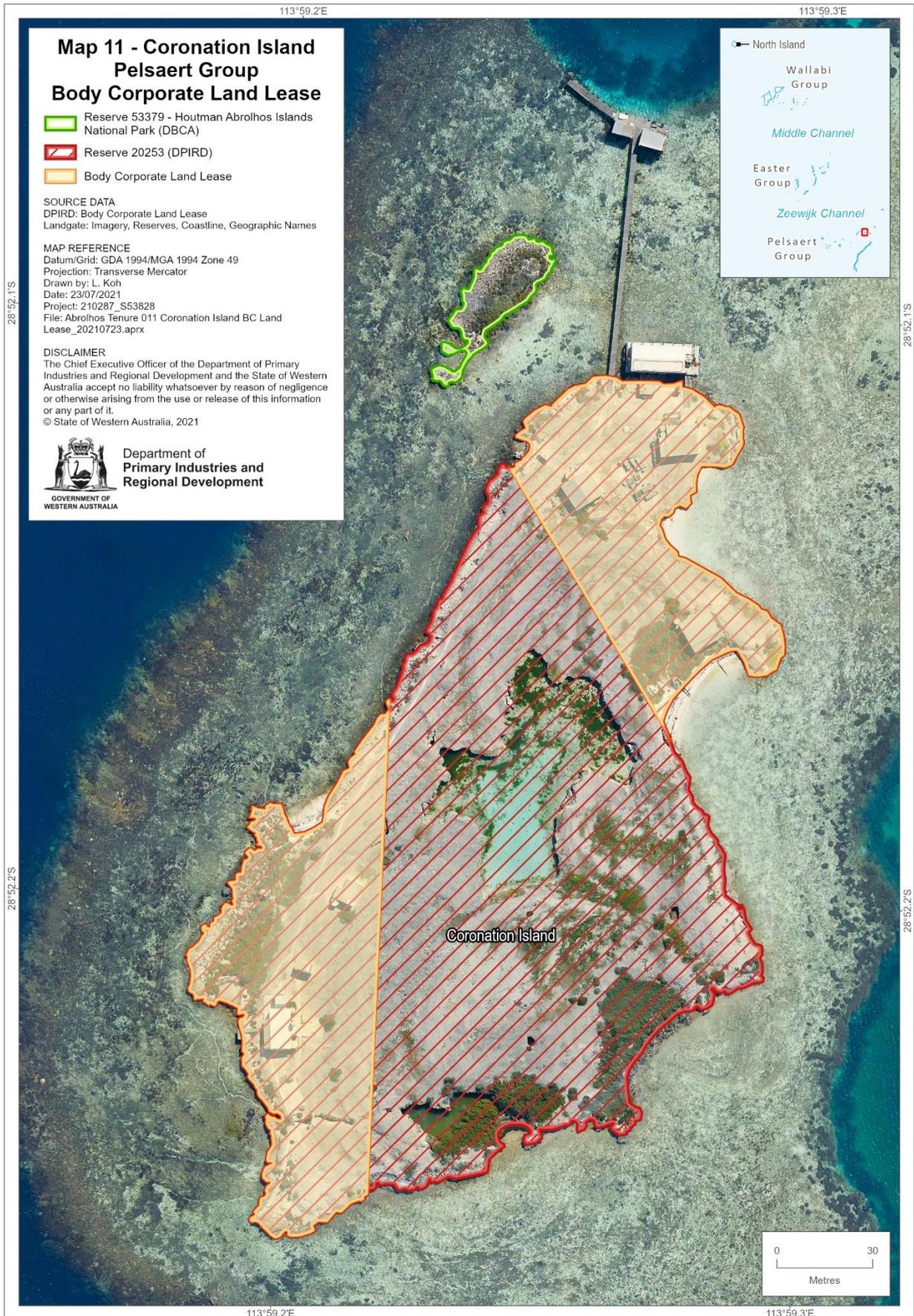
Map 9 – Little Rat Island, Easter Group Body Corporate Land Lease.



Map 10 – Post Office Island, Pelsaert Group Body Corporate Land Lease.



Map 11 – Coronation Island, Pelsaert Group Body Corporate Land Lease.



In addition to Part 9 of the Regulations which apply broadly to the Abrolhos Reserve, body corporate leased land is also subject to specific management arrangements set out in the lease agreements. These include but are not limited to: conditions on use and occupation of land by members; management of invitees (e.g. guests or workers); management of improvements (i.e. camps and other infrastructure); environmental management; and emergency management.

### ***DPIRD role vs. Bodies Corporate role***

DPIRD, on behalf of the Minister for Fisheries (as the Lessor), is responsible for monitoring compliance with the Regulations and the body corporate leases. Under Part 9 of the Regulations DPIRD is responsible for approving the construction of jetties and moorings, approving applications for new buildings and/or structural changes to existing buildings, approving applications to transfer or remove camps, issuing work orders for remedial work to be undertaken on camps, and any other relevant approvals.

While DPIRD is the regulator, the bodies corporate (as the Lessee) act as a self-governing authority over their leased land by managing their Constitutions, membership, and members' compliance with the lease terms and conditions. The key roles and responsibilities of the bodies corporate are to:

- approve membership applications in accordance with their Constitutions and leases;
- review building applications and camp transfers and provide advice to DPIRD;
- maintain building standards in accordance with relevant building codes;
- improve environmental management and stewardship by members;
- resolve neighbour disputes by members;
- manage community-owned infrastructure;
- coordinate community services support; and
- represent members' views to DPIRD and State Government.

### **Stakeholders**

Within the WA community, there are several sectors with an interest in the Abrolhos Reserve including:

- Commercial fishing
- Recreational fishing
- Charter fishing
- Aquaculture
- Pearling
- Tourism, including nature-based eco-charters
- Conservation
- Cultural heritage
- Research

### **Performance assessment**

This plan includes 73 management actions. All actions are prioritised with recommended timeframes for implementation. Priorities assigned to actions should be interpreted as:

- Priority 1 (Very high):** Requires immediate implementation, or commencement
- Priority 2 (High):** Action to be completed within one – two years
- Priority 3 (Medium):** Action to be completed within five years
- Priority 4 (Low):** Action to be completed within ten years
- Ongoing:** Action implemented on an ongoing basis, or as required

Importantly, some management actions may require additional targeted funding (over and above existing DPIRD resources). Progress towards achieving the management objectives and actions will be demonstrated by regular monitoring, evaluation and reporting to investigate the effectiveness of the actions and identify opportunities for improvement.

*This management plan will be subject to annual monitoring as well as a five-year mid-cycle review commencing in 2027 and will be in place for the next ten years or until it is formally reviewed and updated.*

## 1.3 Key Values and Management Objectives

Table 1: Overview of key values and management objectives for the Abrolhos Reserve.

Key Values	Management Objectives
<p><u>Natural (Section 2.1)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seabirds and migratory shorebirds</li> <li>• Australian sea lions</li> <li>• Mangrove communities</li> <li>• Threatened reptiles</li> <li>• Aquatic resources</li> <li>• Pristine, raw and natural beauty</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide increased protection for native flora, fauna and ecological communities on the Abrolhos Reserve.</li> <li>2. Manage the impacts of Reserve users and land-based infrastructure on the natural values of the Abrolhos Reserve, National Park and FHPA.</li> <li>3. Minimise the impacts of priority weeds and pest animals on the natural values of the Abrolhos Reserve, National Park and FHPA through prevention, eradication, containment and control.</li> <li>4. Manage the impacts of waste, pollution and wastewater on the natural values of the Abrolhos Reserve, National Park and FHPA.</li> </ol>
<p><u>Cultural Heritage (Section 2.2)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maritime archaeology</li> <li>• Fishing heritage</li> <li>• Guano mining heritage</li> <li>• Building character of fishing communities</li> <li>• Social history</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Promote greater community awareness and understanding of the unique fishing heritage associated with the Abrolhos Reserve.</li> <li>2. Collaborate with relevant stakeholders to identify and protect cultural heritage sites on the Abrolhos Reserve.</li> <li>3. Maintain the building character of the fishing communities at the Abrolhos.</li> </ol>
<p><u>Fishing and Aquaculture (Section 2.3)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commercial rock lobster fishery</li> <li>• Developing aquaculture industry</li> <li>• High recreational fishing amenity</li> <li>• Regional economic benefit and employment</li> <li>• Local and family-run businesses</li> <li>• Supply of local seafood</li> <li>• Unique workplace and way of life</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Enable access to infrastructure on the Abrolhos Reserve to support the current and future operational needs of the commercial rock lobster and aquaculture industries.</li> <li>2. Enable access to infrastructure on the Abrolhos Reserve to support the operational needs of other commercial fisheries and the WA charter fishing industry, where there is a clear demonstrated need for access.</li> <li>3. Improve the consistency and transparency of decisions in respect of applications for infrastructure access on the Abrolhos Reserve.</li> </ol>

<p><u>Tourism on the Reserve (Section 2.4)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remoteness</li> <li>• Raw and natural beauty</li> <li>• Unique stories of the Abrolhos' colonial maritime history, industries, environments, wildlife and people</li> <li>• Natural and cultural-based visitor experiences</li> <li>• Growing tourism interest and economic opportunities</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Facilitate high quality low-impact nature and cultural-based visitor experiences on the Abrolhos Reserve through effective management.</li> <li>2. Enable access to and occupancy of the Abrolhos Reserve to support the operational needs of the tourism industry.</li> <li>3. Facilitate high quality day visitation and services on some Reserve islands.</li> <li>4. In partnership with DBCA and the business sector plan and facilitate viable and sustainable tourist accommodation options at the Abrolhos.</li> </ol>
<p><u>Abrolhos Community (Section 2.5)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong community culture</li> <li>• Island stewardship</li> <li>• Sense of belonging</li> <li>• Multi-generational</li> <li>• Family connections</li> <li>• Social connections</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Facilitate community participation and involvement in management of the Abrolhos Reserve.</li> <li>2. Recognise and respect the social and community values of the fishing and aquaculture communities.</li> <li>3. Facilitate sustainable economic development on the Abrolhos Reserve for a range of new commercial purposes.</li> <li>4. Improve the management of infrastructure on the Abrolhos Reserve and ensure appropriate use and occupation of camps.</li> <li>5. Improve the quality, aesthetics and safety of camps, buildings and jetties.</li> <li>6. Improve public telecommunications to support community safety, visitor experiences and effective business practices of the tourism, fishing and aquaculture industries.</li> </ol>
<p><u>Governance (Section 2.6)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whole-of-government</li> <li>• Collaboration</li> <li>• Transparency</li> <li>• Accountability</li> <li>• Fairness and equity</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Work with partner agencies to establish an effective and cooperative inter-agency approach that will facilitate seamless management across all tenures.</li> <li>2. Improve body corporate governance and the effectiveness of the lease model.</li> <li>3. Ensure that Reserve legislation and policy is contemporary and fit for purpose and that decision-making processes are consistent and transparent.</li> <li>4. Identify funding and resources required to effectively achieve State Government's strategic direction for the Abrolhos Reserve.</li> <li>5. Implement, monitor and review management actions, and support collaborative research that is aimed at informing future planning and management.</li> </ol>

## 2. Strategic Priorities

### 2.1 Nature Conservation and Protection

Protect, promote and educate the community on the unique marine and terrestrial environment of the Abrolhos.

*Houtman Abrolhos Islands Strategic Direction 2020-24*

The significant and unique natural values of the Abrolhos have long been recognised – most recently in the establishment of the National Park, which now encompasses 97% of the land to the high-water mark. An abundance of research studies have been undertaken on island geology, seabirds, reptiles, the Abrolhos painted buttonquail, the tamar wallaby, and flora and vegetation communities. A comprehensive inventory of the land conservation values of the Abrolhos was undertaken in 2003.

A significant portion of the Abrolhos Reserve has been cleared to allow for the building of camps, jetties and other infrastructure to support commercial fishing and aquaculture operations. But the Abrolhos Reserve still holds important natural values and supports fragile ecosystems, which need to be managed and protected. Further, the Reserve islands which have adjacent National Park tenure (i.e. North, West Wallabi, Leo, Rat and Newman Islands) all have high terrestrial biodiversity values. In addition, the adjacent marine environment of the Abrolhos FHPA is well-known for its stunning coral reefs and exceptional biodiversity values.

Western Australia's primary legislation for the protection of flora and fauna is the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*<sup>4</sup> (the BC Act). The BC Act applies to flora and fauna on the Abrolhos Reserve and is administered by DBCA. Species or communities protected under the BC Act cannot be taken or disturbed, unless authorised.

The Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*<sup>5</sup> (EPBC Act) also applies to the Abrolhos Reserve and is administered by the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water. The EPBC Act protects and manages nationally and internationally important flora, fauna, ecological communities and heritage places, through listing species and communities of national significance and adopting and implementing recovery plans.

#### Natural values

##### *Plants and vegetation communities*

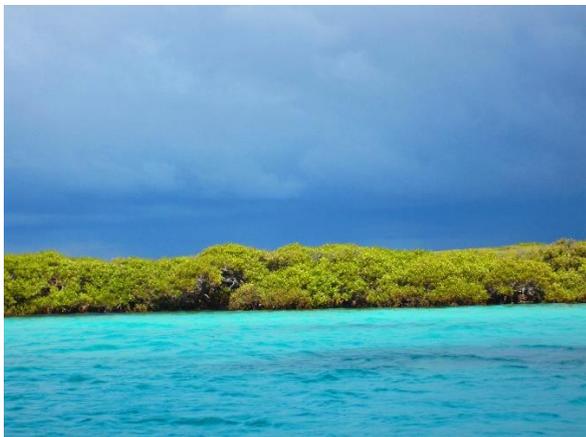
The Abrolhos Reserve supports a variety of terrestrial plant species and communities, which are utilised by a diverse range of fauna. All native terrestrial flora at the Abrolhos is protected under the BC Act. A number of vegetation communities at the Abrolhos are also recognised as being of conservation significance including mangrove communities, shrubland, coastal saltmarsh, salt lake and saltbush flats.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.dbca.wa.gov.au/biodiversity-conservation-act>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.awe.gov.au/environment/epbc/about>

Mangrove communities are found on several Reserve islands including Little Rat, Leo, Burnett, Uncle Margie, Post Office, Coronation and Newman Islands. These communities are highly productive and play an important role in supporting other species such as algae, molluscs and crustaceans and provide breeding habitat for fish, birds and Australian sea lions. The Abrolhos mangroves are considered critical breeding habitat for the threatened Australian lesser noddy.



*Image 13 & 14 – Abrolhos mangroves. Credit: DPIRD.*

### **Seabirds and migratory shorebirds**

The Abrolhos is one of the most significant seabird nesting areas in the eastern Indian Ocean. More than two million birds breed on the islands and small rocky atolls in the Abrolhos. The mixture of species is unique, as subtropical and tropical species, and littoral and oceanic foragers, share the breeding islands. A total of 95 bird species have been recorded as residents or visitors to the islands and many of the migrant species are protected by international agreements. Conservation significant birds, listed under the BC Act and/or the EPBC Act include the Abrolhos painted buttonquail, the Australian lesser noddy, the common noddy, wedge-tailed shearwater, little shearwater, roseate tern, fairy tern, and sooty tern.



*Image 15 – Crested terns nesting at the Abrolhos. Credit: DPIRD.*

There are two national recovery plans that apply to the management of seabirds at the Abrolhos. One is for the Australian fairy tern and the other is a recovery plan for 10 species of seabirds, which includes the Australian lesser noddy. There are also State recovery plans in place for the Abrolhos painted buttonquail and for eight species of threatened migratory shorebirds that visit WA, seven of which visit the Abrolhos.

Long-term seabird research, with a focus on seabird breeding and population ecology, has been carried out at the Abrolhos since 1991. In 2006, 192 islands were comprehensively surveyed to document numbers and breeding stages of seabirds, resident and migratory shorebirds and raptors at the Abrolhos.

Important Reserve islands for seabird nesting and breeding include North, West Wallabi, Leo, Rat, Post Office, Coronation, Uncle Margie, Burnett and Newman. Key species that are known to breed on Reserve islands include bridled terns, fairy terns, roseate terns, crested terns, white-faced storm petrels and osprey. The sandy beach habitat on some of the intertidal areas of the Abrolhos Reserve also provide important feeding habitat for a variety of migratory shorebird species, and nesting habitat for some seabirds. Improving knowledge of current important seabird and shorebird sites on the Abrolhos Reserve will be important in helping to inform future management.



*Image 16 – Sea eagle and nest. Credit: Ann Storrie.*

### ***Mammals***

The Abrolhos Islands represent the most northern location in the distribution of Australian sea lions and are used for haul out and breeding. Once abundant, the Australian sea lion is now classified as vulnerable under the BC Act and endangered under the EPBC Act, and a national recovery plan is in place. Observations by rock lobster fishers and ongoing survey work suggest that the sea lion population has been low but stable since the 1950s.

There are a number of locations on the Abrolhos Reserve used as haul out (resting) areas. It is understood that sea lion breeding mainly occurs in the Easter and Pelsaert Groups, on islands within the National Park. Sea lions are known to use mangrove areas as nurseries for their young.



*Image 17 – Australian sea lion. Credit: Colin Ingram, DBCA.*



*Image 18 – Australian sea lion resting on a jetty. Credit: DPIRD.*

The main land mammal living on the Abrolhos Reserve is the tammar wallaby. The population on West Wallabi Island is of particular biodiversity importance. The tammar wallaby population interacts with the occupied community on the Reserve, and it is necessary to consider measures that mitigate risks to the island population.

### **Reptiles**

There are 26 terrestrial reptile species on the Abrolhos islands. The Houtman Abrolhos spiny-tailed skink and the Abrolhos dwarf bearded dragon are both endemic to the Abrolhos and of conservation significance. The spiny-tailed skink and king skink, in particular, are important species found on the Abrolhos Reserve and are abundant on North, Pigeon and Rat Islands. There is also a large population of carpet pythons found on West Wallabi Island.



*Image 19 – Tammar wallaby.*

*Credit: Anthony Desmond, DBCA.*



*Image 20 – Abrolhos king skinks.*

*Credit: DPIRD.*

## **Management issues and threats**

The main threats impacting the natural values of the Abrolhos Reserve are associated with human disturbance, biosecurity risks related to introduced pests and weeds, waste and pollution, wastewater and climate change.

### **Human disturbance**

Given the majority of the Abrolhos Reserve is inhabited, human disturbance is a key threat to its natural values. Clearing land for the purpose of building and erecting structures on the Abrolhos Reserve reduces populations of plant communities and results in habitat loss. Human presence can alter animal behaviour and disturb important feeding, resting and breeding activity, particularly for migratory seabirds and Australian sea lions. Buildings, communication towers, and other land-based infrastructure, as well as aircraft activity, can also impact on seabird populations.

The *National Light Pollution Guidelines for Wildlife including Marine Turtles, Seabirds and Migratory Shorebirds* were developed by the Commonwealth Government in collaboration with DBCA and released in 2020. These guidelines recognise that natural darkness has an important conservation value and that artificial light can impact the survival of some wildlife species. Artificial lighting from infrastructure on the Abrolhos Reserve can impact wildlife by causing disorientation in seabirds that are active at night.

The guidelines and recommendations will be considered and integrated into current building protocols to improve management of light pollution from camps and jetties.



*Image 21 – Seabird rookery on Rat Island. Credit: DPIRD.*

The North Island, Wallabi Group and Pelsaert Group Bodies Corporate are required under their leases to prepare environmental risk management plans to mitigate the impacts of their presence and commercial activity on the surrounding natural environment. DPIRD will work with the bodies corporate to ensure these plans are current. Any new Reserve users will also be required to prepare an environmental risk management plan related to their specific activities. DPIRD, through consultation with DBCA, will provide guidance on development of these plans as required.

### ***Biosecurity***

One of the greatest threats to the species living on and around the Abrolhos islands is the introduction of pest animals and diseases. Pest animals can have significant impacts on natural ecosystems through predation, habitat destruction, and competition for food and space. The most common way that pests and diseases can arrive is via people – on the hulls of vessels, and in food and household items, and building material brought over from the mainland. Under the Regulations, flora and fauna cannot be brought onto the Abrolhos Reserve unless written approval has been provided by both the CEO of DPIRD and the CEO of DBCA.

Currently the main pest animal species found at the Abrolhos is the house mouse on North Island (and anecdotally on some other islands). Cockroaches can also be found around fishing camps and the introduced white garden snail (*Theba pisana*) has been found on larger islands. Tammar wallabies were introduced on North Island and have significantly damaged the natural habitat, contributing to the likely local extinction of the Abrolhos painted buttonquail. A control program to remove the introduced tammar wallaby population on North Island has been undertaken in recent years, which is discussed in more detail within the Houtman Abrolhos Islands National Park Management Plan 2022.

Weeds pose a significant threat to the Abrolhos, and adverse impacts on ecosystems include species competition, disruption of ecosystem processes and loss of fauna habitat. Currently 110 weed species have been recorded across the islands and most were introduced by the guano mining and fishing industries. Over the years, weeds have been introduced to inhabited islands as garden plants and the number of weed species is higher on the inhabited Reserve islands.



Image 22 – Golden crownbeard.      Image 23 – Common prickly pear.

Credit: City of Greater Geraldton.      Credit: DPIRD.

Key priority weed species that are likely to occur on the Abrolhos Reserve and may require ongoing management action include:

- Crownbeard (*Verbesina encelioides*) (Pigeon and North Islands)
- Common prickly pear (*Opuntia stricta*) (Rat Island)
- Geraldton carnation weed (*Euphorbia cyathophora*) (Rat Island)
- Dwarf jade plant (*Portulacaria afra*) (Rat Island)
- Mother of millions (*Bryophyllum delagoense*) (Rat Island)
- Pig's ear (*Cotyledon orbiculata*) (Rat Island)
- Tamarisk (*Tamarix aphylla*) (Rat, Pigeon and North Islands)
- Paterson's curse (*Echium plantagineum*) (Rat and North Islands)
- Ice plant (*Mesembryanthemum crystallinum*) (widespread)

In collaboration with DBCA and other key stakeholders, a biosecurity plan and weed and pest control plans will be prepared for the Abrolhos in accordance with a prioritised, risk-based framework.

### **Waste and pollution**

Waste on the Abrolhos Reserve is produced by the fishing and aquaculture communities and is largely made up of food, household and building waste, and fishing-related waste. Low levels of waste from fishing and aquaculture activities, as well as waste left behind by visitors, and marine debris from further afield, can be found on the Abrolhos shoreline, and can impact wildlife, causing serious injury or death.

Current requirements for waste management on the Abrolhos Reserve provide for some types of waste to be disposed of by use of an incinerator, while other materials must be returned to the mainland for appropriate disposal.



*Image 24 – Old burn cage on a jetty.*

*Credit: DPIRD.*



*Image 25 – Incinerator on the Reserve.*

*Credit: DPIRD.*

Burn cages, which have previously been used on the end of some jetties, are currently being phased out and all existing burn cages are in the process of being decommissioned and removed. The future use of burn cages for waste disposal purposes will not be permitted on the Reserve, or adjoining jetties. Reserve users will only be permitted to use incinerators of an approved type, and the number of incinerators of an approved type will be strictly limited. There is a strong preference for all rubbish to be returned to the mainland for appropriate disposal.

Under their relevant leases, camp owners are responsible for keeping their camp, and any adjacent jetty or shoreline areas, free from waste. Body corporate members also voluntarily conduct regular, larger-scale clean-ups of islands in both the Reserve and the National Park. Camp owners on North Island, Wallabi Group and Pelsaert Group islands must comply with the Abrolhos Islands Waste Management Standards. This document will be reviewed and updated with a view to considering further practical measures to prevent waste from entering the island system.

### ***Wastewater***

Abrolhos Reserve wastewater regulations require that sewage be disposed of by use of a saltwater flushing outfall pipe feeding directly into the sea, a septic tank disposal system, or an approved sewage disposal system at an approved site. State and local government health laws also apply to the Abrolhos Islands, and grey and black water management and approvals are administered by the CoGG.

In September 2018, the WA Chief Health Officer declared the Abrolhos Islands Baffled Septic Tank System as an approved wastewater system under the Health Regulations. The approval is valid for five years, expiring in September 2023.

There has been some progress made to improve wastewater management at the Abrolhos by some camp owners in recent years, and the current building application process requires all new camps to have approved wastewater treatment systems. However there are a number of land-based toilets on the Abrolhos Reserve that still discharge directly into the soil or ocean without any form of treatment. This does not meet current environmental and public health standards, nor community expectations, and there must be a continued urgent focus on improving current practices to ensure that untreated waste is not being discharged into the marine environment.



*Image 26 – Old sewage outfall pipe. Image 27 – Septic tank. Credit: DPIRD.*

DPIRD will continue to work with DoH, CoGG and the bodies corporate to support investigation into new, practical, fit-for-purpose wastewater solutions that are suited to the unique condition of the islands and meet the required treatment standard. DPIRD will ensure that regulatory requirements are flexible where possible so that camp owners are able to adopt new technologies which satisfy DoH and CoGG requirements.

### **Climate Change**

Given the location, topography and low-lying nature of most of the Abrolhos, the islands are becoming impacted by climate change, in particular through higher tides, sea level rise and extreme storm events. A coastal inundation and erosion assessment and hazard mapping process undertaken in 2018 found that there is a risk of significant coastal inundation on some islands at the Abrolhos over the next 100 years due to a combination of erosion (from storm surge) and sea level rise.

Sea level rise will continue to impact intertidal mangrove communities in the future and will reduce important shoreline nesting and foraging habitat for some species of seabirds and shorebirds. Furthermore, strong El Nino-Southern Oscillation events are known to impact the breeding success of some seabirds at the Abrolhos. Climate vulnerability assessments and more research will be important to better understand climate change impacts and support adaptive management.

There are opportunities for camp owners to take advantage of clean energy solutions, such as solar, on the Abrolhos Reserve. DPIRD will enable sustainable living choices, where possible, practical and cost-effective.

## Management objectives and actions

<b>Management Objective 1 – Provide increased protection for native flora, fauna and ecological communities on the Abrolhos Reserve.</b>		
<b>No.</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Priority</b>
2.1(1)	Improve community and visitor education and understanding of the important natural values of the Abrolhos Reserve.	1
2.1(2)	In partnership with DBCA and relevant stakeholders develop a contemporary code of conduct to minimise human impacts and protect the natural environment.	1
2.1(3)	Collaborate with DBCA to identify research priorities relating to flora, fauna, ecological communities and habitats on the Abrolhos Reserve and develop partnerships and programs with research organisations to encourage projects that fill knowledge gaps.	2
2.1(4)	Collaborate with DBCA and conservation experts to map locations of key seabird and shorebird habitat on the Abrolhos Reserve (and the National Park) to establish baseline data and trends.	2
2.1(5)	Collaborate with DBCA to map areas covered by mangroves on the Abrolhos Reserve (and the National Park) and support ongoing monitoring programs.	3
2.1(6)	Support implementation of the recovery plans that apply to the management of threatened fauna at the Abrolhos, including for the Australian sea lion, the Australian lesser noddy, the Australian fairy tern and the Abrolhos painted buttonquail.	Ongoing
2.1(7)	In conjunction with DBCA provide complementary management arrangements across the National Park and intertidal areas of the Abrolhos Reserve to enhance protection of important flora, fauna and ecological communities including seabirds, migratory shorebirds and Australian sea lions.	Ongoing
2.1(8)	Consider the merit of identifying and implementing 'conservation zones' on the Abrolhos Reserve to recognise areas of high biodiversity and safeguard these areas for the future.	3
2.1(9)	Work with partner agencies and stakeholders to explore and develop citizen science opportunities and community participation programs that will improve the state of the natural environment.	3

<b>Management Objective 2 – Manage the impacts of Reserve users and land-based infrastructure on the natural values of the Abrolhos Reserve, National Park and FHPA.</b>		
<b>No.</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Priority</b>
2.1(10)	Incorporate best practice design principles into the assessment of new infrastructure on the Abrolhos Reserve to minimise wildlife disturbance, including bird strike and impacts from artificial light.	1
2.1(11)	Consider additional mitigation measures to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• minimise human disturbance to breeding seabirds;</li> <li>• better manage human impacts to the population of tammar wallabies on West Wallabi Island; and</li> <li>• minimise human disturbance to mangrove communities on the Abrolhos Reserve.</li> </ul>	2

<b>2.1(12)</b>	In collaboration with DBCA and consultation with the bodies corporate, review the requirements of an environmental risk management plan.	2
<b>2.1(13)</b>	Ensure that all Reserve users undertaking commercial operations on the Abrolhos Reserve complete and implement an environmental risk management plan.	Ongoing
<b>2.1(14)</b>	Where appropriate, facilitate rehabilitation of areas where camps and infrastructure have been removed.	Ongoing

**Management Objective 3** – *Minimise the impacts of priority weeds and pest animals on the natural values of the Abrolhos Reserve, National Park and FHPA through prevention, eradication, containment and control.*

<b>No.</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Priority</b>
<b>2.1(15)</b>	In partnership with DBCA, develop an education program for visitors, tourism operators and body corporate members about the importance of biosecurity and the risks associated with weed and pest animal introductions.	1
<b>2.1(16)</b>	In collaboration with DBCA and consultation with the bodies corporate, prepare and implement a terrestrial biosecurity plan and weed and pest animal control plans for the Abrolhos (National Park and Reserve).	2
<b>2.1(17)</b>	In collaboration with DBCA, develop and implement biosecurity requirements for the fishing, aquaculture, and tourism industries, under a priority risk-based framework.	3

**Management Objective 4** – *Manage the impacts of waste, pollution and wastewater on the natural values of the Abrolhos Reserve, National Park and FHPA.*

<b>No.</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Priority</b>
<b>2.1(18)</b>	As an urgent priority, work with the bodies corporate, the CoGG and DoH to support investigation into new, practical, fit-for-purpose wastewater solutions to improve wastewater management standards on the Abrolhos Reserve.	1
<b>2.1(19)</b>	Amend the Regulations to ensure that all camps must have approved wastewater systems and provide flexibility for camp owners to adopt new approved technologies.	2
<b>2.1(20)</b>	In collaboration with partner agencies and consultation with the bodies corporate, review and update the Abrolhos Islands Waste Management Standards and apply these to Reserve users to ensure acceptable waste management practices.	3
<b>2.1(21)</b>	Amend the Regulations to ensure that any incinerator used on the Reserve for waste disposal must be of an approved type.	4

## 2.2 Cultural Heritage Protection

Protect, promote and educate the community on the extraordinary cultural heritage of the Abrolhos.

*Houtman Abrolhos Islands Strategic Direction 2020-24*

### Cultural heritage values

#### **Early European history**

The history of the Abrolhos is unique and colourful, dating back to 1619 when Frederick de Houtman and his crew of the United Dutch East India Company ship *Dordrecht* first encountered and named the Abrolhos Islands. The islands are remarkably associated with the earliest periods of European history in Australia.

The United Dutch East India Company was formed in the Netherlands in 1602 to send wooden sailing ships from the Netherlands to Asia to buy silks and spices and sell them in Europe. In order to get there, the ships sailed down around the Cape of Good Hope (South Africa), before using the prevailing winds to carry them east across the Indian Ocean and then north to the East Indies (modern day Indonesia). Some of the ships ventured too far east and encountered the WA coast, sometimes fatally. It is estimated that up to 50 vessels may have been wrecked within the Abrolhos FHPA, some still to be located. The most famous of these shipwrecks are the *Batavia* (1629) and the *Zeewijk* (1727).

The WA Museum is the statutory authority responsible for the management and protection of shipwrecks, associated sites and relics under the State MA Act and the Commonwealth UCH Act. Most of the known and protected cultural heritage sites, such as those associated with the *Batavia* and *Zeewijk* shipwrecks, are now located within the National Park and in the waters of the Abrolhos FHPA.



*Image 28 – Batavia hull at the WA Shipwrecks Museum. Credit: WA Museum.*

### ***Aboriginal connection***

Little is known about Aboriginal cultural heritage values of the Abrolhos. A single artefact, excavated from Beacon Island in 1967, is the only known evidence of Aboriginal occupation at the islands. It is noted that future research at the Abrolhos may uncover further evidence of Aboriginal occupation. DPIRD will support the WA Museum and local Aboriginal people to explore and research past and present aboriginal connection to the Abrolhos. At the time of writing, the Abrolhos is not subject to any native title claim or determination. The Yamatji Nation Native Title Determination extends offshore from the mainland but does not incorporate the Abrolhos Islands.

### ***Guano mining***

Guano mining was one of the first profitable export industries established in WA, and there are cultural heritage features on the Abrolhos Reserve related to 19<sup>th</sup> century guano mining on the islands. Guano is a natural fertiliser, predominantly made up of bird droppings, which was highly sought after in Europe and the United States at this time. The first commercial shipment of guano to leave the Abrolhos was in 1844 and guano continued to be mined at the Abrolhos until 1946. The remnants of buildings, jetties and tramways used for guano mining are still visible on some Reserve islands.

### ***Early tourism***

The Abrolhos was considered ideal for tourism and recreation in the first half of the twentieth century and many efforts were made to encourage tourism at the Abrolhos. In fact, the original 1929 declaration of the Abrolhos as a Class A reserve was for the purpose of "Public Recreation and Tourist Resort". Between the 1930s and 1950s tourists visited by boat and aircraft and, after World War II, a tourist resort was established on Pelsaert Island, using buildings that had previously been occupied by guano miners. Due to a lack of fresh water, poor quality food and accommodation, and the long and difficult boat trip to get there, this tourism venture was unsuccessful. It only operated for several years before being closed and the buildings were demolished. This was followed by several tourism proposals in the 1960s and later that were never developed.

### ***Fishing***

The main cultural heritage value of the Abrolhos Reserve since the 1900s relates to its rich history of the lobster (cray) fishing industry. The fishing industry was established at the Abrolhos in the late 1800s. Initially, finfish, whales, seals, and sea cucumbers were caught. Development of the rock lobster fishing industry commenced in the 1920s and expanded during World War II when canned lobster was supplied to armed forces. During this time, some of the first fishing camps were constructed on the islands and by the 1930s more rock lobster fishers were living and working at the Abrolhos. As entire families moved to the Abrolhos during the seasonal fishing season, the fishing communities continued to grow, and schools, community halls and a church was built. The fishing camps' distinctive and colourful buildings have a unique aesthetic and social history, providing a colourful contrast to the whitewashed coral outcrops, and make a strong contribution to the identity and sense of place of the Abrolhos. The ANZAC Day celebration and Two-Up at the islands is a cultural tradition that continues to this day.

Places of cultural heritage interest on the Abrolhos Reserve include the:

- building character of the fishing camps and communities, particularly Basile Island;
- jetties, particularly the stone jetty on Rat Island;
- Basile Island Church;

- North Island Fishing Community Museum;
- Pigeon Island Community Hall and School;
- Little Rat Island Community Hall and School; and
- structures associated with historical guano mining activity.

There are also some stone buildings that have been erected on the Abrolhos Reserve of which the heritage value is currently unknown. These structures require assessment and a decision on future management.



*Image 29 – Colourful building character of Basile Island. Credit: DPIRD.*



*Image 30 – Basile Island Church. Image 31 – Stone cottage. Credit: DPIRD.*

The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) maintains the State Register of Heritage Places. This is a statutory list of places of important cultural heritage significance that represent the story of Western Australia's history and development and that are protected under the *Heritage Act 2018*. The Heritage Council of Western Australia makes assessments on the significance and eligibility of sites for protection under this Act. The Heritage Council has identified the Abrolhos as being a priority place for entry into the State Register of Heritage Places. DPIRD will engage with DPLH and the Heritage Council in relation to protecting identified cultural heritage sites on the Abrolhos Reserve, particularly in relation to the important 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century cultural heritage values.

## Management Objectives and Actions

<b>Management Objective 1 – Promote greater community awareness and understanding of the unique fishing heritage associated with the Abrolhos Reserve.</b>		
<b>No.</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Priority</b>
<b>2.2(1)</b>	Collaborate with DBCA, the WA Museum, the bodies corporate, and relevant peak fishing bodies, in the development of interpretation material to increase visitor awareness, understanding and appreciation of the unique fishing heritage of the Abrolhos Reserve.	2

<b>Management Objective 2 – Collaborate with relevant stakeholders to identify and protect cultural heritage sites on the Abrolhos Reserve.</b>		
<b>No.</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Priority</b>
<b>2.2(2)</b>	Engage with DPLH and the Heritage Council in relation to protecting identified cultural heritage sites on the Abrolhos Reserve, and the need and mechanism for further heritage assessments.	3
<b>2.2(3)</b>	Liaise with the bodies corporate to determine the ownership status and future management of the stone buildings on the Abrolhos Reserve.	4
<b>2.2(4)</b>	In partnership with DBCA, the WA Museum and the Easter Group Body Corporate, protect and maintain the guano mining heritage on Rat Island.	Ongoing
<b>2.2(5)</b>	Provide support to relevant organisations in conducting further research into future maritime and aboriginal archaeological discoveries at the Abrolhos.	Ongoing

<b>Management Objective 3 – Maintain the building character of the fishing communities at the Abrolhos.</b>		
<b>No.</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Priority</b>
<b>2.2(6)</b>	Support the CoGG and the bodies corporate to develop a building style guide that reflects the visual character of the Abrolhos fishing community, and apply this to the assessment of all new buildings and structures on the Reserve and any major camp improvements.	3

## 2.3 Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture

Support the development of sustainable wild-capture fisheries and commercially viable aquaculture industries.

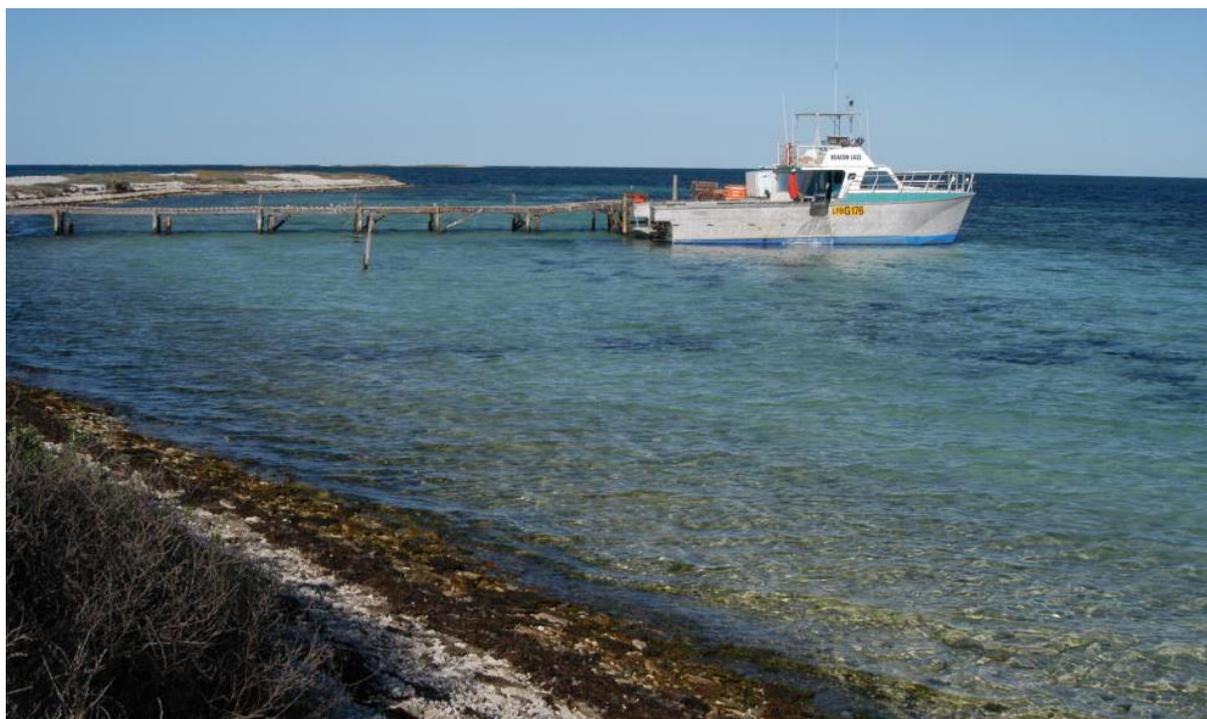
*Houtman Abrolhos Islands Strategic Direction 2020-24*

### Fishing and Aquaculture values

#### **Commercial fishing**

Commercial fishing makes a valuable contribution to the WA economy through employment and supporting regional businesses and the supply of local, sustainable and high-quality seafood to the community. Commercial fishing for western rock lobster, saucer scallops, octopus, mackerel and demersal scalefish such as pink snapper and baldchin groper occurs in the Abrolhos FHPA adjacent to the Reserve.

The major commercial fishery operating at the Abrolhos is the West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery (Fishery), which targets the western rock lobster (*Panulirus cygnus*) using pots. The Fishery is Australia's most valuable single species wild capture fishery with a landed value of \$417 million (2019) and has a longstanding commercial and economic history at the Abrolhos Islands. The Abrolhos FHPA is located within Zone A of the Fishery, which accounts for approximately 20% of the total annual catch.



*Image 32 – Lobster boat working at the Abrolhos. Credit: DPIRD.*

#### **Recreational and charter fishing**

Recreational fishing is a popular activity in WA, providing important social and economic benefits to the State's population. The Abrolhos FHPA supports a wide range and good abundance of fish and invertebrate species including dhufish, coral trout, baldchin groper, pink snapper and western rock lobster, making it a priority target area for recreational and charter fishing in the Mid West region.

The Abrolhos FHPA is located within the West Coast Zone of the WA Fishing Tour Operator Fishery, an area between Augusta in the south to Kalbarri in the north. The FHPA has long been a destination of choice for the charter fishing industry due to the unique and diverse experience it provides.

### ***Aquaculture***

Aquaculture is the farming of marine and freshwater finfish, shellfish, aquatic plants, algae and other organisms. The State Government is committed to further growing the WA aquaculture industry under an economic and environmentally sustainable framework. The development of the aquaculture industry is supported through the recent release of the *Aquaculture Development Plan for Western Australia* in 2020. The assessment of applications for authorisations for aquaculture in coastal waters of WA are carried out under Administrative Guideline 1, made under the FRMA.

The Abrolhos FHPA's pristine waters provide potential for ecologically sustainable commercial aquaculture, particularly with endemic marine finfish and shellfish species. Aquaculture operations in the Abrolhos FHPA include blacklip pearl oyster cultivation and the grow out of species such as coral, live rock, edible shellfish, octopus and finfish. A number of licensees are permitted to collect broodstock from wild fish stocks to assist in production. The Midwest Aquaculture Development Zone was declared in 2017 and is located within the Abrolhos FHPA. The 3,000-hectare zone is comprised of two parts, a northern area of 2,200 hectares and a southern area of 800 hectares to the east of the Easter Group and to the north of the Pelsaert Group and allows for finfish aquaculture.



*Image 33 – Coral aquaculture workshop. Credit: DPIRD.*

An aquaculture management framework will be prepared specifically for the Abrolhos to support the orderly development of aquaculture. This is discussed in more detail in the Abrolhos FHPA Plan.

Land and marine-based sewage discharge into the Abrolhos FHPA is having an impact on the development of aquaculture ventures at the Abrolhos, particularly in relation to species being farmed for human consumption (e.g. edible shellfish). Improving wastewater management at the Islands is an important priority for Government for both environmental and public health reasons. Management actions relating to sewage discharge from camps on the Abrolhos Reserve are dealt with in Section 2.1. Sewage discharge from vessels is detailed in the Abrolhos FHPA Plan.

## **Current access arrangements**

A key purpose of the Abrolhos Reserve is to provide access to support the development of sustainable wild-capture fisheries and commercially viable aquaculture industries.

### ***Commercial rock lobster and aquaculture***

The Easter Group Body Corporate Lease (2007) provides for rock lobster MFL holders and aquaculture licensees to be able to apply to have camps and jetties on body corporate land to support their commercial activities. The North Island, Wallabi Group and Pelsaert Group Body Corporate Leases were amended in 2013 to expand the categories of membership to enable fishing tour operator licence holders to have operational bases for equipment storage on body corporate land. However, this was subject to implementation of an Abrolhos Charter Zone, which has not yet happened.

It is important that the infrastructure needs of the commercial rock lobster industry and the developing aquaculture industry are met and this will continue to be a State Government priority for the Abrolhos Reserve. Further work may be required in collaboration with the bodies corporate and in consultation with the Western Rock Lobster Council (WRLC) and the Aquaculture Council of WA (ACWA) to consider future access requirements to support the growth of these important primary industries.

## **Future access opportunities**

### ***Commercial fishing (other than rock lobster)***

There may also be opportunities for other commercial fisheries which operate within the FHPA to have access to infrastructure on the Abrolhos Reserve where it would support their business. Further work is required in collaboration with the bodies corporate and in consultation with the WA Fishing Industry Council (WAFIC) to consider which other commercial fisheries could benefit from Reserve access and camp ownership and to gain a better understanding of any current or future infrastructure requirements.

### ***Fishing tour operators***

It has previously been identified that the Abrolhos Reserve could provide opportunities for fishing tour operators to have access to island infrastructure where it would support their business operation and enable business diversification.

This opportunity will be considered further following implementation and allocation of the new Abrolhos Charter Operator Zone (identified as an action within the Abrolhos FHPA Plan). Only fishing tour operators holding an Abrolhos Charter Operator Zone entitlement would be considered eligible to access an operations base. This could include equipment storage and staff (crew) accommodation, but would not extend to tourist accommodation or visitor access. Other access criteria may also apply.

Government's preference is to provide opportunities for new commercial operational uses to be considered on body corporate land and incorporated into the existing body corporate management framework. DPIRD will work in partnership with the bodies corporate, peak fishing bodies, and other relevant stakeholders to develop an agreed framework for assessing applications for island access in respect of commercial fishing operators (other than rock lobster) and fishing tour operators.

## Management objectives and actions

<b>Management Objective 1 – Enable access to infrastructure on the Abrolhos Reserve to support the current and future operational needs of the commercial rock lobster and aquaculture industries.</b>		
<b>No.</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Priority</b>
<b>2.3(1)</b>	Facilitate infrastructure access to support active commercial rock lobster operators who hold a body corporate membership.	1
<b>2.3(2)</b>	Facilitate infrastructure access to support active aquaculture operators who hold a body corporate membership, have an achievable business plan and are commercially viable.	1
<b>2.3(3)</b>	Liaise with the bodies corporate, the WRLC and ACWA to consider the potential future access requirements of the commercial rock lobster and aquaculture industries.	2

<b>Management Objective 2 – Enable access to infrastructure on the Abrolhos Reserve to support the operational needs of other commercial fisheries and the WA charter fishing industry, where there is a clear demonstrated need for access.</b>		
<b>No.</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Priority</b>
<b>2.3(4)</b>	Liaise with WAFIC to consider which commercial fisheries (other than rock lobster) could benefit from access to the Abrolhos Reserve and camp ownership and discuss the outcomes with the bodies corporate.	2
<b>2.3(5)</b>	Work with the bodies corporate to consider an appropriate pathway to integrate other commercial uses, such as operational bases for commercial fishers (other than rock lobster) and fishing tour operators, into the existing body corporate framework.	2

<b>Management Objective 3 – Improve the consistency and transparency of decisions in respect of applications for infrastructure access on the Abrolhos Reserve.</b>		
<b>No.</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Priority</b>
<b>2.3(6)</b>	In partnership with the bodies corporate, peak fishing bodies and the tourism sector, develop guidelines, including an approvals process and criteria, for infrastructure access for the commercial fishing, charter fishing and aquaculture sectors, to improve consistency and transparency of decision-making.	3

## 2.4 Tourism on the Reserve

Create a world-class visitor destination that contributes to a vibrant regional economy with:

- extraordinary visitor experiences that share the unique stories of the Abrolhos' maritime heritage, industries, environments, wildlife and people;
- quality visitor facilities that reflect the unique character of the Abrolhos;
- targeted overnight stay opportunities appropriate for a range of visitor markets; and
- a suite of accredited land, marine and air-based tourism operators.

*Houtman Abrolhos Islands Strategic Direction 2020-24*

The appeal of the Abrolhos for tourism has long been recognised. Visitors are attracted to the unique sense of place and character of the Abrolhos, resulting from the landscape, natural values, maritime heritage, and the history and culture of the fishing and aquaculture communities. Visitor activities include swimming, fishing, diving, snorkelling, surfing, wind/kite surfing, walking, bird watching and other nature appreciation, as well as guided tours of cultural heritage sites and pearl farms. Visitor access to the Abrolhos is via vessel or aircraft.

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 a \$10 million funding allocation to assist with management planning and provision of day-use visitor facilities in the Wallabi Group. In July 2019, the National Park was created. Since then, State Government, relevant agencies and stakeholders have been working together to design a new future for the Abrolhos, in accordance with its vision.

### Current visitor activities

Currently, visitation occurs primarily within the Abrolhos FHPA and on the National Park and is relatively limited on the Abrolhos Reserve due to the current body corporate lease arrangements and commercial use of the land. The infrastructure built on the Abrolhos Reserve over the years has been purpose-built to support commercial fishing and aquaculture operations and, in some cases, may not be suitable for public use and visitation. Visitor access to fishing and aquaculture camps and private jetties is not allowed without permission from the infrastructure owner.

Notwithstanding, a low level of tourism does occur on the Reserve and current activities include pearl farm tours and island visits undertaken as part of a commercial charter tour. An annual Pearls and Plates event, which commenced in 2021, also takes place on Post Office Island. There are opportunities to develop tourism activities on the Abrolhos Reserve, particularly in connection with the annual Shore Leave Festival and the emerging small expedition cruise ship market. However, it is recognised that increased visitation on the Abrolhos Reserve must be carefully managed to protect the fragile natural environment and ensure that the rights and privacy of the existing fishing communities, and their community culture and operations, are not negatively impacted.

## Guiding principles for sustainable tourism development

In planning for visitor access and facilities on the Abrolhos Reserve and considering new tourism ventures, DPIRD supports and will endeavour to provide for –

- low impact, environmentally sensitive nature-based and cultural-based tourism which is compatible with the key values of the Abrolhos
- sustainable coexistence of tourism, fishing and aquaculture, ensuring that any impacts on fishing operations and community values are managed
- the use of existing redundant infrastructure for tourism purposes where possible, to minimise the human footprint on the islands
- accredited land, marine and air-based tourism operators ensuring the visitor experience involves best practice environmental and management standards
- licensed commercial tour operators, and well-trained guides with local knowledge
- low visitor numbers at visitor sites, especially sensitive sites, to conserve natural and cultural values, and retain the current amenity and feeling of remoteness
- guided-only tours of fishing communities and aquaculture/pearl farms on body corporate leased land
- improved interpretation, including limited on-island visitor signage, built in a way that minimises wildlife disturbance, and retains the raw nature of the islands
- building of raised walkways and/or clearly marked designated pathways to provide for predictable human movement and reduce the human footprint on the islands
- development of minimal low impact / low rise-built structures and visitor facilities that retain the unique Abrolhos sense of place

## Tourism opportunities

This plan focuses on tourism opportunities specifically in respect of the Abrolhos Reserve. The plan supports consideration of low impact, small-scale visitor experiences with an agritourism focus. Tourism and visitor access will be considered where it can coexist with operational activity on the Reserve and complement visitor experiences already occurring on the National Park and the Abrolhos FHPA.

DPIRD has identified the following opportunities for tourism growth and development on the Abrolhos Reserve, including tour operator bases, managed and guided day-use visitor activities, and a land-based hosted camp accommodation option. Importantly, this does not preclude other opportunities or proposals from being considered and assessed in consultation with stakeholders during the life of this plan.

### **Commercial tour operator (operations) base**

As is the case for fishing tour operators, the Abrolhos Reserve may also provide opportunities for commercial nature-based eco tour operators to have access to island infrastructure where it would support their business operation and improve the diversity of visitor experiences able to be offered. Access to island infrastructure could include equipment storage and staff (crew) accommodation but would not extend to tourist accommodation or visitor access.

Government's preference is to provide opportunities for new commercial operational uses to be considered on body corporate land and incorporated into the existing body corporate management framework. It is recognised that opening up body corporate land to the tourism industry needs to be managed carefully due to differing sector and operational needs. DPIRD will work in partnership with the bodies corporate to consider these issues and develop an agreed framework for assessing applications for island access in respect of commercial nature-based tour operators.

### **Guided tours**

At some locations on the Abrolhos Reserve, there is the opportunity for visitors to experience guided tours of the fishing community and cultural heritage sites and view lobster fishing and/or aquaculture operations. This is an excellent opportunity for fishers and aquaculture farmers to share stories about the Abrolhos industries, the people, and the fishing community culture, providing a unique agritourism experience. Demand for guided tours on the Abrolhos Reserve is expected to increase as visitation by small expedition cruise vessels increases.

Guided tours on the Reserve already occur on some islands in the Pelsaert Group, through an arrangement made between commercial tour operators and body corporate members. Additional opportunities for guided tours will be considered through consultation between DPIRD, the bodies corporate and commercial tour operators.



*Image 34 – Passengers onboard the Eco Abrolhos visiting the Italian fishing community on Basile Island. Credit: Eco Abrolhos.*

The future management of guided tours on the Abrolhos Reserve will include the following key elements:

- Guided tours will continue to be via an agreed arrangement between commercial tour operators and body corporate members.
- For any new guided tour opportunities or proposals, a site assessment will be undertaken to determine if the impacts on the fishing community, and privacy concerns, can be adequately managed. Impacts on the natural and cultural heritage values will also be assessed, as well as visitor safety risks.
- To ensure a quality visitor experience, guided tours can only be conducted as part of a licensed and accredited commercial tour operation.
- A tour guide or a body corporate member must be present at all times during the visit to manage the behaviour and movement of guests.
- Conditions may be imposed on visitation in order to protect the natural, cultural heritage and/or fishing community values of the island.
- Location-specific visitor site plans will be developed, where appropriate.
- The opportunity for body corporate members to be able to sell their product and offer catering services to day visitors will be considered.
- The camps or facilities used must comply with all building, safety and wastewater requirements and any jetty to be accessed as part of the tour activity must be of an appropriate safety standard.
- The need for additional visitor infrastructure will be considered.

### ***Commercial events and functions***

There may be opportunities for events and functions to take place on the Reserve, including on body corporate leased land. This could include small-scale food festivals, music festivals and other functions or events undertaken for a commercial purpose.



*Image 35 – Pearls and Plates event, Post Office Island. Credit: Nic Duncan.*

The future management of commercial events and functions on the Abrolhos Reserve will include the following key elements:

- The experience offered must be consistent with the natural and cultural heritage values of the Abrolhos.
- An approvals process, including assessment guidelines, criteria and operational conditions will be developed and agreed between DPIRD and the bodies corporate.
- A site assessment will be undertaken to determine if the impacts on the fishing community, and privacy concerns, can be adequately managed. Impacts on the natural and cultural heritage values will also be assessed, as well as visitor safety.
- An event management plan will need to be developed and implemented with a focus on managing waste and minimising foot traffic around the island/s.
- An emergency response plan will also need to be developed and implemented.
- The camps or facilities used must comply with all building, safety and wastewater requirements and any jetty to be accessed as part of the event must be of an appropriate safety standard.

### ***Hosted camp accommodation***

There is a clear opportunity and demand for land-based, short-stay, tourist accommodation at the Abrolhos. One option for small-scale, land-based accommodation at the Abrolhos is to provide visitors the unique experience of staying overnight in camps, being hosted by a local fisher, aquaculture or tourism operator. This will provide opportunities for commercial operators to diversify their business, upgrade current infrastructure to a higher safety and amenity standard and support a wider range of visitor experiences, including agritourism.

Further consultation with the bodies corporate is needed to consider this type of tourism opportunity, work through the relevant compatibility issues and develop an agreed management framework. Opportunities will be considered once these steps are completed and the assessment guidelines and operational conditions and requirements are clear. There may be a need to restrict hosted camp accommodation opportunities and a strategic approach will be taken across the island groups, having regard for other types and locations of accommodation on the National Park and FHPA.

New purpose-built commercial tourist accommodation will not be considered on the Abrolhos Reserve during the life of the plan. DBCA will be considering nature-based tourism development proposals, including those incorporating overnight accommodation options, on the National Park. Additional opportunities for marine-based accommodation may also be considered within the Abrolhos FHPA. A competitive process seeking expressions of interest for nature-based tourism development proposals at the Abrolhos will occur over the life of the plan.

Private recreational camping on the Abrolhos Reserve will not be permitted. Noting the community demand for recreational camping options at the Abrolhos, DBCA will complete an assessment of islands in the National Park to determine their suitability for recreational camping over the life of the Houtman Abrolhos Islands National Park Management Plan 2022. If camping is permitted at designated sites on the National Park, and that activity spills over into adjacent Abrolhos Reserve intertidal areas, DPIRD will apply consistent arrangements to ensure practical management outcomes.

While this plan focuses on tourism growth opportunities on the Abrolhos Reserve, it is recognised that sustainable tourism development at the Abrolhos must be considered and planned across the land and water, requiring coordination with partner agencies.

DPIRD is committed to working collaboratively with DBCA, the WA Museum, MWDC, Tourism WA and the bodies corporate to ensure seamless planning and management of tourism at the Abrolhos regardless of tenure.

## Visitor education and interpretation

Information, education and interpretation will be of critical importance for Abrolhos Reserve visitors to raise awareness of its values, promote support for its management, and encourage community involvement and appropriate behaviour. It is particularly important for visitors to be well informed about which areas of the Reserve can be accessed, and which areas are privately leased and require permission to access.

DPIRD will work closely with DBCA, the WA Museum, the bodies corporate and commercial tour operators to ensure that accurate and appropriate information and resources are being provided to visitors. The delivery of off-site information will be a focus for interpretation. The DPIRD website will be a key location for information on the Abrolhos Reserve (and FHPA) with links to DBCA's *Explore Parks* website and the WA Museum website. The use of on-island signage will be limited as it is costly to maintain and can detract from the remote visitor experience.

## Management objectives and actions

<i>Management Objective 1 – Facilitate high quality low impact nature and cultural-based visitor experiences on the Abrolhos Reserve through effective management.</i>		
No.	Action	Priority
2.4(1)	In collaboration with DBCA, the WA Museum, MWDC, Tourism WA, CoGG, the bodies corporate and other key stakeholders, identify and progress nature-based tourism development opportunities at the Abrolhos across land tenures.	1
2.4(2)	Develop regulations to licence tourism activities on the Abrolhos Reserve, and provide for a coordinated, streamlined licensing approach where possible.	1
2.4(3)	Assist in the development of a code of conduct and other relevant resources for Abrolhos-based tourism operators and tour guides.	2
2.4(4)	Support the preparation and implementation of an integrated interpretation program for the Abrolhos.	2
2.4(5)	Support the preparation of visitor site plans to manage visitor access, safety risks and control visitor numbers through capacity setting, where required.	3
2.4(6)	Ensure the privacy and needs of the commercial fishing and aquaculture communities are considered as part of visitor planning and assessment processes.	Ongoing
2.4(7)	Monitor visitation to the Abrolhos Reserve and investigate ways to improve visitor data collection.	Ongoing

**Management Objective 2 – Enable access to and occupancy of the Abrolhos Reserve to support the operational needs of the tourism industry.**

No.	Action	Priority
2.4(8)	Work with the bodies corporate to consider an appropriate pathway to integrate other commercial uses, such as operational bases for nature-based commercial tour operators, into the existing body corporate framework.	2
2.4(9)	In partnership with the bodies corporate, develop guidelines, including an approvals process and criteria, for infrastructure access for the tourism sector.	2

**Management Objective 3 – Facilitate high-quality day visitation and services on some Reserve islands.**

No.	Action	Priority
2.4(10)	Work with the bodies corporate to facilitate guided day tour visitation to some Reserve islands for licensed and accredited commercial tour operators, including small expedition cruise vessels.	1
2.4(11)	In consultation with the bodies corporate and other relevant stakeholders, develop an approvals and assessment framework for commercial events.	3
2.4(12)	Liaise with the bodies corporate to consider the need to develop a management framework for non-commercial events on body corporate leased land.	3
2.4(13)	Encourage the bodies corporate to consider opportunities for the community halls and other community infrastructure on North, Pigeon and Little Rat Islands to be part of the day tourism offerings on the Abrolhos Reserve.	Ongoing

**Management Objective 4 – In partnership with DBCA and the business sector plan and facilitate viable and sustainable tourist accommodation options at the Abrolhos.**

No.	Action	Priority
2.4(14)	Collaborate with DBCA and other partner agencies to investigate suitable locations and options for new land-based built tourist accommodation at the Abrolhos.	1
2.4(15)	Liaise with the bodies corporate to further consider hosted camp accommodation opportunities and develop an appropriate approvals and assessment framework.	3

## 2.5 Abrolhos Community

Support a vibrant community with a strong sense of stewardship.

*Houtman Abrolhos Islands Strategic Direction 2020-24*

### Community values

Rock lobster fishing commenced at the Abrolhos in the 1920s. Historically, fishers, crews and their families lived on the islands during the fishing season and built small houses known as camps. Over time, the island groups grew into distinct communities with schools, community halls and sporting fields. A strong community has developed over multiple generations and fishers and their families have a long association, deep connection and very strong sense of place at the islands. The resident community has more recently expanded to include aquaculture operators and tourism businesses. Many others in the wider community also share a sense of attachment to the Abrolhos.

For the purpose of this plan, the Abrolhos community is defined as the people who reside, work and regularly recreate at the islands and share a strong sense of belonging, with common interests.



*Image 36 – North Island community. Credit: DPIRD.*



*Image 37 – Pigeon Island School.*



*Image 38 – North Is Community Hall.*

*Credit: DPIRD.*

## Adapting to change

In 2013, as a result of changes to the management of the West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery, the number of active rock lobster fishers at the Abrolhos reduced and there has subsequently been a loss in the sense of community. The distinctive 'fishing season' is no longer and fishers come and go in tune with their fishing activities to maximise economic return. Fishing families no longer live at the Abrolhos for long periods, the schools have all closed and many community events have ceased.

"Seeing Change – A photographic story of Abrolhos fishers" (Shaw, 2013) was an initiative undertaken to provide a snapshot of the Abrolhos community and to document the fishing community's experience of environmental and social change at the Abrolhos during that time. Notwithstanding, many fishermen have been able to adapt and there remains an important fishing community with a strong sense of stewardship for the islands. The deep sense of place and community that the current body corporate members express is profound.

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

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

*"It is part of our life and who we are today. We feel blessed and very fortunate to have had this lifestyle."*

*"My family has been crayfishing at the islands from just after World War II."*

*"It is where all our families come together regardless of their separate lifestyles."*

*Abrolhos Reserve and Fish Habitat Protection Area Consultation Report 2022*

The Abrolhos community is once again experiencing a period of change. With the recent creation of the National Park and a clear State Government objective to facilitate sustainable tourism development, there will be new and potentially competing interests for island use over the next ten years and beyond. It is critical that future land use development is managed carefully in order to balance the needs of the sectors and importantly, protect the values that make the Abrolhos such a unique and special place.

## A pathway for new land uses

A key initiative of the State Government's Strategic Direction is to facilitate sustainable economic development on the Abrolhos Reserve for a range of new commercial uses, consistent with the purposes of the Reserve. Government also commits to partnering and engaging with the Abrolhos community in planning and management to foster the sustainable co-existence of tourism, fishing and aquaculture.

Section 2.3 (Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture) discusses and identifies opportunities for commercial fishers (other than rock lobster) and fishing tour operators to gain access to island infrastructure on the Abrolhos Reserve to support their business, subject to assessment.

Section 2.4 (Tourism on the Reserve) discusses and identifies opportunities for commercial nature-based eco-tour operators to gain access to island infrastructure on the Abrolhos Reserve to support their business, subject to assessment. Section 2.4 also identifies other tourism growth opportunities including guided tours, commercial events and hosted camp accommodation.

**Table 2** below provides an overview of the current land use type and potential future land use opportunities on the Abrolhos Reserve for fishing, aquaculture, tourism and conservation purposes.

*Table 2: Current and future land use opportunities on the Abrolhos Reserve.*

Purpose	Type/Category	Explanation
Fishing	Operations base <i>(current – rock lobster)</i> <i>(future opportunity – other)</i>	Land may provide for camps and infrastructure which support commercial fishing operations.
Aquaculture	Operations base <i>(current)</i>	Land may provide for camps and infrastructure which support aquaculture or pearl farm operations.
Tourism	Operations base <i>(future opportunity)</i>	Land may provide for camps and infrastructure which support a commercial tour operator business (nature-based eco tour or fishing charter).
	Day services <i>(current)</i>	Land may provide opportunities for day visitation, e.g. guided tours and events.
	Hosted camp accommodation <i>(future opportunity)</i>	Land may provide opportunities for small-scale hosted camp accommodation.
Conservation	Research and Education <i>(current)</i>	Land may be suitable for access by research and/or education groups.
	Wildlife and Habitats	Land use development may be restricted due to the presence of important flora, fauna and habitat communities.

Working with all relevant stakeholders, a stepped approach will be undertaken over the next one to two years to consider opportunities to transition the Abrolhos Reserve to support new land uses in some areas (steps 1 – 3 below). The stepped approach, including any key Government principles, priorities and commitments, is provided below.

### **1. Review of existing infrastructure**

The first step will involve assessing the current status and occupation of camps and use of land-based infrastructure to determine if opportunities exist to utilise existing infrastructure for other commercial uses, as well as opportunities for camp rationalisation. This process could also identify if there are any body corporate members wishing to sell their camps, or willing to consider relocation.

**Key Principle** – To ensure that existing land-based infrastructure is being fully utilised before further expansion onto unbuilt areas.

**Key Commitment** – Existing active commercial rock lobster and aquaculture operators will not be forced to relocate to provide for other commercial uses.

## **2. Determine demand across sector groups**

There is a need to gain a clearer understanding of current and future access requirements of the different sector groups. DPIRD will facilitate an engagement process with relevant stakeholders to identify current and/or future access requirements of the commercial fishing, aquaculture and tourism sectors.

**Key Priority** – To meet the immediate access needs of the developing tourism industry, while maintaining those areas that are important in supporting active commercial rock lobster and aquaculture operations.

## **3. Individual island assessments**

In consultation with DBCA, the bodies corporate and other stakeholders as required, an assessment of each Reserve island (or portion), will be undertaken to identify its potential and opportunity to support other land uses (as identified in Table 2). It is recognised that due to existing commercial uses, different islands will have different solutions, and it may not be appropriate for new uses to be introduced on every Reserve island.

**Key Priority** – To explore options with the Easter Group Body Corporate for enabling a range of tourism outcomes in the south-east area of Rat Island. This includes a suitable all access pathway that will enable the public to safely transit from the airstrip to a multi-use public jetty.

## **4. Develop assessment framework**

Lastly, DPIRD will work with the bodies corporate and other stakeholders as required to develop an agreed pathway and assessment framework to support integration of other land uses onto the Abrolhos Reserve. This is expected to include some areas of body corporate land. Changes to current body corporate lease arrangements may need to be pursued, as well as Regulation amendments. Assessment for any new land-based infrastructure development must take account of the existing natural and cultural heritage values of the Reserve and adjacent areas of the National Park and FHPA, the fishing community values and coastal hazard risks.

This stepped approach will provide the time needed to properly consider and develop workable solutions to management issues associated with opening up the Abrolhos Reserve, and in particular body corporate land, to new commercial uses, and will provide for the flexibility needed to apply a range of outcomes.

As the Abrolhos continues to transition to support multi-sector industries, all Abrolhos Reserve, National Park and FHPA users and community members have a responsibility to develop an understanding of the activities, operations and needs of their neighbours and maintain respectful relations.

## **Infrastructure management**

In respect of infrastructure management on the Abrolhos Reserve, DPIRD is responsible for approving applications for new buildings and/or structural changes to existing buildings. DPIRD is also responsible for approving applications to transfer or remove camps and issuing work orders for remedial work to be undertaken on camps.

The bodies corporate is responsible for maintaining building standards in accordance with relevant building codes. The bodies corporate will also review building applications and provide advice to DPIRD as the approving authority and keep all buildings in good and safe repair and condition.

Government is focused on three key outcomes in relation to future management of Reserve infrastructure. This includes ensuring fishing camps are being used for their intended purpose and for the benefit of the State and the WA community, and to streamline and improve systems and processes where possible.

### **1. Improved administration**

A digital registration system will be developed to improve the administration of Reserve infrastructure. This digital system will provide a legal record of the ownership and transfer of ownership of fishing camps, buildings and all other structures. *Within this system, all fishing camps and other infrastructure will be held in the name of a person who is responsible for the activities and operations of a commercial fishing or aquaculture business, or, as may be relevant, tourism.*

### **2. Appropriate occupation and use**

A key priority for Government is to ensure that camps, or operational bases, are being used for an appropriate purpose, and in conjunction with an active commercial operation relevant to the commercial fishing, aquaculture or tourism industry. If a camp is not supporting a commercial operation, or it is no longer active, or in the case of an aquaculture licence, is not satisfying development conditions, the owner will likely be required to surrender or transfer their camp.

DPIRD will work in partnership with the bodies corporate to review and redefine the conditions on appropriate and acceptable camp use and occupation and reflect the outcomes in the body corporate lease agreements. The review will have specific regard for the following matters:

- differentiating and defining an active licence versus an operational licence;
- temporary transfer of entitlement;
- maximum camp holding entitlement;
- use and occupation of camps for maintenance purposes;
- succession planning and periods of business refinement;
- use and occupation of camps for lifestyle purposes;
- formal sub-leasing arrangements; and
- opportunities for simplifying and streamlining processes.

### **3. Improved condition of camps and infrastructure**

In recent years there has been a proactive program with body corporate members to improve the quality and safety of buildings and structures on the Abrolhos Reserve. This has included a targeted program to remove and demolish derelict, unsound and poor-condition camps on the Abrolhos Reserve. *Over the life of this plan there will be a continued focus on improving the quality, aesthetics and safety of camps and other infrastructure across the Reserve. Infrastructure on Reserve islands where tourist access or public visitation currently occurs will be prioritised (i.e. Basile, Post Office, Coronation, Leo, Rat and West Wallabi Islands).*



*Image 39 & 40 – Abrolhos fishing camps. Credit: DPIRD.*

It is noted that some Reserve islands are being substantially impacted by coastal inundation and require significant ongoing maintenance and remedial work. There may be a need to demolish some of these camps and support relocation of the fishing operations in the medium to long-term.

## **Telecommunications**

The Abrolhos Islands are located more than 60km offshore and have limited digital and telecommunications coverage. DPIRD acknowledges that the lack of adequate communication between islands and between the Abrolhos and the mainland creates constraints for the Abrolhos community, business operations, visitors and during emergency situations.

Installing small cell mobile phone towers will improve digital and telecommunications coverage at the Abrolhos in the short-term and emerging technologies are being investigated for broader coverage in the longer term.

DPIRD and the MWDC will continue to collaborate with DBCA and other relevant agencies and stakeholders to assess options for improving digital and telecommunications coverage at the Abrolhos and develop infrastructure where appropriate, and subject to funding.

## **Emergency response**

Emergency response arrangements for the Abrolhos are developed by the Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) for the CoGG, in which the Abrolhos Islands are included. Coordinated by the CoGG, these outline policies, procedures, strategies and priorities for emergency management and the roles and responsibilities of those involved. In addition, each body corporate is required to maintain an emergency management plan for their lease area and conduct emergency risk assessments in accordance with the lease agreement.

Silver Chain has operated the Remote Area Nursing Post (RANP) at the Abrolhos for many years, under contract with the Department of Health. The RANP is located on Rat Island and also services Pigeon Island. It operates seasonally, typically between March and June. Nursing services are provided to camp residents, tourists and workers.



Image 41 & 42 – Silver Chain Nursing Post, Rat Island. Credit: DPIRD.

DPIRD will maintain its presence and active engagement on the District Emergency Management Committee and the LEMC. DPIRD will provide support where possible to lead agencies and the bodies corporate in respect of improving emergency services at the Abrolhos and promote awareness of current procedures.

The Abrolhos FHPA Plan discusses marine safety and emergency matters in more detail.

## Community engagement

There is significant community interest in management of the Abrolhos across a wide range of sectors: commercial fishing, aquaculture, recreational fishing, charter fishing, tourism, conservation and heritage. DPIRD will work with DBCA and our partner agencies to increase public participation and engagement with local stakeholders and the wider community in management of the Abrolhos Reserve and create opportunities to share important management information.

The bodies corporate is integral to ensuring successful and effective management of the Abrolhos Reserve in respect of lease areas. DPIRD will continue working to build its relationship with the bodies corporate and will meet regularly to discuss and develop solutions to management and operational issues.

## Management objectives and actions

**Management Objective 1 – Facilitate community participation and involvement in management of the Abrolhos Reserve.**

No.	Action	Priority
2.5(1)	Meet regularly with the bodies corporate and partner agencies to discuss management of the Abrolhos Reserve, National Park and the FHPA.	Ongoing
2.5(2)	In partnership with DBCA, explore opportunities to enhance community and stakeholder engagement and promote information sharing.	2

**Management Objective 2 – Recognise and respect the social and community values of the fishing and aquaculture communities.**

No.	Action	Priority
2.5(3)	Ensure that any activities which may impact on the social and community values of the fishing and aquaculture communities are considered, assessed, and mitigated, where appropriate.	Ongoing

**Management Objective 3 – Facilitate sustainable economic development on the Arolhos Reserve for a range of new commercial purposes.**

No.	Action	Priority
2.5(4)	Support the bodies corporate to undertake a review of the status of existing land-based infrastructure to determine if any structures could be repurposed to provide for other uses.	2
2.5(5)	Liaise with relevant stakeholders to evaluate the current and future infrastructure access requirements for the commercial fishing, aquaculture and tourism industries.	2
2.5(6)	In consultation with DBCA, the bodies corporate and other stakeholders as required, undertake an assessment of each Reserve island to identify and map its potential and opportunity to support other land uses.	2
2.5(7)	Liaise with the Easter Group Body Corporate, the MWDC and the tourism sector to explore options for enabling low impact tourism outcomes, including public infrastructure, on Rat Island.	2
2.5(8)	Work with the bodies corporate and other stakeholders as required to develop an agreed pathway and assessment framework to support integration of other land uses onto the Arolhos Reserve.	2
2.5(9)	Progress any required Regulation and/or lease amendments to enable and facilitate new commercial uses on the Reserve.	3

**Management Objective 4 – Improve the management of infrastructure on the Arolhos Reserve and ensure appropriate use and occupation of camps.**

No.	Action	Priority
2.5(10)	Establish a digital registration system that provides a legal record of the ownership and transfer of ownership of structures.	2
2.5(11)	In partnership with the bodies corporate review and redefine the conditions on appropriate and acceptable camp use and occupation and reflect the outcomes in the body corporate lease agreements.	2
2.5(12)	Work with the bodies corporate to develop a strategy for managing any identified camps that do not support an active commercial fishing or aquaculture operation.	2

**Management Objective 5 – Improve the quality, aesthetics and safety of camps, buildings and jetties.**

No.	Action	Priority
2.5(13)	Continue to implement a targeted and prioritised program to assess the condition of land-based infrastructure and proactively remove all derelict, unsound, or poor-condition camps on the Reserve.	Ongoing
2.5(14)	As a priority, assess the safety standards of camps and infrastructure on Reserve islands where public visitation occurs and issue remedial work orders where required.	1

**Management Objective 6 – Improve public telecommunications to support community safety, visitor experiences and effective business practices of the tourism, fishing and aquaculture industries.**

No.	Action	Priority
2.5(15)	In collaboration with DBCA, continue to investigate options to improve digital and telecommunication coverage across the Abrolhos considering user needs, visual amenity, and impacts to natural and cultural heritage values.	Ongoing



Image 43 – West Wallabi Island community, Wallabi Group. Credit: DPIRD.

## 2.6 Governance

Develop a robust governance framework built on collaborative partnerships across government and stakeholders.

*Houtman Abrolhos Islands Strategic Direction 2020-24*

Governance refers to the ways in which an organisation is directed, controlled and held to account with a focus on performance and accountability. DPIRD's governance obligations are largely set out in legislation and policy that defines the principles, elements and arrangements that we use to achieve DPIRD's strategic goals and meet government and community expectations for our accountable use of public resources.

Stakeholders expect that DPIRD and partner agencies who are directly responsible for managing the Abrolhos follow the principles of good governance such as:

- Integrity – acting impartially, ethically, with integrity and in the interests of the public sector.
- Transparency – having clear procedures, roles and responsibilities for decision making, and being open about decisions and performance.
- Accountability – being answerable for decisions and actions as individuals and as a department and having appropriate arrangements in place to ensure partner agencies adhere to applicable standards.
- Efficiency and effectiveness – ensuring the best use of resources to further the purpose and performance of partner agencies.

### Whole-of-government management

As described in Section 1.2, a range of State Government agencies have management responsibilities at the Abrolhos, including DBCA, DPIRD, the WA Museum, DoH, the Department of Transport; and the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation (Tourism WA). The Abrolhos also lies within the local government area of the CoGG.

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, and this commitment was reaffirmed in the Strategic Direction (November 2020).

While this plan is one of a suite of plans that apply to the Abrolhos tenure, the natural, cultural heritage, tourism, fishing and community values of the islands and waters are intrinsically connected and DPIRD is committed to a well-integrated management approach capable of managing the values across the National Park, Abrolhos Reserve and Abrolhos FHPA.

A robust governance framework will be established between key agencies to consider strategic matters and policy issues of shared responsibility and/or mutual interest, and to ensure a cooperative inter-agency management approach. There will be a focus on improving the consistency and transparency of decision-making by Government and for decision-making to reflect, and have consideration, for the needs of all user groups.

At a local operational level, DBCA and DPIRD will continue to undertake activities in accordance with annual collaborative operational plans to deliver effective and efficient State Government operations, including through shared knowledge and resources.



*Image 44 – DPIRD Patrol Vessel Chalmers. Credit: DPIRD.*

Contemporary policy and legislation is required to protect and conserve the key values of the Abrolhos Reserve, and to assist in managing the impact of Reserve users on the National Park and Abrolhos FHPA. Appropriate resources, funding and revenue is a key part of achieving better management outcomes for the WA community. Compliance with management arrangements is of high value to the WA community and FHPA users. Stakeholders expect that an appropriate level of funding and resources is available to assist in compliance, enforcement and education activities.

### **Body corporate governance**

The bodies corporate have become a key and integral part of the Abrolhos community and play an important role in management and governance of the Abrolhos Reserve.

A key intent of entering into the original 2007 lease agreements was to devolve a significant percentage of Government's land occupancy management functions to the respective bodies corporate. This agreement provided members the opportunity to demonstrate a higher degree of island stewardship, have ownership and input into how lease areas are managed, and effectively become a self-governing authority over their leased land.

The body corporate lease framework has provided a reasonably effective model to manage the bodies corporate membership and administer the buildings on the Abrolhos Reserve. The framework has also presented a number of challenges for both Government and the bodies corporate and there is a need to explore options for improving overall governance arrangements so that better management outcomes can be achieved.

DPIRD is committed to continue working with the bodies corporate in relation to management of the leased land and the Abrolhos more generally. This management plan includes a number of high level aspirations and opportunities needing further consideration by Government and the bodies corporate during the life of the plan. DPIRD supports the establishment of a representative bodies corporate committee that understands the needs of the fishing, aquaculture and tourism industries and can work closely with and provide a united voice to Government.

In light of the release of the State Government's Strategic Direction and new management direction for the Abrolhos Reserve, FHPA and National Park, it is timely to commence a review of the current body corporate lease agreements. It is important for the leases to continue to address current issues, have the capacity and flexibility to continually improve land management practices and aim to meet the needs of both the State Government and the bodies corporate membership. Resourcing opportunities will be considered as part of the lease review, as well as identifying opportunities to create consistency across the leases and Constitutional arrangements.

Given the recent progress in moving towards managing aquatic resources under ARMA, it will be of critical importance for any review of the body corporate lease agreements to have close regard for a future ARMA operating environment. ARMA will result in preparation of an Aquatic Resource Use Plan (ARUP) for the West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery and MFLs will become obsolete, which in turn will have a direct impact on operation of the leases. DPIRD will collaborate with the WRLC and the bodies corporate during development of the ARUP to re-define appropriate camp ownership eligibility criteria for the commercial rock lobster industry.

It is also important for any review of the body corporate lease agreements to occur concurrently alongside a review of the regulations that apply to the Abrolhos Reserve.

While the lease review will consider the operation of the lease in its entirety, other key elements will include a review of:

- Wastewater management
- Permitted use of land
- Occupation and categories of membership
- Provision for agreed tourism activities
- Definition of a Tourism Licence
- Management of improvements (infrastructure)
- Use of land for commercial gain

## **Performance, monitoring and review**

Progress towards achieving the objectives of this plan will be demonstrated by regular monitoring, evaluation, and reporting to investigate the effectiveness of management actions and identify opportunities for improvement. The status of implementation of the management actions will be monitored annually and a five-year public review of the plan will commence in 2027.

DPIRD will continue to collaborate with partner agencies and research organisations to carry out or support targeted research programs to either monitor flora and fauna on the Abrolhos Reserve or improve our understanding of cultural heritage values. The outcomes of these programs will help to inform future planning and management.

## Management objectives and actions

**Management Objective 1** – *Work with partner agencies to establish an effective and cooperative inter-agency approach that will facilitate seamless management across all tenures.*

No.	Action	Priority
2.6(1)	Establish an ongoing governance framework to work collaboratively with DBCA, the WA Museum and other partner agencies to plan, prepare and deliver effective, efficient, strategic and complementary management of the Abrolhos, across tenure.	1
2.6(2)	Work with partner agencies to improve cooperative operational management arrangements including sharing of services and assets, collaborative operational planning, and cross-authorisation of staff.	Ongoing

**Management Objective 2** – *Improve body corporate governance and the effectiveness of the lease model.*

No.	Action	Priority
2.6(3)	Support the bodies corporate to establish a representative committee to improve ongoing collaboration and communication with government.	1
2.6(4)	In collaboration with the bodies corporate, commence a review of the current body corporate lease agreements to seek alignment with the management plan, identify opportunities for consistency, and ensure future capacity for commercial use of the Abrolhos Reserve in respect of fishing, aquaculture and tourism.	2

**Management Objective 3** – *Ensure that Reserve legislation and policy is contemporary and fit for purpose and that decision-making processes are consistent and transparent.*

No.	Action	Priority
2.6(5)	Work with stakeholders to develop and implement contemporary Abrolhos Reserve policies and legislation in accordance with the priorities and timeframes set out in this plan.	Ongoing

**Management Objective 4** – *Identify funding and resources required to effectively achieve State Government's strategic direction for the Abrolhos.*

No.	Action	Priority
2.6(6)	Introduce a long-term sustainable funding and resourcing framework to support effective administration and management of the Abrolhos Reserve.	1
2.6(7)	Develop and implement fee schedules for approvals and licences on the Abrolhos Reserve.	2

**Management Objective 5 – Implement, monitor and review management actions and support collaborative research that is aimed at informing future management.**

No.	Action	Priority
2.6(8)	Monitor implementation of this plan through annual monitoring on the status of implementation of actions in accordance with priorities.	Annually
2.6(9)	In collaboration with stakeholders, undertake a formal mid-term review of the plan commencing in 2027.	3
2.6(10)	Identify opportunities to collaborate with partner agencies and research organisations to carry out targeted research programs to support adaptive management.	Ongoing



Image 45 – DPIRD Operations Base (Saville Kent Centre), Rat Island. Credit: DPIRD.

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## Glossary

Term, acronym or abbreviation	Definition or term in full
Abrolhos	Houtman Abrolhos (land and waters)
Abrolhos FHPA	Abrolhos Islands Fish Habitat Protection Area
Abrolhos Reserve	All the land and waters contained in Class A Reserve 20253 (managed by DPIRD on behalf of the Minister for Fisheries)
ACWA	Aquaculture Council of WA
Aquaculture	The keeping, breeding, culturing or harvesting of fish
ARMA	<i>Aquatic Resources Management Act 2016</i>
ARUP	Aquatic Resource Use Plan
BC Act	<i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i>
Bodies corporate	The Abrolhos Islands Bodies Corporate which is comprised of four body corporate groups
Biosecurity	The management of the risk of animal and plant pests and diseases entering, emerging, establishing or spreading in Western Australia
Black water	Waste from a toilet
CALM Act	<i>Conservation and Land Management Act 1984</i>
Class A Reserve	A form of tenure of Crown land having the greatest degree of protection
CoGG	City of Greater Geraldton
commercial	The purpose of sale or any other purpose that is directed to gain or reward
Crown land	Public lands, owned by the Government
DBCA	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
DPIRD	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
DoH	Department of Health
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>
Fishing tour	Means a tour a central purpose of which is to provide an opportunity for recreational fishing and may include the provision of fishing guidance, fishing gear, accommodation or transport
FRMA	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i>
Grey water	Wastewater that has been used for washing, laundering, bathing or showering
High-water mark	The highest point reached by a high tide
Intertidal area	The area that sits between the low and high-water mark
LA Act	<i>Land Administration Act 1997</i>
Low-water mark	The lowest point reached by a low tide
Mid West Region	Mid West Region of Western Australia as defined in the <i>Regional Development Commissions Act 1993</i>
National Park	Houtman Abrolhos Islands National Park (vested in the Conservation and Parks Commission)
Nature-based eco tour	Tourism relating to the natural environment, which may include the viewing or feeding of fish but does not include the taking of fish

Partner agency	A department or agency with legislative responsibility for management of the Abrolhos.
Regulations	<i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>
State waters	The area of waters within the limits of the State of Western Australia adjacent to the Abrolhos Islands from the high-water mark to the seaward limits of the coastal waters of the State
Strategic Direction	The Houtman Abrolhos Islands Strategic Direction 2020 – 24
Tenure	The manner in which a party holds or occupies land
This plan	Houtman Abrolhos Islands Reserve Management Plan 2022 - 2032
WAFIC	Western Australian Fishing Industry Council
WA Museum	Western Australian Museum
Whole of government	Collaborative management approach that includes more than one government agency to manage a particular community asset

# Appendix 1 – Reserve Land Management Orders

FORM LAA-1023

SECTION 46

WESTERN AUSTRALIA  
 LAND ADMINISTRATION ACT 1997 as amended  
 TRANSFER OF LAND ACT 1893 as amended

## MANAGEMENT ORDER (XE)

RESERVE DESCRIPTION (NOTE 1)

EXTENT

VOLUME

FOLIO

20253	Whole	0000 3157	000 031
20253	Whole	3112	263
20253	Whole	3112	264
20253	Whole	0000 3157	000 032



Refer to  
1991343

MANAGEMENT BODY (NOTE 2)

Minister for Fisheries of 168 St Georges Terrace, Perth.

CONDITIONS (NOTE 3)

1. To be utilised for the designated purpose of CONSERVATION OF FLORA AND FAUNA, TOURISM, AND FOR PURPOSES ASSOCIATED WITH THE FISHING AND AQUACULTURE INDUSTRIES.

2. Power to lease (or sub lease or licence) for the designated purpose is granted for the whole or any portion thereof for any term not exceeding forty two (42) years from the date of the lease subject to the approval in writing of the Minister for Lands being first obtained to each and every lease or assignment of lease, pursuant also to the provisions of section 19 of the Land Administration Act 1997.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS (IN THE NAME OF AND ON BEHALF OF THE STATE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA) ORDERS THAT THE CARE, CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT OF THE ABOVE RESERVE BE PLACED WITH THE MANAGEMENT BODY DESCRIBED ABOVE FOR THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH THE LAND COMPRISING THE RESERVE IS RESERVED UNDER SECTION 41 OF THE LAND ADMINISTRATION ACT 1997, AND FOR PURPOSES ANCILLARY OR BENEFICIAL TO THAT PURPOSE TO THE CONDITIONS ABOVE

Dated this 20th day of June in the year 2009

ATTESTATION (NOTE 4)

*[Signature]*  
 SENIOR STATE LAND OFFICER  
 STATE LANDS - MID WEST  
 STATE LAND SERVICES

WESTERN AUSTRALIA  
 LAND ADMINISTRATION ACT 1997 as amended  
 TRANSFER OF LAND ACT 1893 as amended

**VARIATION OF MANAGEMENT ORDER (XE)**

ORDER (NOTE 1)	DESCRIPTION OF LAND (NOTE 2)	EXTENT	VOLUME	FOLIO
K991346	Lot 12622 on Deposited Plan 28084	Whole	3157	031
	Lot 12279 on Deposited Plan 193982	Whole	3112	263
	Lot 12280 on Deposited Plan 193981	Whole	3112	264
	Lot 12623 on Deposited Plan 28084	Whole	3157	032

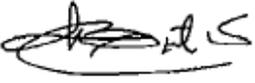
**VARIATIONS TO MANAGEMENT ORDER CONDITIONS (NOTE 3)**

To now exclude the following words from condition 2:  
 to the approval in writing of the Minister for Lands being first obtained to each and every lease or assignment of lease, pursuant also.

**THE MINISTER FOR LANDS ORDERS THAT THE CONDITIONS OF THE ABOVE MANAGEMENT ORDER BE VARIED AS DESCRIBED ABOVE**

Dated this 27<sup>th</sup> day of February in the year 2012

**ATTESTATION (NOTE 4)**



**A/ SENIOR STATE LAND OFFICER  
 STATE LANDS - MID WEST  
 STATE LAND SERVICES**

WESTERN AUSTRALIA  
 LAND ADMINISTRATION ACT 1997  
 TRANSFER OF LAND ACT 1893 as amended

**AMENDMENT OF RESERVE (XE)**

RESERVE (NOTE 1)	DESCRIPTION OF LAND (NOTE 2)	EXTENT	VOLUME	FOLIO
20253	Lot 12279 on Deposited Plan 193982	Whole	3112	263
	Lot 12280 on Deposited Plan 193981	Whole	3112	264
	Lot 12622 on Deposited Plan 28084	Whole	3157	31
	Lot 12623 on Deposited Plan 28084	Whole	3157	32

DESCRIPTION OF RESERVE AMENDMENT (NOTE 3)

To include Lots 600, 700-703, 800-806, 900-913 and 3050 on Deposited Plan 415741 in lieu of Lot 12279 on Deposited Plan 193982, Lot 12280 on Deposited Plan 193981 and Lots 12622 and 12623 on Deposited Plan 58084 and its area being reduced to 286.2750 hectares, accordingly.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS (IN THE NAME OF AND ON BEHALF OF THE STATE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA) ORDERS THAT THE RESERVE BE AMENDED AS DESCRIBED ABOVE

Dated this 5 day of July in the year 2019

ATTESTATION

*J Newman*

NAME: Tewera Jane Newman  
 A/ SENIOR STATE LAND OFFICER  
 TEAM: Delivery  
 Position No. 25287