Have your say

The EPA is calling for community input on current and proposed pressures on the Exmouth Gulf and how they are/will impact on the area’s environmental, social and cultural values.

We are inviting you to make a submission through our online Consultation Hub and answer the following questions:

1. What are the values (environmental, social and cultural) you associate or identify with in and around Exmouth Gulf?
2. What activities do you engage with in and around Exmouth Gulf?
3. What environmental pressures do you observe in and around Exmouth Gulf?
4. What environmental pressures in and around Exmouth Gulf affect you/your sector or business?
5. Are there other activities that are proposed (or likely to be proposed) that you are aware of, which will impact the Exmouth Gulf?

You can also address the five questions via email: exmouthgulf@epa.wa.gov.au

Or hard copy:

EPA Exmouth Gulf strategic advice
Locked Bag 10, Joondalup DC WA 6919

Submissions close 5pm 11 November 2020.

Background

In August 2020 the Minister for Environment made a request to the EPA to provide strategic advice under Section 16(e) of the Environmental Protection Act 1986 (EP Act) on the potential cumulative impacts of the proposed activities and developments on the environmental, social and cultural values of Exmouth Gulf.

The EPA has agreed to this request.

The cumulative impact study is scheduled for completion by the end of June 2021 and will take into account a number of new and existing potentially significant proposals in and around the Exmouth Gulf.

The Minister expects this strategic advice will be material to consideration of the EPA’s final reports on the Subsea 7 Pipeline Fabrication Facility proposal, the Shire of Exmouth scheme amendments and current and future proposals in the Exmouth Gulf area.
Is this a chance to comment on the Subsea 7 proposal at Learmonth?

No. This is not an opportunity to comment specifically on the potential impacts of the Subsea 7 proposal. The Subsea 7 proposal underwent separate public consultation in late 2019. This consultation is about collating the community’s view on the current and proposed pressures facing the Exmouth Gulf and how they will impact on the area’s values.

**Proposed timeline**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Action</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday 21 October</strong></td>
<td>Public consultation begins.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday 21-23 October</strong></td>
<td>EPA visits Exmouth, meets with key stakeholders.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday 11 November</strong></td>
<td>Public consultation closes.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>November-December</strong></td>
<td>EPA reviews public responses and feedback from stakeholder engagement.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>February/March 2021 (TBC)</strong></td>
<td>EPA Board consultation in Exmouth. Opportunity for further community feedback.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>April-May</strong></td>
<td>EPA Board considers draft s16(e) advice.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>June</strong></td>
<td>EPA delivers s16(e) advice to Minister for Environment.</td>
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**Scope of study**

In accordance with the powers and definitions outlined in the EP Act, the EPA will provide strategic advice to the Minister for Environment on the current state of the key environmental, social and cultural values in Exmouth Gulf, and the potential impacts on those values from current and proposed activities and developments.

This advice is not intended to outline a plan for the future development of the Gulf. Instead, it is intended to provide information and recommendations to aid future decision making on significant proposals.