

# gnaraloo wilderness foundation

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## Future Directions for the Ningaloo Coast Regional Strategy

Project Manager

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via: regionalnorthplanning@dplh.wa.gov.au

### Submission by the Gnaraloo Wilderness Foundation

#### Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area

The Gnaraloo Wilderness Foundation (GWF) is a not-for-profit charity with a broad membership. For background about the organisation, please see <http://gnaraloo.org/our-charter/> and for profiles of the wilderness area that we work in: <http://gnaraloo.org/the-gnaraloo-wilderness-area/>

The GWF makes the following points for consideration and inclusion in future planning policy for the Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area:

1. The Ningaloo Coast is the Great Barrier Reef of Western Australia and offers enormous advantages and opportunities to the State of Western Australia.
2. The focus by the State Government of Western Australia on the protection of the Ningaloo Coast has dissipated over the years during 2008 to 2019. A strong position on the Ningaloo Coast by whole of the State Government needs to be restated.
3. World Heritage values must be protected by the State Government. It needs to make and control planning decisions to ensure alignment with World Heritage values. This responsibility cannot be divested to multiple and separate local government authorities, such as to Carnarvon and Exmouth.
4. The GWF supports the continuation of the spirit and intent of the *Ningaloo Coast Regional Strategy, Carnarvon to Exmouth* (Western Australian Planning Commission, August 2004) and continuation of the broad environmental and planning guidelines and principles in it.
5. The GWF and its membership strongly support a policy decision that retains Gnaraloo Bay as an important day use site and wilderness locality sans any tourism accommodation nodes. This is in part because of the presence of

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endangered loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*) sea turtles. Information at <http://gnaraloo.org/gnaraloo-turtle-conservation-program/> and <http://gnaraloo.org/our-reports-and-papers/>

6. The GWF and its membership are strongly opposed to any new tourism node development along the Gnaraloo coastline, particularly any accommodation proposals for Gnaraloo Bay and/or Gnaraloo Cape Farquhar as both these locations are critical nesting habitat for endangered sea turtles. See **attached** report and 10-year infographic poster with new information and data that was not available at the time of writing of the Ningaloo Coast Regional Strategy:

*Gnaraloo Turtle Conservation Program. Gnaraloo Bay Rookery and Gnaraloo Cape Farquhar Rookery, Report 2008 - 2018. Gnaraloo Wilderness Foundation, Western Australia, [www.gnaraloo.org](http://www.gnaraloo.org)*

Yours sincerely

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Chair: Gnaraloo Wilderness Foundation

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