

Houtman Abrolhos Islands

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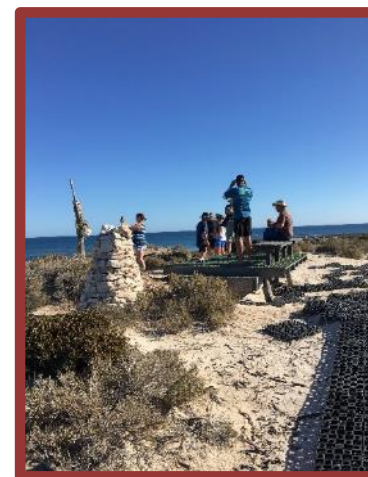
Key Messages



Background



Current



Future



Background

A long history of whaling and guano mining has given way to fishing and tourism. Remnants of the Abrolhos' colourful history remains.



Structures built by the *Batavia* survivors, early explorers and guano miners can still be seen today.

Current

The Abrolhos is currently a Class A Reserve vested with the Minister for Fisheries and encompasses all land mass (120+ islands) with a purpose of:

‘Conservation of flora and fauna, tourism, and for purposes associated with the fishing and aquaculture industries.’





DBCA/DPIRD established an **interagency project team (IPT)** to work collaboratively on a whole-of-Government solution to address existing issues in relation to;

- underdeveloped tourism product
- visitor access to islands
- visitor risk
- environmental impacts

Other key stakeholders will be invited as required to participate in the IPT.

➤ Draft **boundaries** have been discussed and Body Corporate areas will continue under DPIRD management.

Future Opportunities

- In October 2017, the Premier announced his commitment to the creation of the Abrolhos Islands National Park.
- Marine areas will continue to be managed by DPIRD.
- **\$10 million** allocation in 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 to DPIRD for the development of tourism infrastructure.





Lesser Noddy



Tammar Wallaby

The creation of a **National Park** will promote, encourage and facilitate **conservation of biodiversity** while providing nature based tourism and public recreation under the *CALM Act 1984*.



Abrolhos Button Quail

World class facilities-The Gap Albany



1h 45 min from Geraldton-Kalbarri National Park



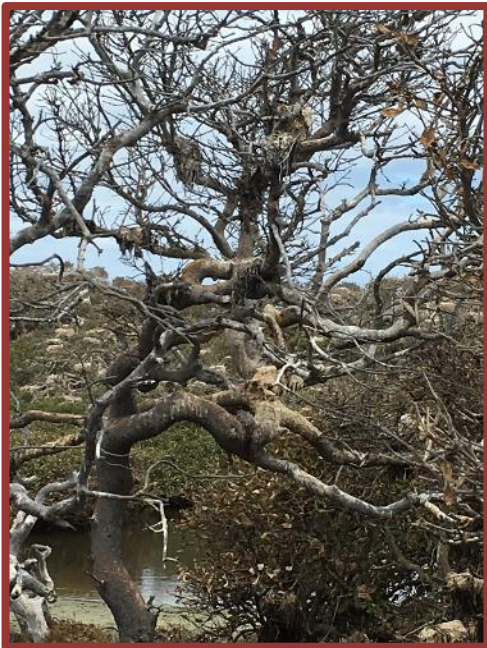
Balancing conservation with tourism



DPIRD/MWDC \$10million funding will focus on the Wallabi Group. DPIRD with DBCA will focus on:

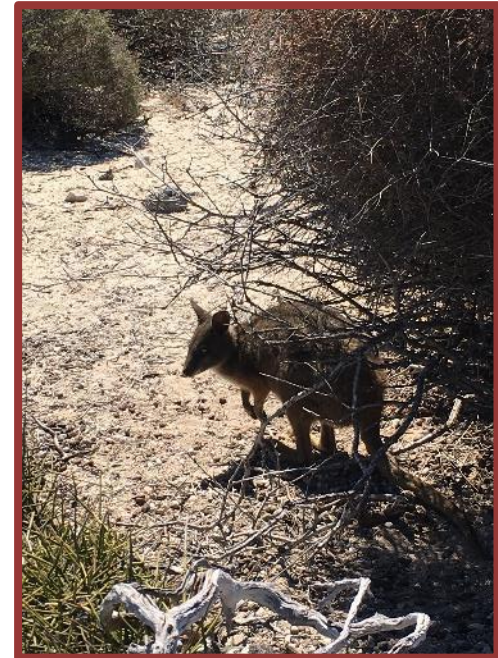
- development of a vision for the National Park with input from stakeholders;
- master planning to guide future opportunities;
- tourism planning and promotions;
- governance; and
- detailed site planning and installation of infrastructure for:
 - East Wallabi airstrip precinct;
 - Turtle Bay visitor infrastructure;
 - Beacon Island visitor infrastructure; and
 - interpretation planning for all sites.





DBCA will aim to create the National Park in 2019.

Mid West Development Commission and the City of Greater Geraldton through the Commonwealth Regional Growth Fund has applied for **\$10million + \$3million** in matched funding for the development of tourism on the Abrolhos.



MWDC/DPIRD \$10 million + \$3 million from the Shire in matched funding to:



- build on DPIRD/DBCA planning and design;
- develop tourism and visitor infrastructure for the Wallabi group, Easter group and Southern group;
- Geraldton infrastructure servicing the Abrolhos Islands;
- governance; and
- land management.

