The Murujuga rangers from the Murujuga Land and Sea Unit (MLSU) conduct patrols and undertake works throughout the national park. Patrols are conducted regularly by members of the group Aboriginal people employed by MAC, and engaged by Parks and Wildlife to provide land management services throughout the Murujuga National Park. The Murujuga ranger team consists mostly of local language and culture knowledge. The ranger team operates under the RESPECT motto, an acronym which incorporates seven important values of Murujuga.

R Rock art
E Environment
S Sea country
T Truth
P Possibility
E Equality
C Community
T Respect

Murujuga rangers from the MLSU are employed by the Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation. The Murujuga Land and Sea Unit Ranger Program (Headquarters) was established as a result of the Burrup Peninsula Agreement reached in 2003 and described at the time as the most comprehensive negotiated native title settlement in Australia. The agreement allowed non-industrial land on the Burrup Peninsula to be transferred as freehold title to Traditional Owners of the area. The land is now vested as freehold land under the authority of the Western Australian Government, with the majority of the area managed by the Department of Parks and Wildlife and the remainder by the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and MAC. The recognition of ongoing Aboriginal interests and responsibilities for managing country are at the core of this innovative and inclusive approach. Being a newly established park, the management strategy of the Murujuga National Park was developed in consultation with the Ngarluma, Yindjibarndi, Yaburara, Mardudhunera and the Woon-goo-tt-oo, known collectively in local language as ‘Ngarda-ngarli’. The land is leased back to the Ngarluma, Yindjibarndi and Yaburara, and recognition of this lease is a key element in the ongoing management of the park.

Important objectives of joint management include:

• Ngarluma cultural protocols on how decisions should be made and are implemented.
• Contemporary park management skills are available to park council members
• Ngarda-ngarli will strive to meet their obligations to country after culture and country are respected; ownership; and satisfy their people’s aspirations of benefits from land and recreational values, and provide for managed access to country.

Joint management

Murujuga National Park

#### More information

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Emergencies – call Triple Zero ‘000’

Online resources:


Cover top Murujuga Rangers with Murujuga National Park sign.

Cover bottom North-west Burrup Peninsula beach.

Photo – Laurina Bullen/Parks and Wildlife

Visitor guide

This document is available in alternative formats on request.

Information current at February 2015.
A visual identity for the national park is being created including a signage strategy. Park boundary signs have been installed by the Murujuga ranger team at entrance points to the national park, with additional signage to be erected in line with the strategy. Wildlife is being monitored throughout the park by a range of methods under an ongoing program. Setting camera traps in various locations provides the opportunity to collect wildlife data, while creating opportunities to train Murujuga rangers in nature conservation techniques used by Parks and Wildlife. While setting cameras in 2014, tracks of the northern quoll species were found on the beaches. This was regarded as a significant find as this animal was thought to no longer exist on the Burrup Peninsula. Other wildlife species including the perentie (lunthawal), goanna (biriwigara), Pilbara olive python (bujulmardal), Rothchild’s rock wallaby (jadurnmarra), euro or hill kangaroo (bigrupa) and numerous bird species (bugatubugara) have also been found.

Park planning
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Parks and Wildlife have provided the Murujuga Ranger team with 1080 poison bait training with the objective of safeguarding native animals from feral cats and foxes, which occur in the park. Signage and information are provided to advise of baiting activities. Within the national park, threatened ecological communities are being monitored and managed to preserve their natural values. Murujuga National Park is a popular research destination for both local and international scientists.

MAC is developing the Murujuga Cultural Management Plan (MCMMP) to sit alongside the park’s management plan. This aims to promote a thorough understanding of Murujuga country, knowledge and traditional values. It will provide culturally appropriate information about plants, animals, Aboriginal culture and protocols, and access to places. The MCMMP is being created in close consultation with MAC elders and the local Aboriginal community.

Vehicle access within and adjacent to the park is being reviewed, to be followed by planning and establishment of appropriate areas for visitor recreation. Current vehicle access will be mapped, and assessed culturally. Community consultation will be undertaken to ensure community views regarding tracks and access within Murujuga are taken into account before decisions are made.

Boat launching
There are informal boat ramps at Withnell Bay and Cowrie Cove. Withnell Bay is outside the national park. Access roads are rough and normally require high clearance or four-wheel drive vehicles. There are two boat ramps in Dampier: the public ramp near the Windy Ridge Oval and the private ramp at the Hampton Harbour Boat and Sailing Club.

Murujuga National Park access from boat
Visitors can access the national park by boat, allowing access to the various beaches around the Burrup Peninsula, which are inaccessible by four-wheel drive. Please remember that climbing on rocks is not advised for cultural safety reasons. Pets and fires are not permitted in the national park.

The City of Karratha manages the popular Hearson Cove beach, which is situated adjacent to the national park and is frequented by the local community and visitors for recreational purposes. Surrounded by Murujuga National Park, Hearson Cove is important for the joint managers of Murujuga who hope to work together with them to create a foreshore management plan, ensuring the sustainable use and management of the area. Possible future facilities may include walking trails, basic camping areas, picnic areas, viewpoints, interpretive material, swimming areas, rock art viewing areas and guided tours to areas by MAC rangers or commercial tour operators.

A comprehensive feasibility study, which commenced in early 2014, continues for a proposal to site a multi-purpose Murujuga Living Knowledge Centre in or near the park. Over the long term, Ngarda-Ngarli seek to manage the park with a greater degree of independence. This will be achieved through ongoing joint management and the sharing of knowledge and ongoing training opportunities between Parks and Wildlife and MAC.