Caring for heritage

The Aboriginal and natural sites in this area are irreplaceable. These sites contribute to the history and culture of Western Australia and are an important component of indigenous cultural heritage. Their cultural, scientific, educational and historic significance is recognised locally, nationally and internationally.

Heritage sites are fragile and can be easily damaged. When visiting heritage sites be aware of the following: please respect their importance and don't touch them.

- Avoid photography using flash
- Avoid natural and artificial light
- Avoid the use of metal tools

In the Dampier Archipelago

- Caring for heritage
- Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972
- Indigenous Affairs
- Ph (08) 9144 4337
- Department of Environment and Conservation
- Ph (08) 9182 2000
- Karratha Industrial Estate
- Pilbara Regional Office
- Department of Indigenous Affairs
- Ph (08) 9235 8300
- Dampier Archipelago
- Please return unwanted brochures to distribution points

Dampier Archipelago Island reserves

Caring for the Dampier Archipelago

- Fishing is permitted only on selected islands up to 100 metres of the high water mark. For more information contact Department of Fisheries.
- Fish for the future. Observe size, bag and possession limits. Your return will only be sustainable if fish are handled and kept alive.
- Anchor in sand to protect fragile coral, sponge, seagrass and seaweed communities.
- Minimum distance to marine wildlife by following the observation guidelines for whales, dugongs and turtles.
- Take care not to disturb seals on the islands. Many wildlife feed on the ground or in shallows close to the beach. Do not walk in areas of nesting birds below the high water line and keep your distance from clear patches of nesting grounds.
- Exercise caution when boating for marine wildlife. Reduce speed in shallow areas and where animals have been sighted.
- Boats are damaged and animals are killed by collisions.
- Please do not collect shells. Some shells provide homes for animals such as the hermit crab and scorpion.

Recreational fishing

To conserve our precious fish stocks, fishing regulations apply throughout Western Australia. For the most up-to-date information on fishing sites in the North Coast Region, check the Department of Fisheries website (www.fish.wa.gov.au) or contact your nearest Department of Fisheries office before going fishing. These apply for recreational fishing of any size, age and possession limits for all recreational fishing activities.

Help ensure there will be fish for the future by observing size, bag and possession limits and keeping angler catch levels as low as possible.

More information

Department of Environment and Conservation
Pilbara Regional Office
Cnr Acacia and Marion roads
Karratha Industrial Estate
Karratha 0814
Ph (08) 9442 8600
Fax (08) 9444 4110

Department of Fisheries
Karratha Stores Office
Unit 111/11 Open Court
Karratha 0814
Ph (08) 9444 4237
Fax (08) 9444 4464

Department of Indigenous Affairs
Ph (08) 9235 8300

Wildlife & Forests

Fishing zones

- Pattern of zone
- Satellite fishing
- Fisheries licences
- Recreational fishing
- Protected zones

Fishing in coastal waters

- Pattern of zone
- Look for signs
- Fishing licenses
- Recreational fishing

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Our Pilbara Heritage

Aboriginal heritage

Many thousands of Aboriginal rock engravings, shell middens, stone arrangements and artefact sites are located in the Dampier Archipelago and Burrup Peninsula. These features are evidence of at least 20,000 years of human habitation by past Aboriginal occupants. Some sites date back to the last ice age.

The Dampier Archipelago is acknowledged through the National Heritage Listing of the area. Identified as one of the densest concentrations of Aboriginal heritage values.

This protection is important as some islands maintain unique habitats for plants and animals, undamaged by feral animals and weeds. Some islands are classed as Special Conservation Zones where no public access is allowed as they provide nesting sites for threatened seabirds, penguins and other seabirds, sea eagles are frequently seen soaring over the islands, like the Burrup Peninsula, offer the unique opportunity to see excellent examples of Aboriginal heritage, lifestyles and artefacts. The islands, like the Burrup Peninsula, offer the unique opportunity to see excellent examples of Aboriginal heritage, lifestyles and artefacts.

The Dampier Archipelago, 42 islands, islets and rocks, all within a 4-kilometre radius of Dampier, has exceptional natural beauty, high conservation values and sustainable heritage values. Many of the Archipelago’s islands are reserves managed by the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC). The protection of these islands is important as it helps to maintain unique habitats for plants and animals. The Dampier Archipelago during the summer visitor season, are especially important to the many island reserves, as they provide nesting sites for threatened seabirds, penguins and other seabirds.

The Dampier Archipelago is the largest breeding colony of sea birds in the Indo-Pacific region, one of the largest in the world. Many seabirds lay eggs on the ground or in burrows among the rock piles on the larger islands or, if very lucky, seen in the Dampier Archipelago and during the summer visitors have the opportunity to watch female flatback turtles. These turtles return to the same islands year after year to lay their eggs. The turtles are a popular attraction for visitors to the Archipelago.

The Dampier Archipelago’s scenic landscape of spinifex-covered islands, dramatic cliffs of jumbled red rocks and white sandy beaches contrast against aqua warm seas and bright blue skies. It provides a visual feast for all who visit and a wealth of recreational opportunities.

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Heritage sites are fragile and can be easily damaged. When scientific, educational and historic significance is recognised irreplaceable. These sites contribute to the history and culture of the area. 

Aboriginal heritage
Many thousands of Aboriginal rock engravings, shell artefacts, and other historic objects are found across the Dampier Archipelago. These outstanding examples of Aboriginal heritage and culture within the ancient landscape have been acknowledged through the National Heritage Listing of the Dampier Archipelago.  

European heritage
Archipelago was Englishman William Dampier aboard the Endeavour in 1699. Between 1870 and 1900 Flying Foam Passage was the major pearling area of the North West. The remains of the pearlers and their camps can still be found across the Dampier Archipelago, especially at the islands of Koh and Europ, where the remains of a large pearling station can be seen in the Dampier Archipelago. 

World heritage
Coral reefs, sponge gardens, sea grass and more than 650 species of fish make snorkelling popular. Whale watching is popular between June and September when migrating stocks of whales pass through the archipelago. 

The Dampier Archipelago's scenic landscape of spinifex-sandy beaches contrast against aqua waters and bright blue skies. This natural beauty, high conservation values and outstanding biodiversity known in Western Australia, and is comparable with the Great Barrier Reef. Coral reefs, sponge gardens, sea grass and more than 650 species of fish make snorkelling popular.
them. Under the If you find engravings, artefacts or other cultural landscape heritage sites are destroyed or damaged information about locally, nationally and internationally.

component of indigenous cultural heritage. Their cultural, identity of the local community and are an invaluable

The Aboriginal and historical sites in this area are Caring for heritage

Located in the Dampier Archipelago and Burrup Peninsula. These outstanding examples of Aboriginal heritage circular stone arrangements.

Although the islands now known as the Dampier Archipelago was Englishman William Dampier aboard the

Relics of later occupation can be seen on the islands with on Malus Island are the remnants of a whaling station that

As part of Indigenous Affairs

www.fish.wa.gov.au

Ph (08) 9182 2000

Karratha WA 6714

cnr Anderson and Mardie

Pilbara Regional Office

Caring for the Dampier Archipelago

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