



Where things stand right now

18 December, 2017

In October 2017, Subsea 7 referred their **Learmonth Bundle Site Facility** proposal for Heron Point, Exmouth, to the state's environmental protection body (EPA). If built, this project will impact the environmental values of Exmouth Gulf and the Ningaloo Reef World Heritage Area.

Submission Process

The public submissions period for comment on this proposal was between 6 – 12 November, 2017. Working together the Cape Conservation Group, Australian Marine Conservation Society and the Conservation Council of WA made submissions and wrote letters to the Western Australian EPA. There were 139 submissions received by the EPA during that week, with 114 of them in favour of a full Public Environmental Review (P.E.R). **On 20th November, the EPA announced that the project would be assessed at the highest level of P.E.R.** What this means is the EPA will oversee construction of Subsea 7's Environmental Scoping Document, and this will be followed by an extended opportunity for all of us to make submissions about it. It's our opportunity to voice concerns about the likely and considerable potential impacts to the area.



Scheme Amendment Process

The scheme amendments proposed by Commissioner Ian Fletcher, Shire of Exmouth, will smooth the way for Subsea 7's proposal. They are the first step in winding back the rules that have kept Exmouth Gulf the way it is up till now. The changes haven't been done as part of a strategic planning process with proper public discussion. These proposal-driven changes alter the definitions of 'special use' zoning and set a terrible precedent that will have serious implications for the Gulf *well beyond* the Subsea 7 proposal. The Gulf will be exposed to industrial development in a way that was impossible before.

CCG made a presentation to Commissioner Fletcher at the Shire's General Meeting (10th October, 2017), requesting deferral of the motion (Agenda Item 12.8 Scheme Amendment No. 32 Adoption for advertising) until Exmouth had its elected Councillors. But Commissioner Fletcher refused the request.

The scheme amendment process is very complex and it is intertwined with aspects of the environmental assessment, so we'll need to wait for on the EPA's response.

What now?

- **Check** the EPA website to know what stage the referral is at.
(Link <http://www.epa.wa.gov.au/proposals/learmonth-bundle-site>)
- **Become a Protector** and receive up-to-date information about all of this.
- **Write** to the Exmouth Shire President and Councillors to let them know why the area is too special to industrialise.
(Link: <http://www.exmouth.wa.gov.au/councillors.aspx>)