Last year the Liberal National Government began a process to create public conservation and recreation reserves along this world renowned coast to ensure long term access for Western Australians, and national and international visitors, and to conserve its significant natural and cultural values.

The public reserves will allow the land to be managed in a way that is integrated with the World Heritage-listed Ningaloo Marine Park, to retain the values that attract visitors to the area – the stunning biodiversity, unique wilderness and sense of remoteness.

The reserves will also provide for investments in nature-based tourism such as tours and walking trails. Affordable low-key camping and caravanning along the coast will be retained.

How big will the public reserves be?

The public reserves are proposed to extend around 180km from just north of Winderabandi Point to Red Bluff in the south. This will ensure the coast adjacent to Ningaloo Marine Park is protected in reserves.

How will public reserves affect visitors to the Ningaloo coast?

Low cost camping and the unique wilderness experience enjoyed by thousands of people each year will be retained through the establishment of public reserves. Camping, surfing, fishing, diving, snorkelling and other forms of recreation will continue.

Can I still take my dog when I go camping in the reserve?

Yes, you will still be able to take your dog camping along the coast.

Can I still have a campfire?

Yes, you will still be able to have campfires when camping.

Who will manage the public reserves?

The conservation and recreation reserves will be managed under the Conservation and Land Management Act 1984 (CALM Act) and are proposed to be jointly managed with the Gnulli native title party. This will also support Aboriginal employment and training opportunities.

A management plan for the reserves will be prepared in collaboration with the Gnulli. The community will have an opportunity to comment on the draft plan.

The Government will continue to offer opportunities for pastoralists to be involved in managing the coast, including coastal camping.

When will the reserves be created and how will the land be managed in the meantime?

The Government is seeking to negotiate an indigenous land use agreement with the Gnulli native title party, to ensure the creation of the reserves meets the requirements of the Commonwealth Native Title Act 1993. Until this is achieved, the land is being managed by the Department of Parks and Wildlife as unallocated Crown land with a focus on ensuring visitor safety and maintaining the conservation values of the coast.

Where appropriate, it has been agreed that coastal camping will continue to be managed by pastoralists until the reserve is created.
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
Future of the Ningaloo coast

How long has this been proposed?
The need to create public reserves along the Ningaloo coast has been identified by successive Western Australian governments since the1970s.

Will the Ningaloo coast be opened up for tourism development?
The Western Australian Planning Commission’s Ningaloo Coast Regional Strategy Carnarvon to Exmouth (2004) only provides for low impact recreation and tourism within identified tourism nodes along the coast. High impact development would be directed to the towns of Exmouth and Carnarvon.

What is happening now?
Parks and Wildlife staff are visiting the Ningaloo Coast on an ongoing basis to deal with management issues.
A review has been undertaken of the extensive independent research that has been conducted along the Ningaloo coast focussing on visitors’ expectations and the camping experiences they desire. Further consultation will be undertaken to validate the types of visitor facilities people would like to see provided or upgraded along the coast. These facilities may include upgrades to tracks and trails, installation of toilets and waste disposal facilities, and interpretive information.
Consultation with traditional owners, pastoral lease holders, visitors and other stakeholders will occur as part of the planning process for the proposed reserves.

How much will it cost to camp in the reserve?
Once a public reserve is created, camping will cost the same as other parks managed by the Department of Parks and Wildlife: $7.50 for an adult and $2.20 for a child (6-15 years) per night for a camp site with basic facilities, or $10 per adult and $2.20 per child for a site with facilities such as ablutions and camp kitchens. All fees will go directly to managing the reserve and the adjacent Ningaloo Marine Park.

Where can I find more information?
For further information, please contact the Department of Parks and Wildlife’s Exmouth Office on (08) 9947 8000.
www.dpaw.wa.gov.au