



Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions



Wedge and Grey Shacks fact sheet

Coastal processes

- Coastal erosion and accretion is a natural process occurring along the coast of Western Australia, impacting many sites including the Wedge and Grey reserves. Coastal erosion can be sudden, while dunes and beaches may accrete over a number of seasons.
- Shacks and associated structures in the reserves will be managed proactively to avoid potential environmental impacts, human health and safety issues attributable to coastal processes, including coastal erosion.
- Dune revegetation and/or brushing is permitted in consultation with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA).
- Implementation of coastal engineering solutions including the construction or installation of break walls, groynes, sandbags, geotextile matting, forced movement or sand re-nourishment is not permitted.
- DBCA will undertake geo-referenced aerial photography in the reserves on an annual basis to record coastal movements caused by coastal processes as part of its risk assessment of the reserves.
- DBCA will seek advice from a suitably qualified expert (coastal engineer or coastal geomorphologist) to assist with its risk assessment process.
- DBCA will maintain a register of shacks/associated structures identified as being at risk of coastal processes and will notify affected shack licensees.
- The register will identify shacks or associated structures that are located: 0 – 10 metres (Zone A), 10 -20 metres (Zone B) and 20 metres or more (Zone C) from eroded dune edges or vegetation lines to any part of a structure.
- For those shacks/associated structures located in Zone A, DBCA will engage a suitably qualified person to undertake an annual assessment for coastal erosion risks and potential impacts on shacks/ associated structures stability for human use and habitation.
- Subject to the outcome of annual inspections in Zone A, a decision may be made to remove all or part of the shack or associated structures on a case by case basis to reduce any identified risk. Removal will be subject to the outcome of written representation by the licensee who may seek the expertise (at their own expense) of a second qualified coastal engineer or coastal geomorphologist to review the advice.
- Shacks/associated structures which are required to be removed as a result of damage or likelihood of imminent damage attributable to coastal processes are not permitted to be rebuilt on the reserves. The shack site may be retained for a movable building only for use of by an approved licensee or for public use by way of caravanning or camping as determined by the DBCA Director General.
- The costs of removing associated structures within the coastal risk area is the responsibility of the licensee and failure to remove the identified structure may result in cancellation of the licence.
- In the event that a shack is removed due to coastal processes, DBCA supports the issue of a licence to another shack or shack site.
- Where activities require ground disturbing works within an Aboriginal heritage site formal advice should be sought from the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) by emailing swsheritage@dplh.wa.gov.au before the ground disturbing works commence, with works being carried out in compliance with such advice, noting that it is an offence to destroy or damage an Aboriginal site.

This fact sheet must be read in conjunction with the 2019 Licence conditions - Wedge and Grey.

For more information contact:

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