



Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions



Wedge and Grey Shacks fact sheet

Reserve values

Aboriginal Heritage

- The Yued people are the traditional owners of the Wedge and Grey reserves, including Wedge Island, with a registered native title claim and Indigenous Land Use Agreement (part of the South West Native Title Settlement) incorporating these areas. These areas have unique and special Aboriginal cultural values.
- Wedge and Grey reserves form part of traditional Aboriginal song lines (Ngumbing/Ngambany/Namban) that extend from Cervantes to Yanchep and include what is now known as the Little Painted Desert within Nambung National Park. Nambung is derived from Namban and is interpreted to mean 'the ceremony place' or 'the place of men's and women's ceremony business'. Namban is the place Yued people held their lore business.
- Wedge, Wedge Island (Wetj Boya) and Grey have been important locations for the Yued for thousands of years as a meeting and camping place where lore, ceremony and trade took place, and as a food and water resource. Both Wedge and Grey are well known for freshwater wells and springs.
- Aboriginal heritage sites are protected under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* regardless of whether or not they are formally registered under section 38 of that Act and it is an offence to destroy or damage an Aboriginal 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.
- Until finalisation of the South West Native Title Settlement, the *Native Title Act 1993* applies in relation to all licence areas.

Historic Heritage

- Wedge and Grey reserves contain two of the largest recreational shack communities in Australia. There are currently 415 licensed shacks in the reserves, 292 at Wedge and 115 at Grey.
- These shack communities provide for cultural landscapes that have historic cultural values and contribute to broader historical themes including the social and recreational values associated with shack communities.
- The Heritage Council of Western Australia has considered a heritage nomination and determined that Wedge and Grey shack communities warrants assessment for possible inclusion in the State Register of Heritage Places.
- Wedge Reserve is a registered landing site for professional cray-fishing activities under the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* (FRMA). There are currently six fishing licences active at Wedge which confer certain rights to use and occupy the reserve under the FRMA. Shacks and associated buildings owned or managed by the professional fishers are managed under the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* and Regulations.

Environment

- There are natural values within the reserves that should be acknowledged and protected. This includes native vegetation, sand dunes and fauna.
- Wedge and Grey reserves are surrounded by Wanagarren Nature Reserve and Nambung National Park.

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

For more information contact:

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
Parks and Wildlife Service
Moora District
67 Bashford Street JURIEN BAY
PO Box 638 JURIEN BAY 6516
Phone (08) 9688 6000 Fax (08) 9652 1922
dbca.wa.gov.au



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