

Date: 11 November, 2016

SUMMARY:

- Exmouth recreational trails masterplan to create a world class trails network on the North West Cape.
 - Interested parties urged to have their say during public consultation in November.
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Exmouth planning for a world class recreational trails network

Exmouth is developing a recreational trails masterplan to showcase the region's unique natural environment and provide a coordinated and focussed approach to recreational and tourism trail development in the region.

The trails masterplan project is being spearheaded by the Shire of Exmouth in partnership with the local Department of Parks and Wildlife, Department of Sport and Recreation and the Gascoyne Tourism Board.

The Shire were recently awarded a \$45,000 Lottery West grant to help fund the Masterplan process. Consultants from TRC Tourism, who have significant experience in trail planning and tourism product development have been appointed to complete the project and will visit Exmouth later this month to begin public consultation.

Shire of Exmouth Executive Manager of Community Engagement Rogé Kempe said the masterplan would provide a framework for the planning and construction of a world class trails network in Exmouth.

"We aim to identify key areas for trail development as well as priorities across a range of recreational sectors, from walking to kayaking and mountain biking," he said.

"Having a well planned and carefully managed trail network will be fantastic for local residents because it will increase outdoor recreation opportunities.

"It also has the potential to help Exmouth, which is traditionally a water based tourism destination, broaden its tourism appeal by making our World Heritage Listed landscape more accessible and tapping into the trail based tourism and events market."

Mr Kempe said the Shire was keen to get as much community input into the masterplan process as possible. He invited local residents, sporting and community groups, tourism operators and local businesses to get involved in the public consultation process.

"This is our chance to put Exmouth on the map with some iconic trails that could be a huge boost for our local economy," he said.

Shire of Exmouth **MEDIA RELEASE**



“If you have any knowledge, ideas, experience or just want to find out more about the project, I would urge you to get in contact with Amanda Fuery, Community Development Officer at the Shire and find out how you can get involved in the public consultation process.”

A community consultation session, will be held on Thursday, 24 November from 6pm in the Old Durak TAFE meeting room on Maidstone Crescent. Everyone is welcome.

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