



27 June 2018

Dempster Head Management Plan

Council have adopted the Dempster Head Management Plan 2018 at the June Ordinary Council Meeting.

Minor changes were made to the Plan after it was released for public comment in April this year. South Coast Natural Resource Management (SCNRM) was engaged to undertake key works to review and update the 2003 Dempster Head Management Plan to reflect the current conditions of the area and provide clear direction on the future management of this reserve.

South Coast NRM sought information from a range of community groups to develop an updated Plan that would ensure this natural asset will continue to be enjoyed by locals and visitors. The Draft Plan was released for public comment for a period of 21 days in which time Council received 34 submissions. The submissions received were reviewed by the Shire and South Coast NRM, with the final document reflecting the many users of this reserve. Mountain bike riding was the major issue raised with a similar number of submissions both for and against the activity.

The consultation undertaken during both the draft and final Plan identified a need for Council to assist in finding alternative locations that would be suitable for downhill/endurance mountain biking. Council has requested a budget item be considered in next year's budget for this to occur. Site selection will be based on the draft Western Australian Mountain Bike Management Guidelines.

Shire President Victoria Brown said "I would like to express Council's thanks to South Coast NRM for work they completed to update the Dempster Head Management Plan.

"The consultation needed for this plan to be supported by everyone who enjoys Dempster Head was essential and the combination of protecting the environment whilst encouraging recreational activity is always a delicate balancing act."

Council also resolved to relinquish the Management Order of Reserve 39453 to Southern Ports subject to their agreeing to take over the management of this smaller reserve. This will have no impact on access to Dempster Head.

The Dempster Head Management Plan is available for review at the Shire of Esperance Administration Office on Windich Street, or on the Shire website.

Ends

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