

MEDIA RELEASE

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Attention: News Editor

Priorities set for maritime assets

Thirteen Great Southern maritime heritage assets are listed as tourism development priorities in a report commissioned by the Great Southern Development Commission (GSDC) in partnership with the Heritage Council of WA.

Consultants Sustainable Development Facilitation (SDF) assessed the tourism development potential of various aspects of the Great Southern's maritime heritage in its report 'The Great Southern Maritime Heritage Tourism Strategy – The Story of the Sea in the South'.

The report considered the combined priorities of natural, built, moveable and cultural maritime heritage, tourism and regional development.

Many of the maritime heritage assets are on the State Register of Heritage Places.

Top priority was given to:

- Breaksea Island and Lighthouse
- Albany Harbour
- Whale World (Discovery Bay)
- Frenchman Bay Whaling Station (Norwegian Whaling Station) that may be considered with Whale World as a precinct.
- Oyster Harbour Fish Traps
- Old Albany Post Office (Customs)
- Point King Lighthouse ruins
- Western Australian Museum, Albany (Residency Museum)
- Brig Amity Replica
- The Forts (Princess Royal Fortress)
- Quaranup Complex (Quarantine Station)
- Cape Riche
- Albany Boatshed – Duyfken Shed

The report also identified the fish traps at Wilson Inlet, Nullaki Peninsula burial sites, Wellstead homestead group and the Lady Walpole as potential regional priorities for further review.

GSDC Chief Executive Officer Bruce Manning said the report outlined future directions but also provided substantial backing for work already under way on a number of maritime heritage assets.

“The SDF report provides a framework for linking maritime heritage assets together so they are considered as part of a broader regional strategy,” Mr Manning said.

“Some of these assets are already receiving close attention, for example the Breaksea Island buildings restoration work, assisted by earlier GSDC reporting and now being carried out by the Department of Environment and Conservation.

“Royalties for Regions funding under the Great Southern Regional Grants Scheme is supporting developments at Whale World, and management and interpretation work at the Oyster Harbour fishtraps.

“The Great Southern Maritime Heritage Tourism Strategy helps to place such individual projects in a regional context,” Mr Manning said.

Heritage Council Executive Director Graeme Gammie said the strategy was a major step in acknowledging the importance of the region’s maritime heritage, both as an important part of regional and WA history and as a contributor to the region’s economy.

“The report brings together the challenges of protecting important maritime assets with the opportunity to further develop the maritime heritage tourism of the area, ensuring that local, interstate and international visitors get to enjoy and appreciate our unique history,” Mr Gammie said.

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