
City of Greater Geraldton

2.3 ABROLHOS ISLANDS TOURISM

SUSTAINABILITY THEME

Economy

OBJECTIVE

To grow and diversify the local economy through the development of ecologically sustainable tourism on the Abrolhos Islands including the development of tourist access control and management regimes, utility infrastructure, permanent resort and other accommodation and related facilities and amenities for tourists.

POLICY STATEMENT

The City of Greater Geraldton supports the development of sustainable Tourism on the Abrolhos Islands as a means to diversify and expand the City region economy, and grow local employment in the tourism industry.

POLICY DETAILS

1. The Houtman Abrolhos Islands (the Abrolhos islands – see Appendix 1 maps) are included within the local government district boundaries of the City of Greater Geraldton.
2. **Jurisdiction**
 - 2.1. The Abrolhos Islands A-Class Reserve 20253 is vested in the Minister for Fisheries for the purposes of conservation of flora and fauna, tourism and for purposes associated with the fishing and aquaculture industries. The Department of Fisheries (or its successor agencies) is responsible for managing the Reserve for these purposes, pursuant to the *Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995* (FRMR), relevant State Government policies and management plans, and land leases between the Minister for Fisheries and the four Abrolhos Islands Bodies Corporate.
 - 2.2. The Department of Fisheries also manages State waters within the Abrolhos Islands Fish Habitat Protection Area for the purposes as set out in section 115 of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*.
 - 2.3. The Department of Fisheries manages the existing commercial fishing and aquaculture community and its associated infrastructure including buildings and jetties. The Department maintains government owned infrastructure established to support its operations and is responsible for maintaining land-based public use infrastructure (e.g. airstrips, shelters, toilets) on the Abrolhos Islands, and marine infrastructure (e.g. public jetties, public moorings, dive trails) and management of aquatic resources in the Fish Habitat Protection Area.
 - 2.4. The Abrolhos Islands Management Advisory Committee reports to the Minister for Fisheries. The City is not represented on that Committee.

- 2.5. As a Class-A reserve, the Islands are effectively excluded from the land use planning and management jurisdiction of the City under the State's Planning legislation, and the City has jurisdiction limited to building and health matters.
- 2.6. The City has no formal responsibility for the provision of infrastructure, amenities or municipal services on the Islands.

3. The City will actively support development of Arolhos Islands tourism by:

- 3.1. Advocacy with Government for development of Arolhos Islands tourism.
- 3.2. Active participation in related State Government committees and working groups.
- 3.3. Continuing direct support for tourism sector development via Progress Midwest, and implementation of the *Growing Greater Geraldton Plan*.
- 3.4. Development of destination management plans for Arolhos tourism experiences.
- 3.5. Promotion and advertising of Arolhos tourism in conjunction with industry and Tourism WA.
- 3.6. Facilitating initiatives for private sector investment in Arolhos Islands Tourism.
- 3.7. Provision of building and public health regulatory services for on-Island developments within the City's local government jurisdiction.

4. KEY TERM DEFINITIONS

Arolhos Islands – see Appendix 1.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Director of Corporate and Commercial Services is responsible for implementing this policy.

WORKPLACE INFORMATION

Mid West Regional Blueprint (MWDC) pages 76, 78, 130.

Mid West Tourism Development Strategy (MWDC)

Growing Greater Geraldton Plan – City of Greater Geraldton 2017

POLICY ADMINISTRATION

Directorate		Officer	Review Cycle	Next Due
Corporate and Commercial Services			Biennial	
Version	Decision Reference	Synopsis		
1.				

Appendix 1



