

Council Policy CP039 Foreshore Use & Development Policy			
<b>Officer</b>	Manager Economic Land and Property Development	<b>Owner</b>	Director Development and Regulatory Services
<b>Review frequency</b>	Biennially	<b>Next review</b>	2017
<b>Council resolution number and date</b>			
<b>Mayor</b>		<b>Chief Executive Officer</b>	

## OBJECTIVE

The overall aim of this Policy is to provide an effective framework for the management of proposals for commercial business infrastructure development, recreational and other usages on the foreshore reserve in order to achieve:

- Activation of the foreshore recognizing that while public open space is a high priority and should not be compromised, people want amenities and activities that enhance their experience of the foreshore.
- The effective use and management of the foreshore reserve resulting in a space that is people focused; not building focused and promotes active and passive recreation that promotes health and wellbeing.
- To enable opportunities for activities that respects the essence of the place and enables providers to offer services and facilities to the public to enhance their visit to the foreshore.
- Recognition, respect, celebration and inclusion of Yamaji cultural significance of the Geraldton foreshore.
- Recognise the role of the Foreshore as a vehicle for community expression
- Open and transparent engagement and communication with stakeholders and the community on all significant matters relating to the foreshore.

## SCOPE

This policy applies to Crown Land Reserve 50100 (Lot 506) known as “Foreshore Reserve” under the control and management of the City of Greater Geraldton.

## DEFINITIONS

**Act or LGA** means the *Local Government Act 1995*.

**City** means the City of Greater Geraldton.

**Foreshore Reserve** means Crown reserve 50100 (Lot 506) and local government property.

**Local government property** means anything, whether land or not, that belongs to, or is vested in, or under the care, control or management of the City.

**Permanent structure** means:

1. Any building structure that is intended to be permanently fixed or placed on the foreshore.
2. A structure that has a permanent foundation, solid load bearing walls, and is solid in its built form.
3. Is not capable of being removed within a 48 hour period.

**Temporary Structure** means a structure that is not attached to a permanent foundation and is erected for a maximum term of 9 years.

**Transportable Structure** means:

1. A structure that is brought to a property, held in place primarily by its own mass or affixed to the ground and includes, but is not limited to, sea containers, decommissioned railway carriages, transport conveyances and prefabricated transportable buildings.
2. A structure less than 50M<sup>2</sup>.
3. Is capable of being removed within a 48 hour period.

## **POLICY**

This policy acknowledges the significant economic, social, cultural and heritage benefits that the Geraldton foreshore has to the Community. The policy identifies the following six key principles as effective framework for the management of the foreshore reserve. These are:

- 1. Activation of the foreshore recognizing that while public open space is a high priority and should not be compromised, people want amenities and activities that enhance their experience of the foreshore.**

This policy recognizes that the Foreshore is a treasured community asset and the primary playground for the community. As such, the City will retain the foreshore reserve (where appropriate) as a place for passive and/or active recreation for residents and visitors.

The City will not permit any permanent structures, except City structures installed by the City to enhance the amenity i.e. BBQ/lighting/seating areas etc. But will allow temporary and transportable structures where it is in keeping the character and increases activation and visitation of the foreshore. (see principle 3)

- 2. The effective use and management of the foreshore reserve resulting in a space that is people focused; not building focused and promotes active and passive recreation that promotes health and wellbeing.**

The City has a responsibility to manage the foreshore reserve entrusted to it for its social and economic values and for the appreciation and benefit of present and future generations. In doing so, this policy recognises that the City has a significant asset that provides recreational, aesthetic, cultural material benefits for both residents and visitors alike.

This policy also acknowledges that the foreshore reserve has the capacity to satisfy an important portion of the public demand for outdoor recreation and tourism, and in so doing contribute significantly to the social, physical and economic well-being of the municipality.

This policy also recognises that the current built form as outlined in Appendix 1 – aerial plan will serve as a guide to the adherence to this key principle.

**3. To enable opportunities for activities that respects the essence of the place and enables providers to offer services and facilities to the public to enhance their visit to the foreshore.**

This policy will enable providers of services or facilities to locate temporary or transportable structures that are capable of being removed within a 48 hour period.

The Local Planning Policy – Commercial Recreational Tourism Activity on Crown Land (see Workplace Information/References) provides a guiding document that will enable the City to assess each application on its merits and combined with this policy will ensure the key for assessment of foreshore usage and proposals for commercial operators.

This policy provides a framework to regulate the level and intensity of commercial activities on reserves as necessary to ensure that it does not compromise the value and nature of the activity and the resource on which it is based and the six key objective principles of this policy.

**4. Recognition, respect, celebration and inclusion of Yamaji cultural significance of the Geraldton foreshore.**

Yamaji historical and cultural significance of the areas is identified in the Yamaji Cultural Significance of the Geraldton Foreshore Report – 1 January 2015 that recognises the cultural importance of the Geraldton Foreshore precinct to Aboriginal people in the Midwest region. The report identifies four places of significance for Yamaji people on the Foreshore that are appreciated for their importance as they are rich in anecdotal history and photographs.

The infrastructure provides a point of reference for these sites; however the importance of these areas on the foreshore to the Yamaji People long precedes any built infrastructure. The policy recognises that in more recent times the areas were shared spaces that were enjoyed by the whole community.

The specific areas of interest to the Yamaji community are in the vicinity of the following:

- 4.1 The old bough sheds and the original Esplanade (rear of current Geraldton Yacht Club);
- 4.2 The offshore swimming platforms (commonly referred to by the Aboriginal community as the Little Plat and the Big Plat) the U shaped jetty and front beach (front beach location rear current Geraldton Yacht Club);
- 4.3 The viaduct jetty (previously situated at the east end of Marine Terrace near Durlacher Street and along the area of Foreshore Drive); and
- 4.4 The Green (lawn area situated between Geraldton Yacht Club and the Geraldton Visitors Centre).

These locations are depicted on the aerial map, appendix 1 and marked A, B, C and D.

#### **5. Recognise the role of the Foreshore as a vehicle for community expression;**

The foreshore provides an opportunity to showcase our community and its heritage and contemporary narrative via public art, lines of sight, wayfinding and connectivity. This needs to be managed in a way that is complementary, cohesive, does not compromise on open space and maintains the sense of aesthetic look consistent with the attached

#### **6. Open and transparent engagement and communication with stakeholders and the community on all significant matters relating to the foreshore.**

This policy recognises the requirement to engage with the community and all relevant stakeholders on all significant matters relating to the foreshore in an open, timely and transparent manner.

### **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

This policy is administered by the Department of Development and Regulatory Services. All applications made under this policy are to be approved by Council.

### **WORKPLACE INFORMATION/REFERENCES**

- Appendix 1 – Aerial plan – Crown Reserve 50100
- Commercial Recreational Tourism Activity on Crown Land – Local Planning Policy – Adopted by Council 1 July 2011.
- Community Focus Group – Foreshore Development Survey & Results 20 January 2009
- Our Foreshore Survey – October 2009
- Yamaji Cultural Significance of the Geraldton Foreshore report – 1 January 2015