

# The Abrolhos Islands

## Protecting and Promoting a Unique Environment



Western Australia's Abrolhos Islands are a unique landscape, home to a stunning array of wildlife and the setting for a chilling tale of shipwreck and mutiny.

The islands are fertile fishing grounds and support a successful rock lobster fishing industry but have been largely untapped for tourism purposes.

The Liberal-led Government is creating the Abrolhos Islands National Park, covering about 90 per cent of the islands, to promote and support tourism activity on the Abrolhos while ensuring the preservation of its natural assets and the continuation of the fishing industry.

### Fast Facts

- The 123 Abrolhos Islands are in three main groups lying about 60km off the coast of Geraldton and extending over 100km.
- About 10 per cent of the islands have some fishing infrastructure on them, including fishing camps, private jetties, airstrips and Department of Fisheries' facilities.
- The Abrolhos are an immensely important part of WA's history as the site of several shipwrecks, including the infamous Batavia, wrecked in 1629, and the Zeewijk, wrecked in 1727.
- Large breeding colonies of seabirds occur on many of the islands.
- WA has 100 National Parks including three new parks – Dirk Hartog, Prince Regent and Murujuga – created by the Liberal-led Government.

### A Unique Asset

As the southernmost true coral reef in the Indian Ocean, the tourism potential of the Abrolhos is vast. In addition to its shipwreck sites, the islands are perfectly suited to diving and snorkelling, sightseeing, walking, fishing and whale watching.

A new management arrangement will ensure more tourism opportunities are open to operators wishing to help visitors explore this unique environment while the operations of the valuable fishing industry continue.



### Our Commitment

- A Liberal Government will complete the creation of an Abrolhos Islands National Park to be managed by the Department of Parks and Wildlife.
- Those islands or areas of islands leased by commercial fisherman will continue to be managed by the Department of Fisheries, along with rock lobster fishing and aquaculture operations.
- The waters around the Abrolhos will continue to be managed by the Department of Fisheries as a Fish Habitat Protection Zone.
- Infrastructure improvement – including new jetties – will focus on the Wallabi group of islands.
- We will explore opportunities for tourists to stay on the islands overnight.
- Many of the shacks on the islands are in disrepair and there is also rubbish on several islands. We will clean up these areas.

### A Strong Record

The Liberal-led Government has a strong record in preserving and protecting WA's environment. Since 2008 it has delivered an additional 1.1 million ha to the State's terrestrial conservation estate and a 3.5 million increase to our marine parks.

The \$21 million Parks for People initiative has ensured WA's national parks are more accessible with better facilities for affordable family camping holidays.

Visitation to national parks and other reserves reached 19.3 million in 2016, an increase of 45 per cent since 2008.



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