

Fitzgerald River National Park

Frequently Asked Questions

Q1: Why is the Shire looking for a tourism investment partner at Hamersley Inlet?

The Ravensthorpe economy has been dominated by local mining which represented 74% of the Shire's gross revenue output. The recent downturn of the mining industry around Ravensthorpe, resulting in approximately 830 job losses has had a significant impact to the economic and social well-being of the local community. The Shire through the Strategic Community Plan, is prioritising diversification of the local industry base with a focus on developing sustainable tourism that delivers economic value.

At the Ordinary Council Meeting on Tuesday, 20 August 2024 Council endorsed investigating a potential tourism development that is compatible and compliments the existing ecological value of Fitzgerald River National Park at Hamersley Inlet (Reserve 17544) to support growth in tourism in the region – which is consistent with the *Shire of Ravensthorpe Tourism Strategy 2023*.

The Shire of Ravensthorpe has since been working with Tourism Western Australia to progress this opportunity. Currently we are inviting Registrations of Interest from experienced tourism investors to partner with the Shire of Ravensthorpe and explore the opportunity to deliver a unique, environmentally sensitive tourist accommodation offering.

There are no commitments made as part of undertaking the Registrations of Interest process – it is purely a exploratory exercise to investigate if (1) there is any interest and (2) a suitable project partner is identified.

Q2. Where is the Hamersley Inlet and what area is included?

Hamersley Inlet (Reserve 17544) is located approximately 24 kilometres west of Hopetoun, adjacent to the Fitzgerald River National Park. The popular Hakea Walking Trail passes through the Reserve connecting Quoin Head and Cave Point.

The Reserve is an approximately 145 hectares and includes a picnic area with public car park and an existing nature-based campground, providing 14 sites for smaller caravans, camper trailer and tents. The Registration of Interest is designed to be Shire led, meaning a suitable site within the reserve will only be identified once/if a suitable investment partner is confirmed and important land investigations like Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and Flora and Fauna studies are complete.

Q3. What role is Tourism WA playing in helping the Shire find a suitable tourism investment partner?

This opportunity is being presented as part of the State Government's \$17.7 million National Park Tourism Experiences Development (NPTED) program. Tourism WA is responsible for delivering NPTED for the State.

Q4. How will Traditional Owners be involved?



The opportunity was discussed with the Wagyl Kaip Southern Noongar Aboriginal Corporation (Wagyl Kaip) in November 2025. Earlier this year a letter was sent to Wagyl Kaip to let them know the Registrations of Interest would be opening, and if a suitable project partner is identified an Aboriginal Heritage Survey will be a vital first step.

Q5. What benefits could a tourism investment partnership at Hamersley Inlet deliver if progressed?

If a suitable project partner is identified and a development opportunity is deemed viable, the result will be in a unique, environmentally sensitive tourist accommodation at Hamersley Inlet to support and enhance the tourism capabilities within the Shire. Increasing tourism within the Shire will bring with it many knock-on benefits to the community including a boost to surrounding local businesses.

Q6. What happens next?

Once applications have been evaluated, the evaluation panel will identify the preferred project partner and make a recommendation to Council for a decision. Council may agree or disagree with the recommendation. Council may also determine to not progress with the project.

If a suitable project partner is identified through the Registrations of Interest process, if Council agrees to proceed, there will be an opportunity for the Shire to enter an exclusive working relationship for a period of time to investigate if there is a viable opportunity to deliver a unique, environmentally sensitive tourist accommodation offering within the Hamersley Inlet (Reserve 17544).

Q7. How can I stay informed or get involved?

The Shire will notify the community if a suitable project partner is identified through the Registrations of Interest process via our regular communication platforms.

If Council approves the recommendation and the opportunity is investigated further (through an exclusive working relationship) there will be an opportunity to get involved through an extensive public consultation.

Q8. How many people visit Fitzgerald River National Park each year?

The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions keep annual visitation data. Last financial year (i.e. 2024/25) there was just under approximately 150,000 visits to Fitzgerald River National Park.

