



# Nature-based Tourism on public lands in Western Australia

Nature-based tourism is intertwined with ecology, is reliant on biodiversity and healthy ecosystems and is strengthened by the authentic voices of the Traditional Owners of the land.

The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) Parks and Wildlife Service manages around 34 million hectares of public lands and waters in Western Australia, including national parks, nature reserves and marine parks. DBCA recognises that people and the natural environment are intrinsically connected and works to enable safe and appropriate human access and use of public lands, including tourism.

Management of visitors to natural areas is essential to minimise negative impacts to environmental and cultural values and provides opportunities for environmental conservation education and the fostering of increased stewardship and respect for the environment.

DBCA has made significant shifts in recognising Aboriginal connections to Country, and many public lands and waters are now managed or vested jointly with Aboriginal Traditional Owners. These partnerships provide opportunities for DBCA to learn about and enact traditional land management, as well as opportunities for tourists to learn about Aboriginal culture directly from those who speak for that Country, which is consistently cited as a desired experience by visitors to Western Australia.

