

Lalang-garram marine parks

Frequently Asked Questions



Respect Dambimangari saltwater country

"We Dambimangari, are part of the Wanjina Law. We are saltwater people who have been living on the Kimberley coast since the dreamtime. As traditional owners of the area we welcome you and ask you to respect and acknowledge the country and sea that you are travelling through. It is a spiritual and sacred place for Dambimangari people." Dambimangari traditional owners

Dambimangari and Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions' (DBCA); Parks and Wildlife Service are working towards the same goal: caring for this Lalang-garram saltwater country together to conserve its values for future generations. You can respect Dambimangari saltwater country by:

- Acknowledge Dambimangari as traditional owners
- Show respect and look after saltwater country
- Avoid sensitive habitats when anchoring (soft bottom only)
- Fish for the future
- Do not take or move cultural objects, like spearheads and stone arrangements
- Be safe when visiting as there are many dangers
- Know your zones
- Take your rubbish home

Lalang-garram marine parks

What do I need to know?

The Lalang-garram marine parks are made up of three marine parks, Lalang-garram / Camden Sound, Lalang-garram / Horizontal Falls and North Lalang-garram. The marine parks cover an area of approximately 1.2 million hectares of water and extend from the high-water mark (excluding a portion of Walcott Inlet) to the limit of the State's Coastal Waters approximately 3 nautical miles, seawards of islands. The southernmost boundary of the marine parks is located approximately 100km north of Derby and 240km north east of Broome.

The marine parks are jointly managed by Dambimangari traditional owners and DBCA's, Parks and Wildlife Service to enhance the protection of cultural heritage and natural values, while allowing culturally appropriate opportunities for recreation and tourism. The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development will continue to manage fishing and aquaculture in the marine parks.

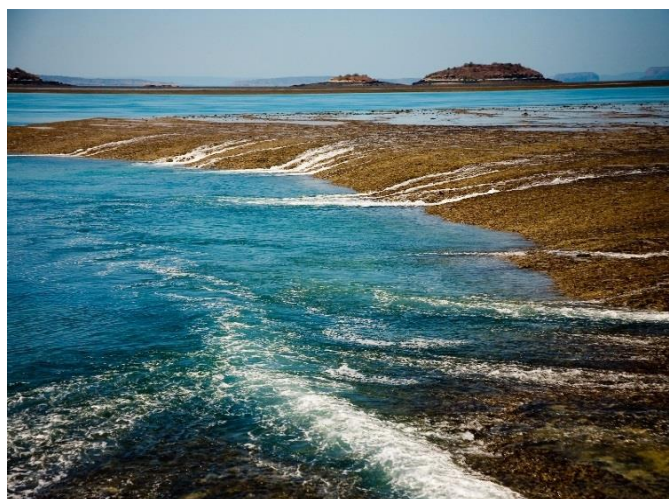
The Lalang-garram marine parks support a high diversity of marine life due to the extensive range of unique habitats including fringing *wooddooroo* (coral reefs), *jindim* (mangrove) lined creeks and bays, spectacular gorges along rivers and estuary systems and *galaab* (sandy beaches).



What can I see and do?

Visitors can experience the awe-inspiring *Garaanngaddim* (Horizontal Falls), and *Yowjab* (Montgomery Reef) while watching wildlife in their natural environment and fish for *Ilerra* (barramundi) in *jindim* (mangrove) lined creeks. DBCA's Parks and Wildlife Service encourages you to observe the wildlife while taking care not to interfere or disturb the animals, their activities or any other natural features. **All native animals are protected in Western Australia**, so please be responsible and respectful.

Yowjab (Montgomery Reef) is an amazing feature of the marine parks and is regularly visited by tour boats. The massive 300 km² reef emerges at low tide, with water spectacularly cascading from the reef top, and numerous *jurluwarra* (marine turtles), sea snakes and other marine animals are readily seen in channels. Walking on *Yowjab* (Montgomery Reef) or any reef within the marine parks is prohibited as it is a sensitive, living system that can be easily damaged.



Water cascading off *Yowjab* (Montgomery Reef)



Yowjab (Montgomery Reef) aerial image

How do I access the parks and when should I visit?

The marine parks can be accessed via private vessel or marine commercial charter company. For more information on commercial charters that operate in the marine parks please visit: cruisethekimberley.com.au for cruising information or visitbroome.com.au/to-do/tours/air for scenic flight information.

The dry season (April-October) is the most pleasant time to visit the Lalang-garram marine parks as the temperatures are milder, rainfall is lower and there is low risk of tropical cyclones and storms.

Can I access the land?

The majority of the coastal lands and islands adjacent to, and within the Lalang-garram marine parks are Exclusive Possession Native Title. Visitors accessing these coastal lands and islands need to be mindful of native title and ensure permission is obtained from Dambimangari traditional owners prior to visiting. Certain sites/areas are restricted for cultural reasons. For more information on how to obtain a permit please visit dambimangari.com.au



Traditional owner and Dambimangari ranger Kieran Bangmorra harvesting an *marlinju* (oyster) for lunch.



What is the purpose of marine park zones?

Marine park zoning provides an important tool for both the conservation of marine biodiversity and the management of visitation within marine parks. The establishment of zones where extractive activities are not permitted play a key role in the protection of representative areas of important habitats such as *wooddooroo* (coral reefs), *lanjam* (macroalgae) and *joodam* (seagrass beds). These zones provide areas where natural processes can be studied relatively free of significant human influence. They also provide the opportunity to improve the understanding of key ecological processes of marine parks and to obtain critical baseline data to compare with areas where extractive activities are permitted or where environmental impacts may be occurring.

What are the Lalang-garram marine parks zones?

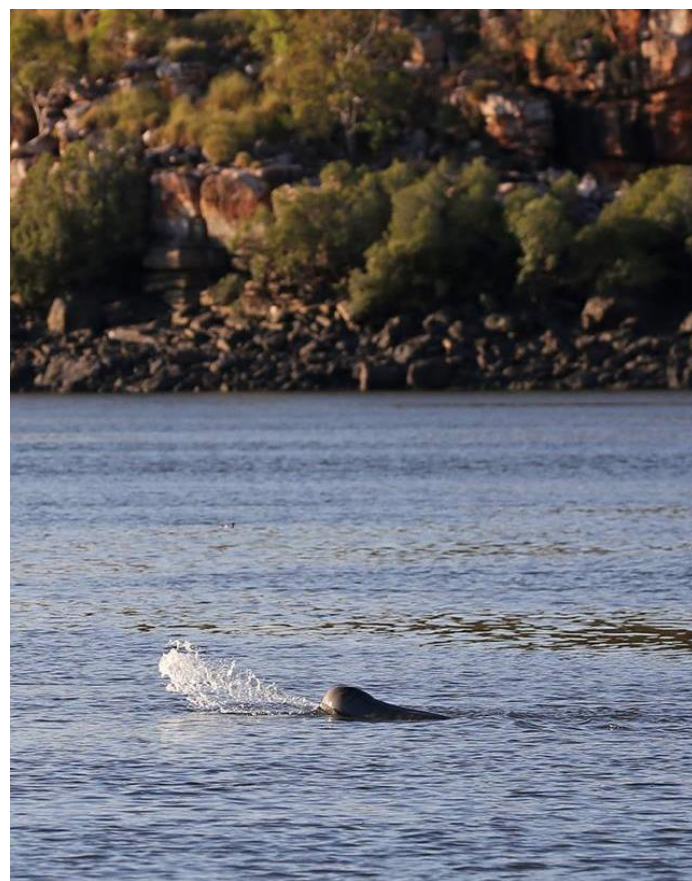
The marine parks are divided into **ten sanctuary zones** and **six special purpose zones** with the remainder of the park zoned as **general use** (see zoning map insert).

The **sanctuary zones** are 'look but don't take' areas where all extractive activities including fishing and collecting shells, sponges and corals are not permitted. However, people will still be able to enjoy boating, wildlife viewing and nature appreciation within these zones. Travelling through a sanctuary zone with *jaya* (finfish) on board will be allowed, provided the *jaya* (finfish) were caught outside the sanctuary zone. Fishing gear such as rods, handlines, drop nets or throw nets must be securely stowed (in the boat or in rod holders; no part of any fishing gear may be in the water) and cannot contain *jaya* (finfish) or bait. Spear guns must be unloaded and stowed away. The **ten sanctuary zones** in the marine park include Champagne, *Yowjab* (Montgomery Reef), Ganbadba, Garaanngaddim, Mooloogoob, Ileda, Ngumbree, Ganjaal, Deewai and Dirindja.

The **general use zone** covers the remainder of the marine parks and enables a wide range of commercial and recreational activities to occur such as boating, fishing, aquaculture and pearling.

The **Kuri Bay special purpose zone (pearling)** provides for biodiversity conservation while recognising the importance of the area for pearling. Access is open to most other marine park users provided they do not interfere with the pearling operations.

The **Traverse Island, Mooloogoob and Jaanya special purpose zones (recreation and conservation)** provide protection of the ecologically and culturally important marine ecosystems, including *jindim* (mangrove), *wooddooroo* (coral reefs) and intertidal communities, while continuing to allow for recreational and tourism activities. Commercial trawling and gillnetting is prohibited in these zones.



Jigidan (snubfin dolphin) using a unique feeding strategy to catch fish (spitting)



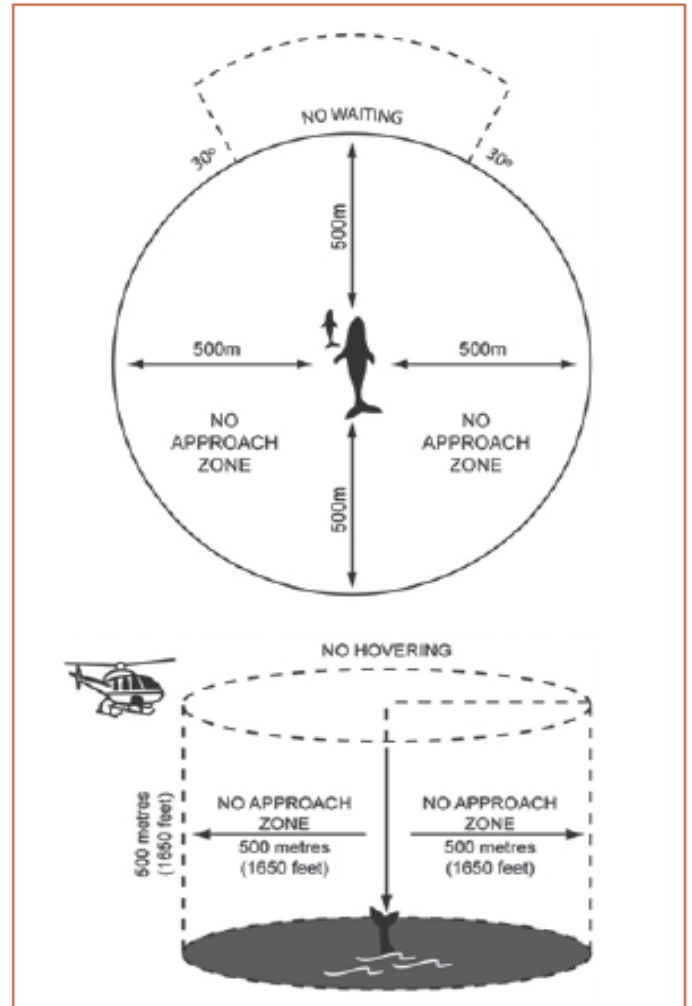
What are the Lalang-garram marine parks zones?

The **Jungulu special purpose zone (wilderness conservation)** provides for the conservation of representative examples of marine biodiversity to preserve as closely as possible, the near-natural condition of the habitats, species and natural processes. No extractive uses are permitted other than highly restricted recreational fishing that allows for a personal possession limit of one fish, or two fillets of fish (baitfish excepted).



Galagalarri (Flatback turtle) hatchling making its journey into the ocean

The **special purpose zone (whale conservation)** provides a high level of protection for *wuliji* (humpback whale) mating, calving, nursing and resting. Vessels must stay at least **500m** away from whale mothers and their calves in this zone. If a mother and calf do approach a vessel within this distance, the vessel must be operated in neutral gear during the encounter with due consideration given to navigation and vessel safety and move away when it is safe to do so. Aircrafts must also stay at least **500m** (without hovering) above a *wuliji* (humpback whale) mother and calf.



wuliji (humpback whale) approach distance



Breaching *wuliji* (humpback whale)



How will I know where the zones are?

Zone boundaries are described as latitude and longitude coordinates. On the water, zone boundaries can be identified using Global Positioning Systems (GPS) and plotters. You will need to plot the coordinates manually into your GPS. To do this accurately, ensure that your GPS is set to either GDA94 or WGS84.

The coordinates can be found on the map inserted or online at either, dbca.wa.gov.au or fish.wa.gov.au. Alternatively, you can contact the Parks and Wildlife Service West Kimberley office on (08) 9195 5500.

To help you **'know your zones'** the **'Explore Marine Parks WA'** app has been created to provide easy-to-access information for marine parks in WA. It provides a variety of information including a 'where am I?' function to locate where you are in the marine park. The app can be downloaded through iTunes or Google Play on any smart phone or tablet. It is your responsibility to find out what the rules are and to **'know your zones'** before you head out.



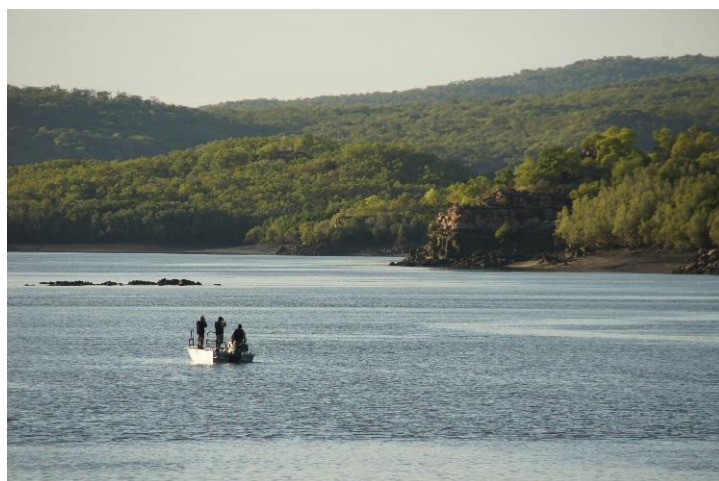
Explore Marine Parks WA app icon



Wurroolgu (Augustus Island)



Kings Cascade in the Prince Regent River



Parks and Wildlife Service staff completing a monitoring survey



What dangers do I need to be aware of?

The Kimberley can be a wild and dangerous place if you're not aware of the hazards. Please consider the following before visiting the parks.

Be Crocwise

- Crocs are common
- Crocs move around
- Crocs are deadly
- Never feed or interfere with crocs

Goiyoiya (estuarine crocodiles) live in the marine parks in relatively high numbers, inhabiting creeks, rivers, tidal areas, along beaches, offshore areas far from the coast, and in both fresh and salt water. There have been several attacks and injuries to people in the Kimberley, even in freshwater pools inland from the coast.



Goiyoiya (estuarine crocodiles)



Garaanngaddim (Horizontal Falls)

Navigational hazards and remoteness

The marine parks are very remote, with the closest ports being Broome and Derby. The area experiences large, strong tidal movements which pose significant safety risks to visitors unfamiliar with the area. Tropical cyclones and thunderstorms with significant winds can occur unexpectedly. It is advised that you check weather updates regularly and have a passage plan; outlining safe anchorages, tidal heights and emergency procedures organised before departure. You will need to have enough fuel, water and food on board to last the distance and in case of an emergency. In the event of a medical or mechanical emergency you may need to organise a helicopter or recovery vessel. You are advised to have appropriate communication equipment on board to deal with any emergency situation, such as a satellite phone and HF / SSB radio.

Please ensure you take up-to-date nautical charts on your voyage as the waters are relatively uncharted. Please check marine notices on the Australian Maritime Safety Authority website: amsa.wa.gov.au. It is also recommended that you consult the WA Cruising Guide which will assist you in your voyage preparation.

Swimming, snorkeling and diving

It is recommended that visitors do not swim, snorkel or dive in the marine parks, due to the presence of *Goiyoiya* (estuarine crocodiles), sharks, poisonous jellyfish and strong tidal currents.



Glenelg River. Photo- Mark Sheridan



What do I need to consider when visiting *Garaanngaddim* (Horizontal Falls)?

The impressive *Garaanngaddim* (Horizontal Falls), described by Sir David Attenborough as 'One of the greatest wonders of the natural world' is located within the marine parks. *Garaanngaddim* is like no other; instead of flowing vertically the 'waterfall' is created when the massive tides in the area flow through two narrow gaps in the McLarty Range in *Ganbadba* (Talbot Bay). Water builds up on one side of the narrow cliff passages faster than it can flow through them, creating a height difference of up to 4m on a spring tide.

Dambimangari people welcome visitors to their traditional country, including visiting the *Garaanngaddim* (Horizontal Falls), however it is part of Dambimangari traditional cultural law and protocol not to travel through the falls when the tide is rushing through.



The force of *Garaanngaddim* (Horizontal Falls). Photo- Jim Sharp

The force of the water from *Garaanngaddim* (Horizontal Falls) can create treacherous conditions that are dangerous for boaters to navigate. Insufficiently equipped vessels and inexperienced skippers are most at risk of accident which could lead to injury or death. **Boats trying to ride the falls have overturned and there have been fatalities.** Skippers are reminded they are responsible for the safety of their vessels and passengers and to only enter the falls when the tide is not rushing through.

In addition to offshore marine safety standards detailed by the Department of Transport, skippers are reminded to take the necessary safety precautions prior to entering the falls; including but not limited to; checking the weather conditions (tide, state of flow) and having an adequately powered and sized vessel with appropriate safety equipment. It is important to avoid seaplane landing areas and monitor marine channels 68 when in the vicinity of the falls and 69 when transiting the falls. The safest way to experience the falls is with a licensed commercial tour operator with vessels purpose-built for operating in *Garaanngaddim* (Horizontal Falls).

The area adjacent to the falls is confined, and during peak tourism season a large number of vessels, helicopters and seaplanes visit the area creating additional navigation hazards. A 7km drone exclusion zone surrounding *Garaanngaddim* (Horizontal Falls) has been created for the safety of seaplanes and helicopters.





Where can I fish in the marine parks?

Recreational fishing is a popular activity in the marine parks and is permitted in all zones apart from the **sanctuary zones**. There is a personal possession limit of one *jaya* (finfish), or two fillets of *jaya* (finfish) within the **special purpose (wilderness conservation) zone** which is located near Jungulu and *Wurroolgu* (Augustus Islands). This means each person may only have one *jaya* (finfish) in their possession at any time while in this zone. This includes *jaya* (finfish) stored anywhere on board your vessel, whether fishing or not. Fishers will be able to retain their catch for immediate personal consumption while in the zone but must release any catch over and above this. Also note that state-wide recreational fishing rules (e.g bag limits and size limits) apply in the marine parks.

Fishing licences are required for certain types of fishing. If you plan to fish from a boat powered by a motor, or to use a boat to travel to your fishing destination, you will need a Recreational Fishing from Boat Licence (RFBL). If you want to take any species of rock lobster, including tropical rock lobster, you will require a recreational rock lobster licence. To use a throw (cast) net, you will need a recreational net fishing licence (please note, the use of set and haul nets is prohibited within the marine parks). For more information please visit fish.wa.gov.au

Please do not dispose of *jaya* (finfish) frames at common anchorages or popular visitation sites to minimize unwanted crocodile behavior. Disposal of fish frames while in transit is recommended.

For more information contact

Parks and Wildlife Service
West Kimberley Region
111 Herbert street
Broome WA 6725
Ph: (08) 9195 5500
dbca.wa.gov.au

Department of Primary Industries and
Regional Development
Fisheries – Northern Regional Office
Port of Pearls House, 401 Port Drive
Broome WA 6725
Ph: (08) 9193 8600
fish.wa.gov.au

Dambimangari Aboriginal Corporation
15 Guildford Street
Derby WA 6728
Ph: (08) 9191 2383
dambimangari.com.au

Will customary fishing be allowed?

Customary fishing applies to an Aboriginal person who has a traditional connection with the area being fished and is fishing for personal, domestic, ceremonial, educational or non-commercial needs. Customary fishing can take place in an area of the park where the person has a connection recognised by traditional owners of that area. It is for customary law to decide which individuals have customary fishing rights in a particular area. Where these qualifications are not met, an Aboriginal person can still go fishing, but must fish under recreational fishing rules and not customary fishing rules.

Will commercial fishing be permitted?

Commercial fishing, including pearling, is important to the region's economy and has a long history in the marine parks. Commercial fishing is permitted in the marine park's **general use zones** and applicable **special purpose zones** if the activity is compatible with the conservation purpose of the zone. Commercial fishing is not permitted in **sanctuary zones** or the **special purpose (wilderness conservation) zone**.



Recreational fishermen enjoying a sunset fish

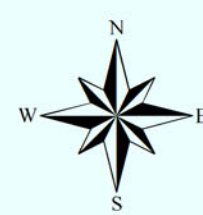
LALANG - GARRAM MARINE PARKS

Includes North Lalang-garram Marine Park, Lalang-garram / Camden Sound Marine Park and Lalang-garram / Horizontal Falls Marine Park

RECREATION GUIDE	ACTIVITIES ✓ = Permitted X = Not permitted	SANCTUARY ZONE	SPECIAL PURPOSE ZONE				GENERAL USE ZONE
			recreation and conservation	whale conservation	wilderness conservation	pearling	
	Customary activities ³ (e.g. hunting and fishing)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Fishing from guided charter vessels	X	✓	✓	(see note 6)	✓	✓
	Recreational fishing ^{4,5} (including line fishing, throw netting and crabbing)	X	✓	✓	(see note 6)	✓	✓
	Recreational shell collecting ⁷ (dead or alive)	X	✓	✓	X	✓	✓
	Recreational coral and 'live' rock collecting	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Nature appreciation and wildlife viewing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Wildlife feeding	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Boating (motorised and non-motorised)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Anchoring (soft bottom only)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Contacts							
Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) - Parks and Wildlife Service Broome - (08) 9195 5500		Dambimangari Aboriginal Corporation (08) 9191 2383 Department of Transport (DoT) Broome - (08) 9192 0200		Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) Broome District Office - Fisheries (08) 9193 8600			

- This table is for recreational activities only. For information on permissible commercial activities contact the numbers below or refer to individual marine park management plans available at www.dbca.wa.gov.au
- For information on accessing Dambimangari land please visit www.dambimangari.com.au
- Customary take is confined to Traditional Owners, subject to the rights and interests provided by the *Native Title Act 1993* and/or Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs), or where Traditional Owners have provided consent to another Aboriginal person or group.
- A fishing licence is required for fishing from boats. Recreational fishing rules apply including bag and size limits, species and gear restrictions. For further details visit www.fish.wa.gov.au
- A fishing licence is required for the use of throw nets. Set and haul netting is not permitted in the Lalang-garram marine parks. For further details refer to the Recreational Net Fishing Guide available at www.fish.wa.gov.au
- Special fishing rules apply that allow a personal possession limit of one whole fish or two fillets of fish (bait fish excepted). No fish (frozen or unfrozen) caught outside the wilderness conservation zone can be brought into this zone.
- Shell collecting (dead or alive) restrictions apply. For further details visit www.fish.wa.gov.au. Visitors are encouraged not to take shells as they are culturally significant to the Dambimangari people and provide habitat for hermit crabs and other invertebrates.

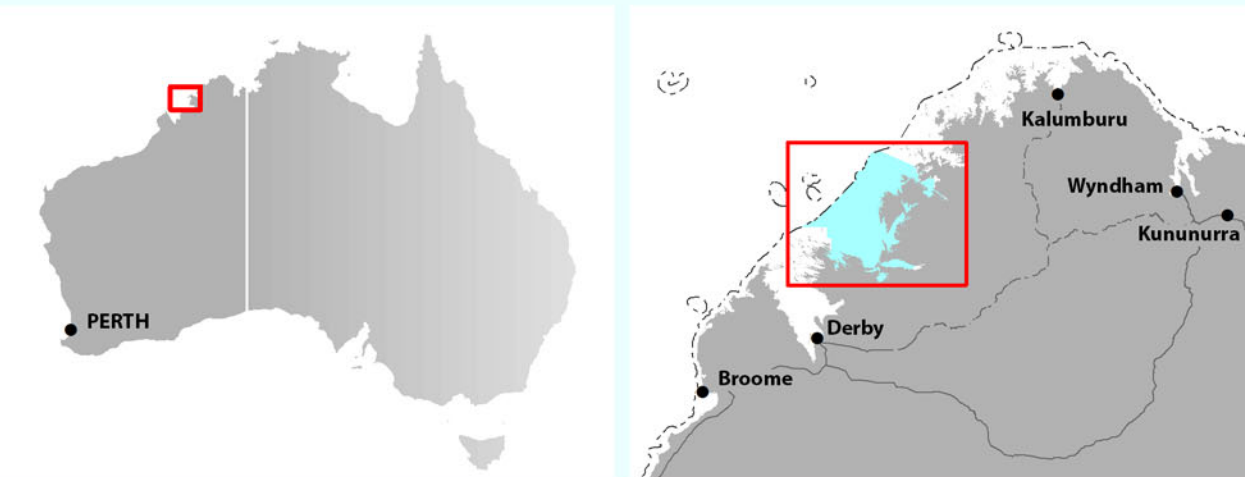
BE CROCWISE
CROCS ARE COMMON. CROCS MOVE. CROCS ARE DEADLY.
For more information visit www.dbca.wa.gov.au or www.nt.gov.au



Lalang-garram Marine Parks

- Marine park boundary
- Sanctuary zone
- Special purpose zone (recreation and conservation)
- Special purpose zone (whale conservation)
- Special purpose zone (wilderness conservation)
- Special purpose zone (pearling)
- General use zone

LWM = Low water mark
HWM = High water mark
Underlined text = Dambimangari names



Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

dambimangari
Aboriginal Corporation

Scan this QR code for more information about the Lalang-garram Marine Parks
<https://parks.dpaw.wa.gov.au/search/grouped/dalang>

Download the free *Marine Parks WA* app available through
Google Play | App Store

NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION
Co-ordinates on this map are referenced to the World Geodetic System 1984 (WGS84).
Waterlines positions shown on this map are indicative only and do not necessarily depict an exact cadastral boundary.
Produced by Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (Planning Branch) 05 April 2018

