



New WA port plan faces opposition

A PROPOSAL to create a new port facility suitable for cruise shipping in Exmouth, Western Australia faced protests on the weekend (pictured), with environmentalists fearing it could destroy the “jewel in the crown” of WA’s tourism industry.

Tour operators and residents of Exmouth are sounding the alarm on the proposal, which would see the dredging of Qualing Beach to build the deep water port.

Gascoyne Gateway is proposing to privately fund, build & operate the new single jetty deep-water facility, and has earmarked 50 hectares of land for the proposal.

It also plans to acquire land elsewhere in Exmouth to build a solar farm and storage area to help make it a “green port”.

The plan comes with the support of the Tourism Council of WA, but it is yet to receive the green light from the state’s



Environmental Protection Authority, which is currently investigating the impact of the proposed development on the Exmouth Gulf, with findings to be handed down by Jun next year.

Protestors said there was a strong sentiment in Exmouth that industrialisation threatens the area’s natural attractions, citing the importance of the nearby Ningaloo Reef to whales and dugongs, which use the coast as a

migration path and nursery.

They also claimed Gascoyne Gateway was sheltering behind claims of carbon neutrality to “greenwash” the proposal.

Gascoyne Gateway CEO Michael Edwards said the multi-user jetty facility would help diversify the local economy and bring hundreds of jobs to the region.

He said the proposal “basically brings together 20 years of ambition for the local community”.

Heritage hunting

HERITAGE Expeditions is looking for New Zealanders to join its Expedition and Hotel Management teams after receiving government approval to operate a New Zealanders-only Southern Ocean expedition season.

Commercial Director & Expedition Leader Aaron Russ said the positions would suit those with a knowledge of the history, flora and fauna of the regions visited to join its expedition team, or experience in running a lodge or in multi-tasking customer service roles - interested candidates e-mail [HERE](#).

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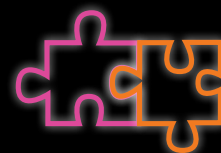
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Travel Daily



WHEN a number of whales were found in a river in Kakadu National Park earlier this year (*CW* 15 Sep), many assumed they were simply confused and lost.

However, one of the whales has baffled scientists again, returning to the river last week.

Not only should the whale be heading towards the icy waters of Antarctica around this time of year, but the river is infested with crocodiles.

Northern Territory Government Senior Scientist Marine Mammals Carol Palmer is worried something is wrong with the whale, as it is likely to be bothered by the tropical weather in the region this time of year.

Palmer said researchers were conducting helicopter and boat surveys from a distance to better understand the whale's behaviour - let's just hope it's chosen to holiday here this year.

A walk to remember



NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) is thanking the 500+ participants from around Australasia who took part in the Walk for Wellness challenge (*CW* 21 Sep).

Stepping out the equivalent of Asia to South America, participants collectively walked almost 75,000 kilometres, for an average of 18,700 a day.

There were also 12 mini-challenges held throughout, such as creating your own workout, participating in a sports activity and snapping a photo on your walk with a travel agent friend.

NCL gave away several prizes including Fitbits, Lululemon gift cards, online yoga and fitness subscriptions and paraphernalia, resistance band sets, Endota Spa gift cards and more.

Last Fri, NCL announced the Walk for Wellness major prize winners on its AUNZ Partners First Facebook Group, with Helloworld Croydon Hills' Naomi Hammond walking the most kilometres.

Pictured out and about are NCL Holdings team members, back row: William Kaafi, Cameron

Ward, Damian Borg, Juliana Khouri, Jacinta Baker, Siobhan Plowman and Haydn Wood and front row: Michelle Wiederman and Tahlia Shaw.

Greece suspension

WITH Greece entering a second lockdown, Costa Cruises and TUI Cruises have both suspended a number of itineraries aboard *Costa Deliziosa* and *Mein Schiff 6* respectively.

Costa will pause operations for seven weeks, cancelling *Deliziosa's* 07, 14, 21 and 28 Nov and 05, 12 and 19 Dec cruises, while TUI will suspend services for the remainder of this month.

TUI was also forced to cancel its Germany-based program earlier this month, but still plans to cruise Spain's Canary Islands in Nov.

Costa Deliziosa's resumption is scheduled for Boxing Day with an Italian itinerary.

RSSC cancellation

REGENT Seven Seas Cruises (RSSC) has suspended its full 2021 World Cruise, as well as departures through to Apr 2021 aboard *Seven Seas Mariner*, the 05 Jan 2021 voyage aboard *Seven Seas Voyager* and the 06 Jan, 21 Jan and 04 Feb departures aboard *Seven Seas Explorer*.

Other cruises are currently cancelled through to 31 Dec.

Catch up on the news of the week



Travel Daily

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