

**Federation of Western Australian Bushwalkers (Inc)**

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The Director General  
Attention: Planning Officer  
Kalbarri National Park Draft Management Plan  
Department of Parks and Wildlife  
Locked Bag 104  
Bentley Delivery Centre WA 6983

15 May 2014

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re: Kalbarri National Park Management Plan**

The Federation of Western Australian Bushwalkers Inc., directly representing the 1100 members of the 11 organised bushwalking clubs and indirectly representing the informal bushwalking community in Western Australia, has pleasure in commenting on the above Management Plan.

In addition to the nominated marked trails mentioned in the Plan, the Murchison River gorge system provides a much loved winter bushwalking area for our members who prefer Class 5 and 6 Standards Australia 2156.1 grade walks.

The Federation's member clubs maintain an excellent relationship with the Kalbarri National Park Ranger and his staff and are very happy with the manner in which they have facilitated our bushwalking expeditions across the years.

The Federation is glad to see that the access roads to the Loop and Z Bend car parks are to be sealed. This will remove an unsafe condition that can rapidly arise in the event that cars are denied access to these areas when there are walkers already in the gorge system.

We are gratified that safe river access is to be provided at Hawks Head. Bushwalkers who may need to leave (or access) the gorge system at this point are disconcerted by the current access restrictions.

The Federation is a little less sanguine at what might be planned for the Hardabut Pool area. On many occasions bushwalking groups assemble there before starting a walk through the gorge system.

Bushwalkers tend to be minimalist campers who adhere to the principles of Leave No Trace. We would be very disappointed to see campsites created at Hardabut Pool along the lines of what has, for example, happened at Sue's Bridge in the South West or at Coalseam Reserve National Park.

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Those campsites in particular have become unfriendly for campers who do not have caravans, camper trailers or huge tents, or who do not wish to camp with a crowd.

We would be even more disappointed if we were to lose the opportunity to minimalist camp at all at Hardabut Pool in the future.

Our members have had many wonderful expeditions and experiences walking this magnificent Gorge system over the years. Please keep up your good work with this National Park.

Yours Faithfully,

(Ms) Hecate Jay  
President