



Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions



Community update Hamelin Pool Boardwalk and stromatolite viewing



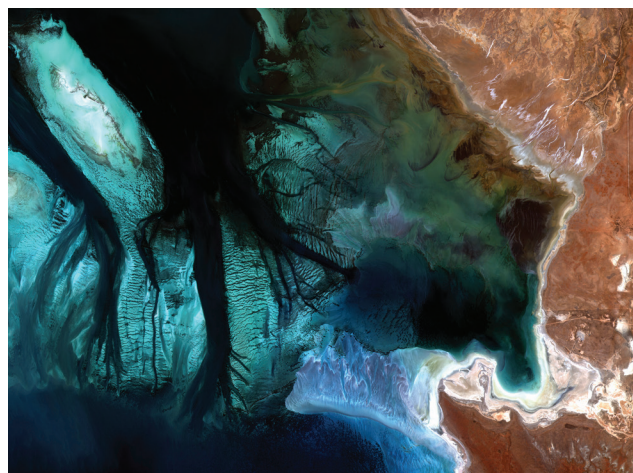
Hamelin Pool walkway damage.

Background

- In April 2021 Cyclone Seroja severely damaged the 200-metre-long timber boardwalk that was built in 1996. The boardwalk allows visitors to experience the stromatolites whilst having minimal impact on this environmentally sensitive area.
- The boardwalk has since been closed due to visitor safety risks. Visitor access below the high-water mark is limited to minimise damage to this environmentally sensitive area.
- The unique stromatolites and microbial communities found at Hamelin Pool are one of the key values that led to the listing of Shark Bay as a World Heritage area.
- Visitors can still access the foreshore of Hamelin Pool Marine Nature Reserve, the 1.4-kilometre Boolagoorda walk trail and adjacent Telegraph Station caravan park.
- DBCA volunteer hosts will be based at Hamelin Pool (1 May to 30 November) to chat with visitors about stromatolites and their importance to the World Heritage area.
- Boardwalk development options are being assessed and the design process is underway.
- The timeframe to restore boardwalk access is unknown as there are many challenges including insurance, funding, environmental impacts and approvals, and contractor and materials availability. It is hoped that boardwalk access can be restored in 2023.

What's happening with the boardwalk

- Marine engineers have conducted a structural assessment of the remaining boardwalk and evaluated options to repair the existing structure or replace it with a new boardwalk to mitigate the risk of future damage from storm events.



Shark Bay satellite enhancement image.

For further information contact

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions'
Gascoyne district office in Denham on (08) 9948 2226.

This publication is available in alternative formats on request.
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