

**MEDIA RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Minderoo donation for Busselton Jetty rehabilitation and conservation initiatives

Busselton Jetty Inc (BJI) is very excited to announce a new partnership with The Minderoo Foundation.

Minderoo has generously donated \$100,000 to BJI to support the rehabilitation of the Jetty and its' environmental conservation initiatives.

Busselton Jetty Inc Chair Jenny Sheehan said Minderoo's donation will be focused on three key projects.

"With the support of Minderoo we plan to develop a marine laboratory, expand the pile rehabilitation project and construct new underwater structures to enhance local habitats," Jenny said.

"The new Marine Lab will provide opportunities for the community and visitors to learn about marine research and environmental conservation," she said.

"Located at the end of the Jetty, the Lab will feature a multi-purpose space with interactive scientific activities including aquariums, touch pool, multi-sensory and participatory activities, illustrative media and interpretive signage" Jenny said.

Busselton Jetty CEO Lisa Shreeve said the Jetty's marine science team was very proud of their successful world-first Pile Rehabilitation Project.

"This project, instigated by marine biologist Sophie Teede, colonises sea sponges and soft corals on damaged piles that have been treated to stop the progression of the wood borer Teredo Worm which cause structural damage to the Jetty," Lisa said.

"With Minderoo's support we will now be able to expand the project to other piles that need rehabilitating" she said.

Ms Teede said the new underwater structures near the end of the Jetty would provide enhanced habitats for marine life in Geographe Bay.

"Marine invertebrates create local habitat complexity and provide a food source for fish species," Sophie said.

"The structures will be strategically placed, with some in view of the proposed Australian Underwater Discovery Centre and others will be visible to snorkelers and divers" she said.

Minderoo Foundation chairman Andrew Forrest said the Busselton Jetty is an incredible, heritage-listed structure that promotes tourism and supports the local ecosystem.

“Rehabilitating the Jetty, sustaining the artificial reef that flourishes beneath it and engaging visitors in marine research and conservation are all important priorities that Minderoo Foundation is delighted to support to help sustain and advance the Jetty for future generations,” Andrew said.

The 154-year-old Jetty is the longest tourist jetty in the Southern Hemisphere attracting over 500,000 visitors last year.

Operations on the Jetty are managed by not-for-profit organisation BJI with proceeds from tours going back into the maintenance of the Jetty for future generations to enjoy.

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