

### Additional Information

After 20 years of visiting Shark Bay regularly, I moved here permanently for two reasons. First, its small functional community with a friendly atmosphere. Secondly, the surrounding World Heritage Area with its pristine beauty and outstanding natural features. For me these were and still are the key stones of Shark Bay. They are the reason why people come here to live, work or just to visit.

Unfortunately, these key values are in peril. To what extent might be debatable but some damage cannot be denied. Responsible, among other factors, is the extreme rise in visitor numbers. A short-sighted person might think "the more the better" but those with a bit more understanding have their alarm bells ringing.

Tourism might be vital for Shark Bay but so is a healthy community in which the needs of residents matter.

I would hate to see Denham following in the footsteps of other loved-to-death-places such as Margaret River and Byron Bay where once thriving communities were destroyed by a lack of workers, school kids, volunteers for community services etc. Many of these problems can be traced back to a lack of affordable housing due to the rise in short-term holiday rentals. In Denham 26 short-term holiday rentals have been approved since January 2024, incl. some opposed by locals. That means 26 houses not available for residents anymore.

Finding the right balance between tourism and community while at the same time protecting our environment sounds like a challenge but it can be done. As a travel writer (visiting and re-visiting tourist hotspots) I have seen places winning this battle by introducing rules, tourist taxes, limitations etc.

I want Shark Bay also to win the battle and therefore I stand for Council. I am very passionate about community values and as a dedicated conservationist and naturalist I would like to see nature better protected. And yes, I am brutally honest, hard-headed and can be a real pain in the neck ;-) but this may be just what Shark Bay needs.