**ABSTRACT**

Local Government is at the forefront of tourism delivery and in many ways is the linchpin to other spheres of government, industry and the community. It provides an expanse of tourism infrastructure, from roads, to airports, caravan camping grounds, visitor centres and parks just to name a few. Local Government in a tourism setting is governed by legislation from the Commonwealth and State, from land-use planning through to environmental and health legislation. It is impacted by national and state tourism strategies, as well as other government strategies, and participates in, and contributes to the activities of tourism organisations and networks. Industries that supports tourism - accommodation, retail and hospitality all have reciprocal relationships with, and exist of course within Local Government jurisdictions.

As a State, Western Australia is abundant in natural attractions with a climate conducive to tourism activity; there is a lot to celebrate. Local Governments in Western Australia have an interest in tourism as a driver for economic development. In response WALGA released a Local Government and Tourism Discussion Paper in 2015 including a set of recommendations which are currently being implemented and has noted that the value of tourism from a Local Government perspective is not well understood and is generally unobserved. As such, we are seeking to scope further research in this area to inform our future work.

Ms Hewson is a Community Policy Officer at WALGA and is currently involved in the tourism and heritage portfolios. Her most recent background includes community and transport policy at both state and local levels. She has also worked on contract for the Royal Australian Navy editing & proofreading training documentation. Nina was employed by a specialist travel organisation in the UK where she wrote travel information on a range of global destinations and projects. She has a BA in Arts Management from WAPPA, ECU and immediately after university worked in events management in Perth, Sydney and in the UK.