



PRESS RELEASE

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The Eden Whale Festival Committee Explores Options for 2020 Event

Due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic the Eden Whale Festival Committee has made the decision to reduce the capacity of the 2020 Whale Festival. Because of the ongoing social distancing measures and mass gathering restrictions, the committee is unable to plan and deliver the 2020 Eden Whale Festival to the full program capacity.

Executive member, Ruth Ernest expressed the decision was hard for the committee but the current uncertainty has made planning, fundraising and approval processing a challenge.

"It takes a lot of time, fundraising and community input to plan the festival each year. Due to the Coronavirus crisis and the uncertainty of what will be permitted, we cannot reasonably run the festival to the same capacity as years past," said Ernest.

While the planned festival weekend won't be 'business as usual', the committee is exploring options to celebrate the whale migration and the Sapphire Coast with a modified event.

"We are hopeful that the much-loved street parade and Rod Run may still be held, subject to rulings on social distancing."

New committee member Emma Godfredson said, "As a bushfire-affected region we were looking forward to welcoming people back to the area for a wonderful celebration! Sadly with the current uncertainty and with less than six month until the festival we just can't deliver that plan."

The committee is also exploring continuing with the Rod Run and street parade, smaller community events or even online events depending on how the situation unfolds with Covid-19 in Australia.

We thank the Eden community for their patience and support and look forward to bringing everyone together to celebrate the migration of the whales in the future.

For updates please check the website:

www.edenwhalefestival.com.au

You can also follow the Whale Festival on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/EdenWhaleFestival

For media enquiries please contact:

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