

Hedland group learns from Dubai

TWO Town of Port Hedland councillors and the director of engineering recently spent five days in the United Arab Emirates, along with North West Telegraph journalist Michelle Hammond.

The aim of the trip was to investigate the viability of likening Port Hedland to Dubai namely via tax incentives and infrastructure development.

Ms Hammond's role was to photograph and notate each aspect of the trip so that the information be made available to the Port Hedland community.

In the coming months, the North West Telegraph will publish a series of articles exploring various ideas and concepts, developed within the UAE, as they apply to Port Hedland.



Dubai Municipality acting head of foreign relations and organisations Sameer Mohammed Abdul Rahman, second from right, with Cr Jan Ford, director of engineering Terry Dodds and Cr Grant Bussell.

Wednesday, May 20

TOWN of Port Hedland Councillor Jan Ford and director of engineering services Terry Dodds depart from Perth International Airport on an Emirates Airline flight destined for Dubai, one of seven United Arab Emirates.

Thursday, May 21

CR Ford and Mr Dodds touch down at Dubai International Airport before travelling to their hotel to meet with fellow councillor Grant Bussell.

The group proceeds to Deira, the financial district of Dubai where most government buildings are located. They visit:

- The Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing.
- The Department of Economic Development.
- The Dubai Municipality (Dubai's local government body). They meet with acting head of

foreign relations and organisations Sameer Mohammed Abdul Rahman, who guides them through a series of models and historical photographs, mapping out the planning stages of Dubai throughout its history.

- The Dubai Municipality Museum, detailing the municipality's developments since 1959.

Friday, May 22

THE group meets with MAF Properties' vice-president of development Shelley Harrison, an Australian expatriate who has lived in Dubai since 2007.

MAF Properties is a subsidiary of the Majid Al Futtaim Group. President Majid introduced the concept of regional shopping malls to the Middle East and owns the Mall of the Emirates – the world's largest shopping mall

outside of North America.

Ms Harrison accompanies the group to seven-star resort Atlantis the Palm, situated on Palm Jumeirah, which is one of three palm-shaped artificial islands created using land reclamation. Atlantis has its own theme park and aquarium, attracting thousands of visitors each day.

The group then travels to Al Quoz, an industrial area in western Dubai not dissimilar to Port Hedland's Wedgefield.

Comprising four sub-communities, Al Quoz provides accommodation facilities for foreign labourers brought into the country temporarily.

The final destination is the Mall of Emirates, boasting the world's first indoor ski resort and five-star Kempinski Hotel with chalets overlooking the ski 'field'.

Saturday, May 23

ALONG with Ms Harrison, the group travels to Hatta, a small town located about 115km south-east of Dubai. Steeped in history, the town has recently undergone major redevelopment, with careful town planning ensuring the old buildings are integrated with the new ones.

The group then visits four-star Hatta Fort Hotel, set in manicured gardens and surrounded by the Al Hajar mountain range – quite literally an oasis in the desert.

Sunday, May 24

THE group takes a public bus to Abu Dhabi, the capital and second most populous UAE city after Dubai. The group visits:

- The Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
- Abu Dhabi Marina Mall.
- Sheikh Zayed Mosque, which is the third largest mosque in the

world and open to non-Muslims during certain hours.

Monday, May 25

ACCOMPANIED by Ms Harrison, the group visits:

- Dubai Ports World. With 49 marine terminals for 31 countries, DP World is one of the world's largest marine terminal operators.
- Dubai Museum. Housed within the historical Al Fahidi Fort, working models and life-size displays immerse the viewer in past and present depictions of everyday life in Dubai.

Tuesday, May 26

THE group departs from Dubai International Airport, bound for Perth.

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