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MEDIA RELEASE



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For immediate release

Bushland back open after asbestos clean-up

Bushland to the south of Demco Estate in Broome has been reopened following work to remove material that contained asbestos and the development of a plan for managing the area.

The discovery of the material on land managed by the State Government, Shire of Broome and Yawuru was reported in late August 2016 and the area was then closed to the public before samples sent to Perth for testing confirmed the material did contain asbestos.

Licensed asbestos handling contractors were employed by the Shire of Broome to inspect the area and remove the material, and test pits were dug at two locations but found no evidence of more material buried underground.

Shire of Broome Chief Executive Officer, Kenn Donohoe, said that public safety and the importance of the area for public use and recreation were the key considerations.

“We acknowledge the closure caused some inconvenience to members of the public who access this area, but our main consideration was for the safety of the community,” Mr Donohoe said.

“The Shire has stepped up to manage any potential risk to the public and incurred costs of more than \$30,000 in doing so.

“We have now developed an asbestos management plan for the area that will be implemented once it’s approved by Yawuru.

“This plan includes installing signage advising of the potential asbestos hazard and providing information on how to report findings of possible asbestos-containing material.

“It also provides for biannual inspections of the area by land managers in the first year, with the plan to be reviewed at the end of the first year based on whether any asbestos-containing material is found, to determine whether the biannual inspections should continue or more detailed site investigations are required.”

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