

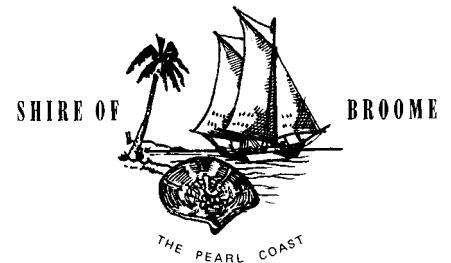
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Media Release



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For immediate release

MOVES TO STEM CHINATOWN LITTERING

Local cultural tourism operator and Chairman of the Jumbarrngunjul Aboriginal Corporation Neil McKenzie has volunteered to start engaging the Indigenous people who hang around Chinatown.

“It’s not just the traders who don’t like the rubbish and unpleasant behaviour” said Neil. “It’s our country and we don’t want this mob to make a mess of it. We want respect for our country”.

Neil and a group of Indigenous volunteers will hand out rubbish bags and talk to people about looking after Country. The Shire will collect the bags of rubbish on a daily basis, each morning.

Neil’s response to this issue is being supported by community members and both state and local government.

In support of the project the use of a vehicle has been provided free by Broome Motors who have recently won a Small Business Award and fuel is being donated. Other members of the community and business operators have also offered to help.

Cr Robert Lander, local MLC Shelley Archer and Neil McKenzie will examine the successful Larrakia Project in Darwin and Skywest Airlines in showing community support has generously volunteered two airfares.

“Obviously we need to see what comes out of the Indigenous Visitor project” said Ms Archer, “but the Larrakia Project, which has dealt with similar problems in Darwin, is a model we need to consider, although it may not be the only answer”.

The State Department of Aboriginal Affairs is funding a Project Officer for six months to come up with a Broome Indigenous Visitor Strategy. Local DIA Manager Jeremy Elliott said that interviews had been conducted and an appointment was expected very shortly.

“The Project will involve extensive consultation with agencies, the community and adversely affected groups, and a survey of the Indigenous visitor population” said Mr Elliott.

“It is essential that we find out where the Indigenous visitors come from, why they are here and what we can do to change their situation of disadvantage.”

Shire President Graeme Campbell welcomed the initiatives being taken. "It is great to see the community getting involved in this project. If we all work together on issues like this it will make a big difference in how the town moves forward" he said.

"I should add that, whilst the problem of littering and anti-social behaviour has triggered this initiative, it is acknowledged by all concerned that there are much wider issues to be worked through. Although attention tends to be drawn to a relatively small number of Indigenous people in the Chinatown precinct, many of Broome's problems, particularly in relation to littering, are by no means only caused by Indigenous people or confined to Chinatown."