

Shire of Broome
PO Box 44, Broome WA 6725
Phone: 08 9191 3456
Fax: 08 9191 3455

MEDIA RELEASE



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For immediate release

Community to be Consulted on Additional Housing Options

Broome Council has endorsed the release of the Draft Broome Housing Strategy and given the go-ahead to further consult with residents on possible options to meet the accommodation shortage in Broome.

The Draft Broome Local Housing Strategy will be released for public comment from 7 August to 17 September 2008 and will use a range of consultation methods to encourage a response from the community.

Shire President Graeme Campbell said that the draft strategy looks at ways to ease housing pressures in Broome through a variety of processes.

The draft strategy is about looking at a range of housing opportunities in the context of our diverse community while protecting the character of the town," said Cr Campbell.

"Governed by acts and regulations, the Shire has limited control over what it can actually do to ease the shortfall in both the availability and supply of land and sufficient housing,

"This has led us to develop a draft strategy to improve the provision of housing that is achievable and importantly within the Council's powers," he said.

"We need to find a way forward to provide for employee accommodation for the construction industry and adequate supply of affordable accommodation for employees and other residents. We need to ensure that we meet the housing needs of our community now and in the future."

"Its about housing availability, affordability, and suitability," he said.

"The draft strategy also talks about engaging different sectors of our community such as non-profit organisations land owners, to consider future planning and how they can contribute.

"We see this strategy as a step forward and will be working closely with the community and listening to their responses to this draft document," said Cr Campbell.

The draft strategy has been prepared taking into consideration issues raised from public submissions and the Broome Housing and Accommodation Summit held last year.

"The draft strategy suggests future development areas. It considers effective use of residential areas including the infill of undeveloped land and increasing densities in some areas as part of a balanced package that can be realistically achieved," said Cr Campbell.

While the Shire is currently preparing material for the official consultation period, which opens at the end of the month, Manager of Planning Services for the Shire of Broome, Michelle Teoh is happy to answer any queries in the meantime. Michelle can be contacted on 9191 3456.

Ends

Media Contact:

Graeme Campbell, Shire President, Shire of Broome Tel: 0407 477 544.