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MEDIA RELEASE



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For immediate release

Broome Multipurpose Arts and Community Venue

The Broome Multipurpose Arts and Community Venue is moving ahead following confirmation of a funding agreement of almost \$5million with the Department of Culture and the Arts (DCA).

At its meeting last night Broome Council adopted the terms of the proposed DCA funding agreement, which will formalise the distribution of funds promised by the State Government to the Shire.

With the Broome Civic Centre site chosen, structural engineering assessment complete, project architect appointed and concept design approved by Council, the Shire is set to tender for construction of the building.

Final design drawings are expected to be completed by end of January 2011 and tenders for construction will be called for mid February 2011.

There will be significant borrowings, the level of which will be dependent on the tender price.

As part of its funding conditions, DCA advised the Shire that for future flexibility, structural work to the auditorium floor would need to accommodate retractable or raked seating. Additionally, to recognise the capabilities of the premises for future users DCA requires that the official venue name not reference performing arts.

Broome Shire advised DCA that additional funds were not available in this financial year to undertake the flooring component request but that the feasibility of this work would be factored into the long term financial planning by Council.

The Shire also confirmed a name would be chosen for the venue that does not reference performing arts as per the grant conditions. During construction the building will be known as the Broome Multipurpose Arts and Community Venue. The reason for this is to reflect the flexible nature of the venue which, while still having the capacity for performing arts, will be utilised for other arts and cultural pursuits.

Broome Shire President Graeme Campbell said with DCA providing funding of close to \$5million it was important that they were satisfied with how the project was progressing and that it met all their conditions.

“Despite lengthy negotiations with the state over the terms of the grant conditions, we have made substantial progress with this project in 2010,” he said.

“This venue has been a long time coming, but with most of the major decisions and negotiations now behind us we should see construction begin next year.”

Ends

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