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MEDIA RELEASE



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For immediate release

Bushland closed after possible asbestos discovery

Access to an area of bushland to the south of Demco Estate in Broome has been closed after the potential discovery of asbestos.

The presence of the material was reported to the Shire of Broome on the afternoon of 24 August 2016 and Shire officers have spent 25 August inspecting the area which is now closed to the public.

Samples of the material have been collected and sent to Perth for analysis, and it is expected to take up to a week to receive results.

The Shire of Broome has notified the WA Government Department of Environment Regulation and Department of Parks and Wildlife, as well as the WA Department of Lands and Yawuru who jointly manage a portion of the land with the Shire.

If the material is confirmed as asbestos the area will then need to be investigated to determine the extent of any contamination and what measures need to be taken to remove it.

Broome Shire President, Ron Johnston, said the health and wellbeing of the community was paramount and the Shire of Broome had acted immediately once alerted to the potential danger.

“The health threat posed by asbestos is well known and it is very important that people stay clear of the potentially affected area,” Cr Johnston said.

“Any contamination has not yet been confirmed, but we will keep the community updated on developments.”

ENDS