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MEDIA RELEASE



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For immediate release

Call to postpone Broome heritage assessment

The Shire of Broome is calling on the WA Department of Aboriginal Affairs to postpone the hearing of a controversial application to register the Broome town site as an Aboriginal heritage site until there has been proper consultation with all of those affected.

The Department of Aboriginal Affairs (DAA) has now confirmed it has extended the deadline for public submissions by five days to 30 November 2016, but Broome Shire President Ron Johnston said this was still grossly inadequate.

“The Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee is scheduled to formally consider the DAA’s application on Wednesday 14 December, but the only acceptable outcome to satisfy procedural fairness is for this to be postponed,” Cr Johnston said.

“This will allow Broome’s ratepayers, residents and other stakeholders to be properly consulted and to make informed submissions.

“However, in the meantime I would still encourage the community to continue to make submissions to the DAA on the proposal by the 30 November deadline.”

Cr Johnston said the Shire and Yawuru Native Title Holders were scheduled to meet with the Acting Director General of DAA this Monday, 28 November, where they would request that consideration of the application be deferred until there was proper engagement in Broome. Several requests have also been made to meet with the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs.

“The registration of an Aboriginal site over the entire town could have significant consequences for Broome,” he said.

Cr Johnston said that Aboriginal heritage and culture was an integral part of Broome and the Shire had forged an excellent working relationship with Yawuru Traditional Owners, but that the DAA application would not achieve any real Aboriginal heritage protection outcomes.

More information is available on the Shire of Broome website at www.broome.wa.gov.au.

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