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## **MEDIA RELEASE**



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For immediate release

## **Plant thefts costing the community**

The increasing theft of plants from public landscaping around Broome is costing the community thousands of dollars.

The Shire of Broome estimates that so far in 2016 more than \$1500 worth of plants has been stolen from public parks, gardens, roundabouts and traffic islands.

Shire of Broome Chief Executive Officer, Kenn Donohoe, said a recent example was upgrades to the gardens at Bedford Memorial Park in the lead-up to the Anzac Day Dawn Service.

“Within two weeks, 10 of the new plants had been stolen,” Mr Donohoe said.

“Plants have also gone missing from Chinatown, gardens at the Broome Civic Centre and Broome Recreation and Aquatic Centre, and various roundabouts.

“In addition to the cost of the plants is the wasted labour by workers to put the plants in and then replace them.

“The Shire’s Parks and Gardens staff does a fantastic job of beautifying Broome’s public spaces, but it is becoming increasingly difficult for them to introduce new and more attractive species as these are targeted by thieves.

“We would encourage any community members with information about the theft of plants to report it to the Shire or Broome Police.”

The most commonly stolen plants include Desert Roses, Crotons, Ornamental Pineapples, Echeveria Rosettes, Cordylines, Dracaenas, Cycads, Crinums and ZZ Plants.

Some of the varieties stolen are unusual in Broome, such as five Echeveria Lilacina recently taken from the roundabout outside the Kimberley Training Institute on Cable Beach Rd East.

In addition to the theft of whole plants, people regularly damage plants by taking cuttings from public gardens.

**ENDS**