

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

Shire pushes for local agriculture investment

The Shire of Broome is pushing for the release of new agricultural land near the town to develop new industries and employment opportunities.

Broome Shire President, Ron Johnston, said there was increasing recognition that the hinterland of Broome had terrific potential for irrigated agriculture and increased beef production, and it was important more rapid progress was made to realise this.

In particular the Skuthorpe block about 23km east of Broome near Roebuck Roadhouse featured 650ha of land identified as having significant potential for irrigated agriculture.

Cr Johnston said the Shire had been meeting potential investors and working with the State Government to progress the project, and was pushing for the land to be released to the market.

“Broadening the economic base of Broome and the West Kimberley should be a key goal for us all, and agriculture is an industry with a lot of potential but that is currently under developed in our region,” he said.

“The development of irrigation at Mowanjum Aboriginal Community to grow better pastures to fatten cattle is an example of excellent work by the State Government and Mowanjum people who are to be congratulated on what they have achieved.

“It’s creating enterprise for their people to get involved in the economy and is an example of what is possible with agriculture in our region.

“There are not many places in the Kimberley right now with quality green feed for stock but at Mowanjum we can see what is possible.”

Cr Johnston said the State Government was also doing terrific work to expand the Ord Scheme at Kununurra, but that it was now time for Broome to get greater attention.

“For Broome and its surrounds we have to move beyond talk and planning, and release more land for agricultural development with a freehold title option to encourage investment,” Cr Johnston said.

“In particular the Skuthorpe block needs to be released for tender now that its ground water potential has been determined.

“More agriculture means more business in Broome and more use of our Port.”

Ends