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For immediate release

Liquor restriction trial start date delayed

The Shire of Broome remains committed to reducing alcohol-related harm in the West Kimberley region.

But, due to the impact of COVID-19, voluntary liquor restrictions will not be rolled out on July 1 as previously announced.

The restrictions were to be part of a 12-month trial from the Broome Liquor Accord – comprising purchasing limits on takeaway alcohol with the aim of reducing crime, violence and anti-social behaviour.

However, to progress with the trial, unilateral support from Broome and Derby's liquor retailers is necessary – and this is no longer the case.

Shire of Broome president and Broome Liquor Accord chair Harold Tracey said he would continue dialogue with industry partners to find a solution.

“We initially had flagged the July 1 commencement to coincide with the launch of the Pilbara's Banned Drinkers Register, which starts on the same date, so we could compare data,” he said.

“I acknowledge the financial impact COVID-19 has had on all industries and small businesses in Broome and the wider Kimberley region.

“So much hard work has already been undertaken by all parties to get to this stage – it would be a real shame to see that go to waste and I remain hopeful that an agreement can be reached.

“Ongoing alcohol restrictions in our region are one of the key measures that are needed to try to address the deep-rooted social issues in our towns.”

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