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For immediate release

## **Shire advocates to improve access and inclusion in Broome**

The Shire of Broome is delighted by a recent State Government announcement allocating additional funding to accessible transport options in regional WA.

WA Transport Minister Rita Saffioti recently announced the State Government's intention to invest \$1.5 million into the Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle (WAV) Taxi Service Grant Scheme.

The Scheme provides financial support to encourage the creation of WAV taxi services in regional WA and can cover the cost of installing wheelchair accessible equipment like electric-hydraulic ramps.

Grants of up to \$65,000 are available to support the establishment of new WAV taxi services in towns where none exist, which is the current situation in Broome.

Over the last 12 months, Shire of Broome representatives have highlighted the issue to the Department of Transport and Minister Saffioti, and requested assistance.

Shire of Broome president Harold Tracey said the Scheme was a positive opportunity to provide accessible transport options for all.

"I'd like to thank the State Government, especially Minister Saffioti, for taking on board the Shire's input and allocating this essential funding," he said.

"The fact that Broome does not currently have WAV taxi services is a situation that impacts on the lives of many community members and visitors – and not one that is in the spirit of our town.

"I'd encourage local taxi operators in Broome to jump on this fantastic opportunity, with the Shire happy to assist in funding applications if required.

"We want to ensure Broome is a welcoming, accessible and inclusive place for everyone."

For more information on the WAV Taxi Service Grant Scheme, [click here](#).

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