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For immediate release

Empowering Young Minds at the Shire of Broome Youth Forum



The Shire of Broome's Youth Forum, held on Monday, 24 February, brought together students from Broome Senior High School and St Mary's College for a day of discussion, inspiration, and collaboration.

The event was a great success, providing a platform for young people to share their thoughts on key issues affecting them.

A major focus of the forum was to gather valuable input for the development of the Shire's new Youth Plan, ensuring that young people's voices directly shape future initiatives.

Students also had the opportunity to connect with and learn from a range of stakeholders, including St John Ambulance Services, the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA), Headspace, WA Police, Broome Public Library, Shire of Broome Rangers, and Shire of Broome Environmental Health officers.

Through these interactions, students explored a variety of employment and volunteering opportunities available, providing insights into career paths and ways to contribute to their community.

They also heard how to actively engage with these agencies, with many organisations expressing a keen interest in hearing young people's perspectives and ideas, ensuring that their voices are not only heard but also have a meaningful impact on local initiatives.

Shire President Chris Mitchell addressed the students, reinforcing the power of youth-led change.

"Because big change starts small—right here, in your schools, your streets, and your community. You don't have to wait to make a difference—you can start shaping the future today. We want to hear from you to help shape the Shire's Youth Plan."

He also encouraged ongoing involvement, highlighting the Youth Advisory Council (YAC) as a way for young people to continue making an impact.

"And don't forget, your voice matters beyond today – The Youth Advisory Council is always looking for fresh ideas and new perspectives. If you're keen to continue making a difference, reach out to the Shire and get involved."

The Shire President further urged young people to take an active role in their community, reminding them that the Shire and local organisations want to hear from them and are eager to hear their ideas and perspectives.

The Shire of Broome thanks all students, schools, and participating organisations for their involvement and looks forward to using the insights gathered to create a Youth Plan that truly reflects the needs and aspirations of Broome's young people.

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Background:

The Shire of Broome has been actively implementing the **Youth Plan 2021-2025**, which was developed following extensive community consultation in 2020. As this plan approaches its completion, we are once again engaging with the community to shape the next four-year strategy.

This consultation process will not only review the effectiveness of the current plan's actions—identifying successes and areas for improvement—but also provide an opportunity for new priorities and initiatives to emerge based on community feedback. By listening to residents' concerns and ideas, the Shire aims to develop a refreshed plan that responds to the evolving safety needs of Broome and delivers meaningful, community-driven outcomes.

To read the Youth Plan 2021-2025 visit www.broome.wa.gov.au/youth-plan-2021-2025