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MEDIA RELEASE



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For immediate release

Key Chinatown project gets green light

Work is set to begin on a key project in the Shire of Broome's ongoing work to revitalise Chinatown.

The connection of the eastern end of Frederick St and the southern end of Dampier Tce will help bring to life an underutilised part of Chinatown that is home to a mix of retail, office and residential properties.

The Frederick St/Dampier Tce Connection project was approved by Council in June 2015 after consultation with stakeholders including the Mallinbarr Aboriginal Community and Yawuru Native Title Holders.

It has now received heritage approval from the State Government's Department of Aboriginal Affairs, allowing work to begin next week and completion expected in May 2016.

The \$600,000 project is jointly funded by the Shire of Broome and Tourism WA and work will include connecting the two roads with a raised brick-paved thoroughfare, improved stormwater drainage, and new footpaths, parking bays and 10 new street lights.

Shire of Broome Acting Chief Executive Officer, Paul Martin, said this was the first stage of the project that was envisaged to eventually include a tourist lookout and other facilities following further consultation and engagement.

"Chinatown is Broome's historic, cultural and commercial heart and the Shire is committed to retaining and enhancing that position," Mr Martin said.

"The Frederick St/Dampier Tce Connection is the latest stage in implementing the Shire's Chinatown Development Strategy that has also included the Jetty to Jetty Project, clean-up of Streeter's Jetty and installation of signage and interpretive information, undergrounding of power lines, additional shade trees and structures and expanding Christmas lighting and decorations.

"The State Government has earmarked a further \$10 million and the Shire will consider a further \$2 million to pave the way for more significant Chinatown revitalisation projects to be undertaken, and a business case submitted by the Shire is now being considered by the State.

"To make sure community members, business representatives and other stakeholders have input to this process, Council has also appointed a Chinatown Stakeholder and Community Reference Group."

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