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MEDIA RELEASE



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For immediate release

Temporary beach closures protecting our turtles

The Shire of Broome is again limiting the impact of vehicles on turtles nesting at world-famous Cable Beach with night-time closures now underway.

The Cable Beach north access ramp is closed to vehicles between 8pm and 6am each day during the turtle nesting season from 1 October 2016 to 28 February 2017.

Cable Beach will also be closed to vehicles two hours either side of high tides of 9m or more.

Broome Shire President, Ron Johnston, said the gate installed at the Cable Beach Amphitheatre access ramp would be locked during the temporary closures.

“The vehicle closure times are primarily at night and during the period when the beach is least used and turtle nesting season is underway,” Cr Johnston said.

“The main species nesting on Cable Beach is the Flatback Turtle, which is threatened and is protected under WA legislation.

“Turtles generally nest at the top of the beach just above the high tide mark, and their nests can be damaged by vehicles compacting sand and crushing nests.

“Wheel ruts can prevent hatchlings making their way to the water’s edge, and vehicle lights can disturb and confuse hatchlings.”

More information on vehicle access and driving techniques during turtle nesting season is available on the Shire website at www.broome.wa.gov.au.

Ends