

Date: 2 May, 2017

SUMMARY:

- Shire of Exmouth has acted to address governance issues identified in CCC public hearings and final report.

Exmouth Shire responds to CCC report findings

Shire of Exmouth Commissioner Ian Fletcher has responded to the tabling of the Corruption and Crime Commission's *Report On Matters of Serious Misconduct and Concern in the Shire of Exmouth*, in State Parliament today, saying the organisation had already made significant progress towards addressing its findings.

Commissioner Fletcher said the Shire had been working closely with the Department of Local Government, Public Sector Commission and Western Australian Local Government Association to address governance issues highlighted by the CCCs public hearings last year. To date the Shire had;

- Terminated the employment of the former Chief Executive Officer and Special Projects Officer;
- Undertaken a full probity audit to assess and improve governance;
- Completed a forensic audit of the Ningaloo Centre project and associated procurement practices;
- Instigated a review of all Shire policies including credit card usage and purchasing policies;
- Planned a staff training program to educate all employees about obligations of their employment; and
- Appointed a new Chief Executive Officer.

"The Shire acted immediately to address issues that became apparent following the CCC public hearings last year," Commissioner Fletcher said.

"As Commissioner I have been working closely with Acting Chief Executive Officer Keith Woodward and Shire staff to create a culture of transparency, good governance and service to the community that will endure beyond my tenure at the Shire. It has been a challenging time for Shire staff and the local community, but we have made significant progress.

"I want to acknowledge the efforts of staff at the shire throughout this very difficult period. They have continued to function very effectively in providing services to the community. I would like to thank them for their patience and your perseverance.

Shire of Exmouth **MEDIA RELEASE**



“Work still needs to be done to rebuild trust as well as to restore confidence in the Shire at a community, State Government level and with business in Perth. It must be demonstrated to everyone that Exmouth is open for business.”

The Commissioner said the CCC inquiry had come at a considerable cost to the Shire and caused much hurt in the community, and he hoped Exmouth could now move forward.

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A full copy of the CCC report is available at www.ccc.wa.gov.au