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**SUMMARY:**

- Shire of Exmouth aspires to become Methamphetamine Free Zone;
  - Community working group to be established to develop local response to drug abuse.
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## **Exmouth outlines desire to be Methamphetamine Free Zone**

The Shire of Exmouth will establish a working group to develop local strategies to address methamphetamine abuse in the community and support its aspiration to become a Methamphetamine Free Zone.

The move follows the State Government's establishment of the Methamphetamine Action Plan Taskforce, headed by Ron Alexander, in June and an increase in drug related offences in Exmouth this year.

Shire of Exmouth Commissioner Ian Fletcher said drug use was a concern for all communities and local government should be empowered to take a leadership role and be part of the solution.

"Like all local governments, we are concerned about the level of drug use within our community and the impact that has on community safety and health services as well as local families," Commissioner Fletcher said.

"Rather than sit back and wait for other people to come up with solutions, we are taking a proactive stance in Exmouth. We are effectively drawing a line by saying we don't want drugs in the community and providing local leadership and local strategies to address the issue."

Commissioner Fletcher said that the Shire of Exmouth was introducing a Fitness for Work program at the Shire to eliminate drugs from the workplace and would support other large employers such as Raytheon Australia and the Defence Forces to do the same. This could involve information and resource sharing.

"We will also help build the community's capacity to deal with drug and alcohol related issues by creating a working group and supporting the development of a collaborative approach to drug issues. By working together we can have a much bigger impact than if we all work alone," he said.

This cross-sector collaboration was identified as an area of investigation for the Methamphetamine Action Plan Taskforce. Chair Ron Alexander has visited Exmouth today to meet with key stakeholders in the initiative. Exmouth is the first WA local government to adopt a Methamphetamine Free stance.

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