

Chinatown plan endorsed

■ Glenn Cordingley

The public will have a say on the multimillion-dollar revitalisation of Chinatown after a draft masterplan was finally endorsed by the Shire of Broome.

Councillors last week voted unanimously to support the concept design plans, which have taken more than 12 months to reach this stage.

The blueprint aims to reduce the amount of bitumen on main roads Carnarvon Street and Dampier Terrace, increase shade and lighting, and create space for alfresco dining, public art and street-side activation such as busking and spaces for markets.

The improvements are proposed to encourage people to visit the CBD and stimulate private sector investment and economic activity. The council has requested further consideration be given to identifying alternative locations for reinstatement of any lost car parking.

Feasibility studies into the Gray Street extension and the Roebuck Bay reconnection have been abandoned after "fatal flaws" were exposed during their analysis.

A council officer agenda report to the ordinary council meeting last week said the project schedule remained a "critical risk" as works progressed.

"Current schedules place the Chinatown revitalisation project up to two months behind target with regard to compilation of tender documentation," the report said. "Project delays have occurred



A draft masterplan of the Chinatown revitalisation project. Picture: Shire of Broome

in the concept design period and options for delivery projects."

But the report said the final construction completion date of December 31, 2018 was still on target.

Regional Development Minister Alannah MacTiernan last month became "personally involved" in the project after being made aware no works had started since \$10 mil-

lion in funding was made available by the State Government almost 18 months ago. Ms MacTiernan later visited the town and gave project leaders LandCorp, the Kimberley Development Commission and the council a deadline of March next year for work to begin.

Broome Chamber of Commerce and Industry president Peter Tay-

lor said endorsement from the council was a major step forward for what should be a transformational project.

"The crucial element is the timing of works and it is critical the project managers work very closely with businesses to ensure there would be no disruption during the peak tourist season," he said.

The consultation period will run for 21 days from October 9.

Conference showcase could double cruise income

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Mr Murray said it was important to communicate to cruise lines that the Port of Broome had the capacity to deal with any issues related to tide and infrastructure.

Broome Chamber of Commerce and Industry president Peter Taylor said cruise ship passengers were a boon for the town, pumping millions of dollars into the local economy every season.

"This is a great word-of-mouth marketing opportunity that potentially opens the door to return visits to Broome," he said.

It is understood the State Government is considering solutions to improve cruise ship access to Broome.

Shire of Broome acting president Harold Tracey said the exciting news highlighted Broome's status as a popular tourism and cruise ship destination.

"Council recognises the economic development opportunities offered to Broome by the cruise industry," he said.

"We're looking forward to working with different stakeholders in the lead-up to 2018 to maximise the impact of the conference in developing cruise ship visitation to town."



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Children gather with their shorebirds at the display at Cable Beach.

Kids wade into lessons on protecting bay shorebirds

■ Robert Dougherty

Broome children were given the opportunity to learn about their favourite shorebirds at the launch of the Flock Oz — Broome project at Cable Beach last week.

Participants were encouraged to make a life-size decorated cut-out of a local Roebuck Bay species to take home for their gardens, while learning about protecting Broome's shorebirds.

The event was organised by Parks and Wildlife, Broome Men's Shed, Bran Nue Dae, Roebuck Bay Working Group, and the Broome Community Resource Centre, with schools and community groups making their own flock of shorebirds and "nesting" them outside Zanders Restaurant.

Shorebird researcher and event organiser Grace Maglio said the project was a good way to get the community engaged to learn more about their local animals.

"The Flock Oz project involves a discussion of the specific threats shorebirds encounter on Roebuck Bay with participants while they are painting the birds," she said.

"This will hopefully help give them an understanding of looking after the bay, as well as the more specific issue of looking after the animals using the bay. I was inspired by a project run by Pukorokoro Miranda Shorebird Centre called Flock NZ and have worked towards bringing Flock Oz to Broome as a community engagement aspect of the work I have been doing over the last two seasons."