

# Conservation land cleared for fire break

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MINYIRR Park supervisor Micklo Corpus was devastated last week after a proportion of land reserved for conservation was cleared for a fire break without consent.

Mr Corpus said land from Gantheaume Point to Gubinge Road had been set aside as conservation land in an agreement between the Broome Shire and the Yawuru people.

However, last week FESA carried out fire hazard reduction work near Gantheaume Point as part of its fire manage-

ment plan. FESA district manager Kim Maldon said the fire break near Gantheaume Point was necessary to protect surrounding areas including the caravan park, Minyirr Park and the race course.

Mr Corpus argued FESA had broken section 18 of the native title act regarding heritage and culture.

The shire's Emergency and Ranger Services manager Doug Van Bavel said section 18 referred to a State legislation act which applied to State Government agencies.

Mr Van Bavel also said although an agreement between the Shire and the Yawuru people was signed in August, the agreement had not yet come into effect.

"The land is not vested with the shire yet so it's still State Government land."

The shire finished work on fire hazard reduction on the weekend.

Mr Van Bavel said fire breaks played an important role in managing and mitigating the risk of fire to the community.