

Project aims to cut plastic bag use

■ Nicola Kalmar

A project aimed at reducing the number of plastic shopping bags and amount of marine debris is to be launched in Broome next year.

The Roebuck Bay Working Group secured a \$100,000 grant from Rangelands NRM and State NRM through Royalties for Regions this year, which will go towards an initiative run in partnership with Yawuru and the Department of Parks and Wildlife. The project will include the

Reducing plastic shopping bag use would have a positive impact for marine life and water quality.

design and distribution of reusable calico bags featuring marine life in Roebuck Bay for the community to use as an alternative to the existing non-biodegradable plastic bags found in supermarkets and stores.

RBWG project manager Kandy Curran said reducing plastic shopping bag use would have a positive impact for marine life and water quality.

Ms Curran said the project would also focus on consultations with retailers and educational work with the local community to raise awareness about the harmful impacts of plastics in Broome's productive coastal waters.

Funding will also be used to screen the short film, Gardens for Broome's Saltwater Country.

Ms Curran said the State NRM funding would help continue the showcase of the biennial Mud and Saltwater Short Film Festival and Science on the Broome Coast series, as well as source reduction projects targeting coastal debris, infographic signs, a website upgrade and citizen science blinds to encourage volunteering on Roebuck Bay monitoring projects.

She said collaborations were key to the group's success in securing grants.

"We thank our partners who pro-

vided letters of support that helped secure the large grant — namely, the Yawuru Land and Sea Unit, Broome Bird Observatory, Department of Parks and Wildlife, Dinosaur Coast Management Group, Environs Kimberley, Rangelands NRM and WWF Australia," she said.

"The RBWG extends their thanks to the Western Australian Government, State NRM Program and Royalties for Regions for providing the three-year NRM grant."

Business up in lights at awards

■ Robert Dougherty

Derby has provided an electrifying end to the Western Australian Regional Small Business Awards, as local Wattnow Electrical was named best in WA.

Wattnow's Jonathan Smith and Prue Plowright collected the award for 2016 Western Australian Regional Small Business of the Year at the awards night on November 11.

The team also claimed the Aboriginal Business Award against a strong field of Pilbara and Kimberley businesses, netting them \$1000 as a category



Jonathan Smith accepts the award alongside Prue Plowright and the Minister for Small Business Sean L'Estrange. Picture: M Armenti

award winner. The major trophy earned them \$25,000 worth of television advertising courtesy of GWN7, a 30-second commercial produced by Lomax Media, an annual subscription to Business News and full scholarship for Curtin University's

Growth Program. Their rivals for the ABA included Kimberley Air Tours, Best IT & Business Solutions, Adventure Wild Kimberley Tours, MCG Building Maintenance, Broome Sportsfishing and Hydroclean Broome.

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