



Plastic bags litter Roebuck Bay. Picture: Roebuck Bay Working Group

# Rid Broome of plastic bags

■ Nicola Kalmar

Local environment groups announced a new project was in the pipeline to rid the town of plastic bags.

The Roebuck Bay Working Group recently secured funding from Rangelands NRM to begin a project in 2016 to make Broome "plastic bag-free."

RBWG project manager Kandy Curran said the organisation will join forces with Yawuru and the Department of Parks and Wildlife to launch the initiative which will be rolled out in the next three

years. She said the project would include hosting a series of workshops, consultations with retailers and working with the community to raise awareness and aim at reducing the amount of plastic on Broome's beaches.

Reusable calico bags featuring iconic marine life in Roebuck Bay will also be given out to the community as an incentive to give up using plastic bags for shopping.

Ms Curran said she hoped to see Broome follow in the footsteps of Exmouth, which has generally been plastic-bag-free for the past 13 years thanks to community sup-

port. "The peninsula town of Exmouth is an inspiration," she said.

"It really makes sense in beautiful coastal towns like Broome and Exmouth that are surrounded by such productive waters, to work with community and business to keep the coast clean."

Shire of Exmouth executive manager of health and building Rob Manning said the decision to stop using plastic bags around town was initially driven by the local Cape Conservation Group, which approached the Shire with an ambition to have plastic bags removed from shops.

Mr Manning said it was a "consultative" process between CCG, the Shire, the Chamber of Commerce, retailers and residents and was successfully implemented because of collective support.

A Coles spokeswoman said the supermarket was "committed" to reducing consumer reliance on single-use lightweight plastic bags.

A Woolworths spokesman said where possible, the retailer offered a broad range of reusable shopping bag options for sale and encouraged customers to continue to use those bags.

## Security firm to patrol Shire properties

■ Glenn Cordingley

A contract worth more than \$500,000 over three years has been awarded to a security company to patrol Shire of Broome properties.

At a special meeting last Tuesday, Shire councillors voted for Lycan Pty Ltd, trading as North West Coast Security, after considering a recommendation made in a confidential tender assessment report.

They decided on Option 1, which the agenda report said would "provide the highest likelihood of reduction in crime and vandalism but was also the most expensive".

"The service operate seven days a week 365 days a year and deals with a number of minor in-

cidents," it said. The second and third options represented medium and low security services respectively.

The contract is worth about \$185,000 a year.

Shire director of infrastructure Michael Dale said Lycan had been contracted to provide security services for the Shire since July 2013 and had a good understanding of the requirements involved.

"The provision of security services involves uniformed security officers undertaking foot patrols and mobile patrols to monitor security and provide a physical presence around the Shire's major building assets and destinations," he said.

"This is a proven method to reduce incidents of attempted break in or malicious damage."

The security patrols lock and unlock council toilet blocks, cemetery and beach access gates.

They also provide an escort service for staff at the Broome Recreation and Aquatic Centre and the library on scheduled late closing days.

Mr Dale said the security patrols' task was effectively to monitor and identify unlocked doors, windows, signs of forced entry, vandalism and trespassing.

"The presence of patrol vehicles in the area is also a deterrent to crime and unwanted behaviour," he said.

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