

## A Message from the Executive Manager Town Planning...

The Shire values the opinions of the Exmouth Community and promotes safety, well-being and access as some of our top priorities. As such, please find the following newsletter which includes information about communicating with the Shire and reminders about parking and off-road vehicle access.

## RANGER SERVICES COMPLAINTS

It has come to attention lately that a number of people are taking to social media to complain about dogs, parking and other activities occurring within Exmouth. Whilst social media can be a useful platform for people to connect, vent frustrations and offer opinions, it does not help the Shire provide the best possible service to the community. We are employed to serve the whole community and have processes in place to ensure we can identify and improve on any issues that might be occurring.

Please be aware that Council Officers do not monitor social media for complaints. Ranger Services welcome any report or complaint and each will be actioned appropriately. If at any stage you wish to make a report about dogs, parking, off road vehicles or to just chat about an issue or gain information, please contact the Ranger Services on 9949 3000 or visit the Shire's website to submit a report.

We recognise that because Exmouth is a small town individuals may feel anxious or awkward about submitting a complaint. Please be aware that in accordance with Council Policy 2.8—Complaints Handling, we must keep all complaints confidential. This means that at no stage can any Council officer ever release information as to who made the complaint.

## DOG ATTACKS

Being bitten or attacked by a dog can produce serious physical, psychological and emotional effects, not only for the person who is attacked but also for the owner of the attacking dog. Even if the victim is not bitten, the threat of the attack can cause lasting trauma.

The Shire takes all reported dog attacks seriously. If you or your dog are involved in a dog attack, please contact Ranger Services to make a report. Without this report, Council is unaware of any dangerous dogs in the community and therefore the same dog might attack others. Ranger Services are asking the community to come forward and report any dog attacks to ensure the safety of the community.

Following an investigation into a dog attack, and depending of the severity of the attack and the history of the attack dog, possible outcomes may include:

- Verbal and written warnings
- Voluntary surrender of the dog for euthanasia
- Issuing of infringements
- Declaring the attack dog 'dangerous' and imposing additional control requirements
- Court action—with possible penalties up to \$10,000 or 12 months imprisonment and/or request for an order of the destruction of a dog (only a magistrate can order this)

## LEGISLATION REVIEWS

New state legislation governing parking fines for illegally parking in spaces reserved for people with disability came into effect at the end of 2014.

Court-imposed penalties for illegally parking in reserved spaces without a disability parking permit increased from \$1,000 to \$2,000. On-the-spot fines have increased from \$120 to \$300.

Over the past 12 months, Council has also been reviewing its Local Laws to ensure they are consistent with State legislation and to provide for a safer, more accessible Exmouth. A number of these local laws have been adopted by Council, including the new Parking Local Law 2015.

With the adoption of the Parking Local Law 2015, on-the-spot fines have been increased up to a maximum of \$80. To view a copy of the new Parking Local Law 2015 or any of Council's other local laws, please visit the Shire's website.



## SCHOOL PARKING

Whilst it is understood that there is very limited parking spaces available around the school, Council is asking parents to consider where they are parking to ensure the safety of the students.

Footpaths and verges must be kept clear to allow a safe passage for the students and parents to walk. There are also No Stopping and No Parking signs on Carpenter St and Maidstone Cr. Penalties apply for offences. We ask you to contact the Shire on 9949 3000 to report any vehicles parked illegally around the school.

## AIRPORT PARKING

From the beginning of December 2014, changes to the parking at Learmonth Airport has been in place. These changes have been made to ensure the safety of all people at the airport.

Whilst the Airport is not within the town centre, our local laws still apply. Council Officers have been authorised to enforce any parking offences at the airport and on-the-spot fines of up to \$80 apply.

## SHOPPING CENTRE PARKING

We would like to remind the public about the parking restrictions within the town centre. No parking areas have been clearly marked for a very long time and even though the paint fades, the parking restrictions still apply. These restrictions are in place to provide for a safer environment for everyone.

Through the Shire's Town Revitalisation works, more parking has been provided off Kennedy Street within a short walking distance of the shops.



## OFF ROAD VEHICLE USE

Council has become aware that some members of the community are driving and riding vehicles, (including dirt bikes and quad bikes), along the many dirt tracks and beaches around town. Many of the dirt tracks around town are designed as walking trails and used as such by everyone. Vehicles are also prohibited from driving along Town beach.

We ask that you refrain from using these dirt tracks and Town Beach as 'shortcuts' to get home as doing so is putting the community at risk. Remember, the people who use these tracks might be your own friends and family so you are risking the life of those you know.

If you observe any vehicles on the dirt tracks around town or driving along Town Beach, please take down any details, including vehicle registration (if any) and a description and pass it onto the Rangers.

## DOG CONTROL SURVEY

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the Dog Control Survey. The information provided has given Ranger Services an insight into how the community feels about dog control in Exmouth. Council Officers are still working on collating the results and presenting them to Council in order to designate dog exercise and prohibited areas. Once identified, public notices will be issued to advise the community of any changes.



### Newsletter delivery information

This newsletter is distributed to all PO Boxes in Exmouth, and is available for pick-up at the Post Office, Shire Offices and the Public Library. This newsletter and other information (for example grant information, upcoming events etc) can also be emailed electronically and via Exmouth Info. Send an email to [cdo@exmouth.wa.gov.au](mailto:cdo@exmouth.wa.gov.au) to register your interest and let your friends know about this opportunity.

This newsletter is available in alternative formats upon request.