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Strengthened banned drinkers register welcomed – time to increase services to support people struggling with alcohol issues

The Kimberley Regional Group congratulates the State government on the progression of new laws to strengthen the Banned Drinkers Register. Kimberley Councils have long been calling for a suite of solutions to address alcohol related harm, and a strengthened Banned Drinkers Register is a positive step.

“Kimberley communities have long been proactive in addressing alcohol issues by developing liquor accords, partnerships between local government, industry, government and community services. Through the accords local communities can respond in a nuanced way in response to local issues,” said Cr Mitchell, President of the Shire of Broome. “The Banned Drinkers Register is an important part of a bigger solution to address alcohol related harm,” said Cr McCumstie President of the Shire of Derby West Kimberley, “and we welcome this.”

“Intergenerational disadvantage has seen some of the most vulnerable people in the region unable to break the cycle of alcohol abuse and violence,” said Cr Edwards, President of Halls Creek Shire “We expect that sly grogging will increase so it is critical that police have the resources at hand to stop the grog coming illegally into our communities.”

“Alcohol-related harm is a long-standing, complex issue across our region,” said Cr Menzel Chair of the Kimberley Regional Group. “It has devastating social and economic consequences across the Kimberley. Alcohol related harm is a leading cause of anti-social behavior and family and domestic violence tearing apart families and leading to violent and untimely deaths.”

To address alcohol-related harm many individuals and families are unable to access the services and support that they need. “We urgently need investment into appropriate infrastructure and services including mental health, alcohol and other drug services across the Kimberley,” said Cr Menzel. “This reform will only succeed if the wraparound services are provided. Also two years is a very short timeframe for this initiative. It is critical that local governments and communities are involved in the evaluation process.”

To drive change, the Kimberley Regional Group is calling on the development and resourcing of a Kimberley Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention Strategy so that the root causes leading to alcohol related harm can be addressed.

About the Kimberley Regional Group

The Kimberley Regional Group (KRG) is an alliance of the four Shires of the Kimberley, being the Shire of Broome, the Shire of Derby West Kimberley, the Shire of Halls Creek and the Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley. Our Vision is to maintain and enhance the rich diversity and liveability of the Kimberley for its people and the world. Collaboratively the group seeks to drive positive impact across the region through improved social, economic and cultural outcomes.



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