



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Shire of Esperance**

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## **COUNCIL WELCOMES TOURISM FUNDING**

Tourism in Esperance has received a significant boost in the form of a Lotterywest grant of \$415,000 towards our Skate Park and outdoor recreational youth precinct.

The new Skate Park was designed with extensive community involvement to create an outdoor facility that is site responsive, multi-purpose and meets the needs of the whole Esperance community. Tenders are now open for its construction. The Skate Park and surrounding recreational infrastructure will be a boost for our youth, who will have an area that is functional and social. It will be an ideal location for families to come together, where parents can comfortably watch their children, teens can meet up and people of all ages can relax and interact.

The funding announcement comes on top of a grant of \$225,000 from Tourism Western Australia from the Tourism Demand Driver Infrastructure funding program. The funding will assist in the development of cruise ship disembarkation infrastructure, enhancing the experience of cruise ship passengers and increasing the demand from cruise shipping companies to use Esperance as a stopover port on the South Coast.

The funding has been matched with a contribution of \$225,000 from the Shire of Esperance. This will contribute to the extension of the walkways along the foreshore linking them up with the cruise ship landing area at Taylor St. This will mean a more direct link from the passenger disembarkation area to the central business district of Esperance.

Shire President Victoria Brown said "We look forward to seeing a vibrant area with pathways connecting and guiding passengers into town, a new all inclusive skate park and beautiful functional landscaping that includes seating and shady spots to rest and relax in. This is a significant boost to tourism in Esperance which will benefit local businesses and the community overall. The extension from Andrew Street to the Taylor Street adds to an already world class foreshore and will be an asset for our community."

The Esperance Cruise Ship Passenger Disembarkation/embarkation project is expected to be completed by June 2017.

**Ends**

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