Town of Port Hedland Mayor Update

* At the January Council Meeting, Council agreed to re-establish the community safety and crime prevention plan and working group
* The working group will be the ‘taskforce’ that was agreed on at the last forum in November 2016
* The Community Safety and Crime Prevention working group will consist of government agencies, local not-for-profits, industry and Aboriginal leaders
* The Town is creating a position especially for this initiative and that person will be responsible for managing the group and implementing outcomes and programs to achieve our goals
* This position is currently being advertised (applications close 17 Feb, tomorrow) so we can expect to have someone in the role in the next six to eight weeks
* The working group won’t just focus on reducing alcohol consumption, we will also focus on addressing some of the key themes from our last meeting including:
  + Improving collaboration and communication between agencies so there is a consistent approach
  + This also may help in sharing resources (staff, ideas, funding) as NGOs and agencies continue to experience funding cuts
  + Improving engagement with the community and sharing information with them on the availability of programs in the community
  + Having more services that focus on early intervention for young kids at risk from substance abuse and domestic violence
* While we’ve been doing this, the CEO and I have been meeting with representatives from State and Federal Government to discuss strategies to improve community safety and welfare in our town
* This means looking at what worked well in the past, and as the theme of this forum suggests, learning from the Town’s successes and successful partnerships and how we can replicate or improve on that this time round
* One set of strategies/solutions the Town is eager to implement are the strategies identified in the ‘Resilient Families, Stronger Communities’ roadmap developed by the Regional Services Reform Unit
* This was presented to the group at the November 2016 forum by Chad Stewart from Department of Regional Development
* It recognised key areas of reform for State Government to implement including a Pilbara Drug and Alcohol Strategy, employment, education, and essential and municipal services
* The document is aligned with the objectives of the community safety and crime prevention working group, and the Town will be using this document as a blueprint for how we proceed in creating solutions for building a vibrant, safe and friendly community