

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

**18 December 2013**

## **Ashburton Shire and Chevron before SAT over safety at Brolga camp**

The Ashburton Shire has called upon the Minister for Planning to review a case before SAT after Chevron challenged some planning conditions regarding its plans for the Brolga camp which services the Wheatstone project.

The Brolga camp is primarily made up of 380 beds and was previously used by BHP for the Macedon gas project. Last month Council agreed to grant planning approval to change the use so the camp was solely for Chevron use (for the Wheatstone construction and commissioning workers).

Ashburton Shire President Kerry White said one of Council's conditions though related to safety and indemnity as the intention of these kinds of camps should ideally be for the short-term construction phase only.

"As it is close to an industrial gas works, it is not the long term wish of the Shire to have people living and working in a potentially dangerous location," Cr White said.

"Chevron has lodged a review in the State Administrative Tribunal (SAT) against some of the planning conditions, including the requirement for Chevron to provide a legal safety indemnity.

"In exceptional cases the Minister for Planning can be requested to review a case before SAT and this is one situation where the Shire will be doing that.

"In the interests of safety, the Shire does not want to see workers continue to use the Brolga camp until this matter is resolved. We are therefore very happy to hear that Chevron has agreed to vacate the camp from 23 December 2013 until a resolution is reached.

"The Wheatstone project is very important to both the Shire and the nation and we look forward to continuing to work closely with the Minister for Planning, Chevron and SAT to effectively resolve the issue to the best interests of all concerned."

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