**Media Release**

**16 June 2021**

**Onslow Water Tank Mural Project moves forward**

The Shire of Ashburton will continue the Onslow Water Tanks Mural Project following much discussion on the future of the project in recent weeks.

Earlier this year, the appointed artist, Guido van Helten, discontinued his tenure with the Shire of Ashburton following a disagreement on the preferred concept for the artwork.

Shire of Ashburton President Kerry White acknowledged that the project was extremely important to the Onslow community.

“Council appreciate the feedback and strong sentiment from the community”, said Councillor White.

“We were disappointed that the project was interrupted and have been looking at ways in which we can continue the project supported by funding partners Water Corporation and Regional Arts WA, and have also sought legal advice on best way to move forward.

“We have been advised that failure to observe the obligations to the initial agreement with Mr. Van Helten mean it is no longer binding.

“We are looking forward to recommencing this project and transforming the facade of the water tanks as you arrive into Onslow.

“To continue the project all interested artists, including Guido van Helten, should he want to reconvene his work with the Shire, will have to submit a proposal for consideration into a new agreement.

“A revised scope is being prepared that showcases Onslow as a diverse and dynamic town in the North-West of Western Australia inclusive of its history, heritage, culture and emerging future.

“It will also include a term of reference that will set out a confidentiality provision in relation to the artists design, and any pictures of persons included in the artwork should provide their written consent to avoid concerns with the previous quote.

“Based on community feedback, we have included an Artwork Selection Working Group as part of the continuation of the project.

“This group will be made up of representatives from the Shire of Ashburton, relevant local community groups, residents, and businesses to assist Council with the selection of a new artist/s and artwork for the Onslow Water Tank Mural.

“Once a draft contract has been reviewed, the Shire, in accordance with the Local Government Regulations, will seek expressions of interest for the supply of Onslow Water Tank Mural Artwork.

“The Shire is also investigating further the contractual terms between the previous Artist and Council with a view of releasing the previous artwork to the community”.

**For media information contact:**   
Alison Lennon, Manager Media and Communications

M: 0409 314 140 | E: alison.lennon@ashburton.wa.gov.au