

MEDIA RELEASE

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PORT OF BROOME IN LINE FOR MAJOR DEVELOPMENT

Kimberley Ports Authority (**KPA**) is pleased to announce it has reached a non-binding agreement with a private investor to develop a business case for a circa \$100 million investment in new marine and tourism infrastructure at the Port of Broome.

Kimberley Marine Support Base Pty Ltd (**KMSB**) is a WA owned and operated private developer with plans to construct a new floating wharf and associated on-shore infrastructure within the Port of Broome.

A floating wharf is a potential solution for cruise ships wanting to access Broome during the extreme local tides, which impede smaller ships from being able to transfer passengers. New heavy lifting equipment would also expand the current capacity of the Port to handle the full range of oil and gas equipment.

The lead investor with KMSB has developed an existing industrial marine support base within the Port of Ashburton. The company predicts the Broome project would create 250 construction jobs and up to 450 operational jobs, in addition to existing jobs and services at the Port.

KPA CEO Kevin Schellack said KMSB would have until early in 2019 to build the business case for review by KPA and the State Government. If viable, KPA would then enter into a lease with the company and approvals would be sought to develop the land and sea bed required for the project.

Mr Schellack said the investment aligned with KPA's Master Plan for the Port of Broome.

"KPA is very aware of the billions of dollars of investment happening off the Kimberley coast by oil and gas operators.

We are encouraged by this opportunity to capture more of the on-shore benefits from this activity while also providing greater opportunities for cruise ship access into Broome.

We have been talking with the proponent to make sure there is good engagement with the local community and the full range of benefits are identified for Broome," he said.

KPA will be working with Department of Transport and Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation to develop the strategic benefits of the proposal with KMSB. The proponent will be responsible for the full range of engineering, environmental and heritage approvals.

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