



MEDIA RELEASE

WHEATBELT WORKCAMP ASSIST COUNCIL STAFF

Council is reaping the benefit of its close proximity to Wheatbelt Workcamp, we currently have three (3) internees filling annual leave and sick leave staff shortages as well as assisting staff with their extensive workloads with no cost to Council. Between the three (3) they have accumulated a wealth of knowledge with boiler making, horticulture, heavy machinery, concreting and even a chef which has enabled continuity of services that would have otherwise lapsed during these staff deficiencies.

[Work camps have been operating in Western Australia for more than 10 years. In this time, thousands of offenders have been through the program and returned over \$7 million in reparation to the community. This work has included tree planting and coastal regeneration, maintenance of national parks and reserves, restoring heritage sites and buildings of significant historical value, as well as a range of other community projects undertaken for not-for-profit organisations. These projects provide opportunities for eligible minimum security prisoners who are nearing release to improve their work skills and job readiness.

The primary objectives of the program are to:

- provide reparation to the community by engaging offenders in constructive employment on projects that enhance community life and maintain community assets
- enable offenders to develop work and life skills that may increase their chances of successful re-integration into the community on release
- encourage offenders to develop a work ethic by engaging them in regular work practices and encouraging self-responsibility
- support a graduated management regime for prisoners according to their security rating and sentence details.]¹

If your community group or not-for-profit organisation would like to benefit from the free labour contact Council staff that can assist you will the application process.

For further information please contact myself on 08 9629 1101.

Media Contact Tahnee Bird
Authorising Officer Clem Kerp, Chief Executive Officer
Date 12 February 2016

1 <http://www.correctiveservices.wa.gov.au/prisons/work-camps/default.aspx>