



**COOK SHIRE**  
Far North Queensland, Australia

*The Heart of Cape York Peninsula*

## Council Meeting Brief

Ordinary Meeting of the Shire of Cook held 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2012

**KERB RAMP ACCESS PROJECT - Cooktown:** A Pedestrian Impact Study has been completed for this project and was presented at a meeting between Council and the Access Advisory Committee. As a result of this meeting it was decided to hold on-site meetings with businesses on Charlotte Street (from Green Street / Post Office to Banks Street / RSL) to discuss proposed changes to bus transit area and installation of compliant kerb ramps.

**COOKTOWN SKATE PARK:** An initial community meeting has been held and the proposed site for the park has been selected for endorsement by Council as the rear left-hand side of the Cooktown Events Centre. A follow-up meeting was held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February to discuss the site and design options going forward.

**BOAT RAMPS:** Confirmation has been received from Queensland Transport (Maritime) regarding boat ramp repairs in Cook Shire. \$20,000 is allocated for the Annan boat ramp shoulder repairs, while \$25,000 will be spent on the Ayton boat ramp surface and undermining repairs. Both of these works projects have since been completed.

**ROAD WORKS:** Road works and drainage components of Angus Gully Road are complete with Council still waiting for a response from Telstra for the relocation of an underground phone cable. Works on Seven-Mile Creek culvert and Oakey Creek Road are completed.

**FAILURE OF SOLAR LIGHTS - Cooktown:** Solar lights installed at Grassy Hill, Natures Powerhouse and Anzac Park have had an approximate 50% failure rate. Council has arranged for the supplier to provide around 250 replacement units under warranty.

**PARKS AND GARDENS:** In the recent period Parks and Gardens staff have again concentrated on maintenance tasks associated with wet season growth, and this is likely to be the case for the next few months. These tasks include control of weed growth and debris in gutters around town areas, weeding gardens and mowing parks and streets.

The milky pine next to the 'Tree of Knowledge' near the Cooktown wharf has had its last remaining limb removed due to dieback. The trunk appears sound and will be left to act as a scaffold for the young fig tree already growing on it. The most likely cause of the decline in the milky pine's vigour is compaction of the root plate caused by vehicles. A large fig tree at Lakeland, in the vicinity of the playground, has been heavily pruned to remove deadwood.

**NEW NAMESAKES AT ROSSVILLE:** Council received a request from the Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) to comment on a request by Rossville and District Museum and Historical Society to name two gullies within the town of Rossville, in memory of the miners and families who lived and worked in the Cooktown Tin Mining Fields in the later part of 1800s and early 1900s.

As a community which recognises the value of preserving the cultural heritage of the Shire, Council has given their support for the naming of Forsberg Gully and Slaughterhouse Gully.

**TENDER FOR BULK WASTE HAULAGE:** Eight tenders were received. Springmount Waste Management was awarded the tender as the most cost effective solution to Council.

**2012 COOKTOWN & CAPE YORK VISITOR GUIDE:** The new visitor guide is now in the final phase of production with the final proof being approved by the Chamber of Commerce tourism executive. Our target is to have the final product distributed in early March 2012.

P: (07) 4069 5444

F: (07) 4069 5423

E: [mail@cook.qld.gov.au](mailto:mail@cook.qld.gov.au)

W: [www.cook.qld.gov.au](http://www.cook.qld.gov.au)





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**RECYCLING PROGRAM - COST BENEFIT ANALYSIS:** Cook Shire Council commenced a recycling program in 2006. This program was upgraded in 2010 with the introduction of recycling drop-off stations, free disposal of recyclables from commercial premises and the option of a smaller wheelie bin for domestic premises to encourage domestic recycling.

An assessment of the costs and benefits of the recycling program using revenue and expenditure data collected since July 2011 has been completed. Based on volume and frequency of turn over, the deployment of mobile recycling stations throughout Cook Shire has managed to divert 1500m<sup>3</sup> of recyclable material from landfill on top of other recyclables delivered directly to the waste management facilities.

This, and other initiatives adopted from the Waste Management Committee meeting report, such as providing free disposal of recyclable materials to commercial and domestic users alike has diverted an estimated 2500m<sup>3</sup> of waste to landfill and has brought Cook Shire in line with the requirements of the new Queensland Waste Reduction and Recycling Act and regulatory requirements of local authorities.

The freight transport savings on this volume of material exceeds \$40,000 annually and with value of landfill airspace for small rural landfills to be around \$101 per ton plus operational costs, or in the case of consolidation into large landfills such as Springmount being between \$40 & \$60 per ton, the value of this program in both market price and landfill diversion quickly mount up.

**BUILDING APPROVALS FOR JANUARY 2012:** The total value of approvals this period was \$44,390.00.

**SIGNAGE PROJECTS - Cooktown:** Captain Cook interpretive signage is to be installed at four significant historical sites - the landing site, the shipwreck site, reconciliation rocks and on top of Grassy Hill. There will also be interpretive signage for the lighthouse, the wireless station and the Aboriginal story of Mungurru on top of Grassy Hill. The painting of the serpent on the access paths is complete. The process of sourcing design concepts for the larger steel panel signage on top of Grassy Hill is ongoing with a RADF grant application recently approved by Council to fund the artwork.

**VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE:** The number of visitors for January 2012 was 1,302, an increase of 460 visitors for the same time last year. In January, 41% of visitors were from Queensland, 42% interstate and 17% international.

**PUBLIC ARTWORK - Cooktown:** Cook Shire Council's application was successful through the Regional Arts Fund for \$30,000 for the implementation of the *Barra* public art work to be installed on the Welcome Wall of the Cooktown Events Centre.

**POOL MAINTENANCE:** Q-Build has approved funding of \$12,914 for the refurbishment of the floor in the amenities block at the pool with a non-slip surface ensuring the safety of all pool patrons. Work has commenced on the repairs needed as directed by Q-Build on earth leakage around the pool.

**RADF FUNDING AWARDED:** Council has approved RADF Committee recommendations for the following projects: Cook Shire Council - \$7,200.00 towards the costs of contracting professional and emerging local artists to create historic story designs for six etched panels for display as public art atop Grassy Hill; Get-A-Grip Productions - \$3,000.00 in principle, to be used towards the costs of JUTE Theatre Company and Get-A-Grip Productions partnering to produce locally inspired theatre; and Cooktown School of Arts Society - \$3,009.00 to be used towards the costs of mentoring artists and professional development during the Cooktown School of Arts exhibition, 'Cooktown Creations' at the 1907 Contemporary Artspace Galley in Cairns.

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