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Push for State to fund Cooktown 2020 Festival

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COOKTOWN

Cook Shire Mayor Peter Scott will lead a delegation to the State seat of power seeking funding for the proposed Cooktown 2020 Festival this week.

The Festival, proposed to include seven weeks of events in 2020, will commemorate the 250th anniversary of James Cook's 48 day stay on Cooktown's Endeavour River in 1770. "It is not a celebration of colonisation, or European arrival, but a commemoration of a pivotal time in our shared history," Cr Scott said. "Cook's stay here included the first recorded act of meaningful reconciliation between the Traditional Owners and Cook's men, as well as significant scientific discoveries. Through the Cooktown 2020 Festival we want to not only commemorate our history, but also showcase our region as a national leader for reconciliation and multiculturalism."

Cr Scott was joined by local Indigenous historian and linguist Alberta Hornsby and Council's 2020 Project Director Merryn Hughes, and planned to meet dignitaries in Brisbane including Minister for Environment, the Great Barrier Reef, Science and the Arts Leeanne Enoch, Royal Historical Society of Queensland Chair Stephen Sheaffe and Power Group chair Bernard Power AO, as well as senior events and sponsorship management from a host of government departments. "The list of who we will meet is very encouraging," Cr Scott said. "These are the people who make things happen in these departments, and we have them all in one room with their undivided attention. We are asking the State Government for significant funding to put towards this event and infrastructure and legacy projects around it, and are confident the Federal Government will also come on board," Cr Scott said. Projects earmarked for funding include dredging the Cooktown harbour to allow the *Endeavour Replica* to berth at the wharf during the festival, the festival opening and closing ceremonies and a 2020 cricket match and upgrades to the Queen's Oval at the Cooktown Botanic Gardens.

For more information visit the Cooktown 2020 Festival website at www.cooktown2020.com or contact Council's Tourism and Events team via email at mail@cook.qld.gov.au or phone on 4069 5444.



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