



MEDIA RELEASE

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Experienced CEO joins Cook Shire

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COOKTOWN

Cook Shire Council is under new interim leadership with experienced Chief Executive Officer Ray Burton at the helm.

Mr Burton stepped into the role to replace outgoing chief executive Tim Cronin, and will stay until Cook Shire Council appoints a permanent CEO, which is expected to take several months.

Mr Burton was most recently in the top role at Townsville City Council for 8 years, and Pine Rivers Council for 6 years, with 24 years as a council chief executive under his belt and 40-plus years in local government. "I'm looking forward to meeting the community and working with them and our staff and Councillors," Mr Burton said. "I'm here with my wife Lee, and we both love bushwalking and fishing, and are hoping to have time to get out and explore the shire while we are here."

Since retiring from Townsville council in 2016, Mr Burton has filled several interim CEO positions including at Fraser Coast and North Burnett councils, and other local government project and advisory roles, including at Doomadgee for three months. Cook Shire Mayor Peter Scott said the shire was fortunate to have such an experienced leader to steer the organisation while the recruitment was ongoing. "Ray's extensive experience in local government, and over 20 years as a CEO, will stand us in good stead," Cr Scott said. "His recent stints as interim CEO in other councils also means he is used to hitting the ground running, and he knows some of the unique challenges we face in the Far North after his time at Townsville and Doomadgee."

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