

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Remediation for ageing Botanic Garden trees

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COOKTOWN

Dangerous old and cyclone-damaged trees in Cooktown's Botanic Gardens will be removed and recycled as woodchip in the gardens this year.

Cook Shire Council Chief Executive Officer Linda Cardew said inspections conducted by the Botanic Gardens Curator had revealed a number of issues with the Garden's trees. "This led to Council engaging qualified arborists for two comprehensive inspections of the Botanic Garden tree stock," Ms Cardew said.

The two inspections, completed by Mossman Port Douglas Tree Lopping and Advanced Vegetation Management late last year, identified 119 trees as a high priority for removal. "86 of these trees are within the fenced section of the Botanic Gardens, and the remainder are in the wider Botanic Gardens precinct, around the car park, amenities block, Nature's PowerHouse and Queen's Oval," Ms Cardew said. "Further recommended work includes the removal of another five lower priority trees."

The tree work would begin this dry season, following a public tender to secure the services of suitably qualified arborists, Ms Cardew said. "We plan to complete the removal in sections, to allow people to use the other parts of the gardens while one section is closed," Ms Cardew said. "The trees will be turned into mulch and chip to go back into the Botanic Gardens."

Species to be removed include mother of cocoa, mango, milky pine, bush plum, wattle, paperbark and other common species. Removed trees will be replaced with suitable species.

For more information contact Council's Parks and Gardens team via email at mail@cook.qld.gov.au or phone on 4069 5444.

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