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“Exciting times ahead” as Cook Shire approves new Chief Executive

March 6, 2018
COOKTOWN

Far North Queensland local Linda Cardew has been earmarked to step into the top job as Chief Executive Officer of Cook Shire Council.

Ms Cardew, who was chosen with unanimous approval by Cook Shire’s seven Councillors at a special meeting on Friday, has more than 25 years experience in local, state and federal government, including most recently as chief executive of Douglas Shire Council. “I’m very committed to local government and I love working with communities and a strong Council team to deliver outcomes,” Ms Cardew said. “I’m very excited about the vastness and diversity of the Cook Shire, and some of the major projects Council is involved in are very aligned with my previous experience.”

Cook Shire Mayor Peter Scott said the Council had been impressed with Ms Cardew’s experience and qualifications. “We are really looking forward to working with Linda to take our organisation to another level,” Cr Scott said. “We have exciting times ahead and Linda will be a key player. Linda has also been a Far North resident and neighbouring CEO for a number of years so she is very attuned to the unique challenges we face in remote Cape York.”

Prior to leading the Douglas Shire, Ms Cardew was Associate Director of Savills Project Management and Project Manager for the Cairns Entertainment Precinct. She has a Law Degree with Honours, a Graduate Diploma in Urban Estate Management and is admitted as a barrister, tertiary lecturer, project manager and director, policy manager and investigator in her long career.

Ms Cardew, who will be moving to Cooktown with her husband Tony, is also passionate about arts and the great outdoors, having been a violist with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, and sailing around the world by yacht. “I was originally born in country New South Wales, and have a very real and genuine affinity for rural life. I’m an adventurer at heart and I



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enjoy getting out and getting my hands dirty. My husband Tony and I are really looking forward to moving into the community and being part of the Cook Shire community.”

Cook Shire Council had been without a permanent CEO since February, following the departure of former chief executive Tim Cronin. Council was led in the interim by local government veteran and former Townsville CEO Ray Burton.

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