

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Resiliency boosted after community blitz

December 2, 2019

COOKTOWN

Council staff and community volunteers have helped prepare Lakeland and Laura for the disaster season following a week-long Community Resiliency Blitz.

In addition to general tidying, drain clearing, maintenance and green waste removal, the team completed improvements to the community hall in Lakeland, installed new seating, cleared and installed a safe path from the school and completed a house numbering and street plan. In Laura, works included street sweeping, vegetation clearing and removal, drain clearing, painting and drainage repairs at the airport, refurbishing the community hall, repairing public amenities, cemetery maintenance and a house numbering and street plan. More than 30 unwanted vehicles were removed, with the assistance of the Department of Housing and Public Works and 5.16 tonnes of rubbish was removed, as well as two truckloads of tyres and one truckload of whitegoods.

Council also coordinated the distribution of disaster preparedness bags to the community, and visited Lakeland and Laura state schools to take the Queensland Government's Get Ready message directly to the students and a new chainsaw was presented to the Laura Rural Fire Brigade as part of Council's 2018-18 Get Ready Program.

"We did a huge amount of work and the cross-Council collaboration was terrific, with staff saying it was great working with people they might not normally spend time with in their regular roles," Cook Shire Council Chief Executive Officer Linda Cardew said. "But most importantly, the outcome for the two communities is fabulous. Without our staff teaming up and camping onsite for the duration, and the support of stakeholders such as the Department of Housing and Public Works and the Cooktown District Community Centre we would not have been able to complete the huge schedule of works in such a short time. And of course, the invaluable funding from the Community Development Program allowed us to complete so much more than Council's budget would allow."

The Resiliency Blitz program began last year in Coen, with Council staff, community volunteers and stakeholder groups providing a community improvement program to tackle issues identified by residents. The program has now been rolled out at the Cooktown



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Cemetery and now Lakeland and Laura, thanks to funding from the State and Federal government's Community Development Program. Although funding for this project has been provided by both the Australian and Queensland Governments, the material contained herein does not necessarily represent the views of either Government.

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