

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Council's disaster recovery "exemplary"

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COOKTOWN

A workforce of 200 is restoring access to remote communities across one of the largest local government road networks in Australia under the jointly funded Commonwealth and Queensland Government Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).

Cook Shire Council Chief Executive Officer Linda Cardew said managing the delivery of the jointly funded DRFA program was one of the major contributors to the regional economy. "Cook Shire Council manages the reconstruction program, with the work contracted primarily to local companies and Council work crews," Ms Cardew said. "The 2018-19 disaster season was particularly severe, causing widespread damage and isolating residents across the Cape during cyclones Owen, Penny, Trevor and the Monsoon Trough event.

"An estimated \$60 million worth of direct infrastructure damage was caused during those events, primarily on our roads, which is the largest DRFA-funded road reconstruction program Council has undertaken to date."

Cook Shire's record of prompt completion of reconstruction works was exemplary, Ms Cardew said. "To complete so much work over such a large area so rapidly is a credit to our staff and contractors," Ms Cardew said.

"Cook Shire Council's disaster recovery model is outstanding, with both the damage assessment and works completed during a single season, while most councils assess in the dry season following weather events, and complete works over two seasons." This year's reconstruction program is a major exercise in logistics, providing employment for more than 200 people, including Council staff and 17 contract roadwork crews across more than 2500km of road.

For more information contact Council's Infrastructure team via email to mail@cook.qld.gov.au or phone on 4082 0500.

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