

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Partnership plans for Cook and Mapoon

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COOKTOWN

Cook Shire Council is planning a mentorship and secondment program with neighbouring Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council following a meeting in Cooktown last week.

Councillors and executive staff from the remote Western Cape shire travelled to Cooktown for a day of information sharing and collaboration on Wednesday, August 28. "Council has a strong commitment to work closely with Indigenous councils in our region, and the famil was a great example of working together with our neighbouring shires to strengthen those relationships," Cook Shire Mayor Peter Scott said.

Mapoon Shire Mayor Aileen Addo, Councillors Pauline Smith, Margaret Mara and Brendan Brown, and Infrastructure and Works Executive Manager Tom Smith, Waste Services Manager Milton Bond and Governance Manager Royleen Wolski spent the day in Cooktown with Cook Shire Mayor Peter Scott, Chief Executive Officer Linda Cardew, Community, Economy and Innovation Director Lawrence Booth and Senior Economy and Community Lifestyle Coordinator Ivan Hegamaea. The group discussed plans for a mentoring program and developing secondment opportunities across a broad support area, including economic and tourism development. "During the visit the group looked at the economic opportunities and challenges faced by Cape councils and communities, especially leading up to the national exposure Cooktown Expo 2020 will bring," Cr Scott said. "We also outlined Council's upcoming strategic initiatives and major regional projects which could prove to be game changers for the economic profile of our whole region, such as the Lakeland irrigation project."

Many of the challenges faced by Cook Shire were the same in Mapoon, and Council's successes could be used as a blueprint for other councils, Cr Scott said. "The success of the Cape depends on the health of the whole region, and partnering with our neighbours is vital to keeping the region moving forwards in a sustainable and positive manner," he said. "Cook Shire is looking forward to fostering a productive working relationship with Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council and developing similar relationships with other Indigenous councils."

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