



MEDIA RELEASE

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Council crackdown on illegal dumpers

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COOKTOWN

Security cameras will be installed in the Cooktown Wharf area to curb a spate of illegal dumping at the locked wharf waste facility and nearby street bins.

Cook Shire Council waste staff and contractors have been dealing with an increase in household and business waste being dumped next to the boat ramp, beside street bins and outside the wharf waste facility. "Unfortunately people aren't doing the right thing and disposing of their rubbish responsibly, which is costing the ratepayers every time we are called out to deal with a pile of garbage bags on the main street," Council Chief Executive Officer Tim Cronin said. "We have several recycling trailers around town, a weekly kerbside bin service and the transfer station is open five days a week, yet people can't manage to dispose of their rubbish properly – it's very frustrating."

The waste facility at the Cooktown Wharf was built to service the needs of those using the public wharf, but over the years had been used as a free-for-all dumping spot by visiting boaties, nearby businesses and unscrupulous residents, Mr Cronin said. "Servicing that waste facility alone was costing ratepayers about \$50,000 a year," he said. "To better maintain the area and bring waste services in line with other harbours, the facility was locked, with access offered to businesses in the area."

Cameras will be installed at various locations around the wharf precinct, with those caught illegally dumping facing fines of up to \$126,000.

For more information on waste facilities and recycling in Cook Shire visit www.cook.qld.gov.au/services/waste-management or contact Council's waste team via email at mail@cook.qld.gov.au or phone on 4069 5444.

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