

ON TRACK: BUDGET SNAPSHOT

GATEWAY TO CAPE YORK

COOKTOWN DISCOVERY
FESTIVAL 2022

GET READY!
BUSHFIRE SEASON



Cook Shire
COUNCIL

Your COUNCIL

in FOCUS

October 2021 - March 2022

OLD SCHOOL ELEGANCE REBORN

It was a celebration of history, heritage, colour, dance and a good old-fashioned afternoon tea as the Cooktown community came together to celebrate the reopening of the much-loved, Cooktown Shire Hall on Saturday 21 May.

"The passion and support from the community for this project has been inspiring," said Cook Shire Mayor Peter Scott. "The Hall has brought back some of the old elegance to Cooktown. It really is wonderful to be able to provide this fantastic venue to the community again."

See more event photos at www.cook.qld.gov.au



Message from the CEO



LINDA CARDEW Chief Executive Officer

With the first six months of 2022 almost over this edition of Council in Focus reflects on the numerous projects and programs recently delivered across our vast Shire as all councils and the country continue to work around COVID uncertainty, delays in receipt of materials, a challenging shortage of trades and a changing political environment. Queensland councils are now over half way through their 2020-2024 term and elected members across those 77 Councils will be thoughtfully considering their achievements to date and their goals going forward. It is an ongoing pleasure in Cook that the democratically convened marriage between Councillors and the administration is strong and productive.

As I write this the day after the re-opening of the Shire Hall, my thoughts are with the community – particularly the elders who have exquisite memories of the good times in that beautiful building over past decades, and of the future generations who will now be able to feel the spirit of that place through learning, dancing, music, gathering and laughing. The enjoyment last night was undeniable and my sincere appreciation goes to Council staff for their skill and commitment to making the restoration a reality, to the heritage consultants and builders, and to the state and federal governments for their generous funding.

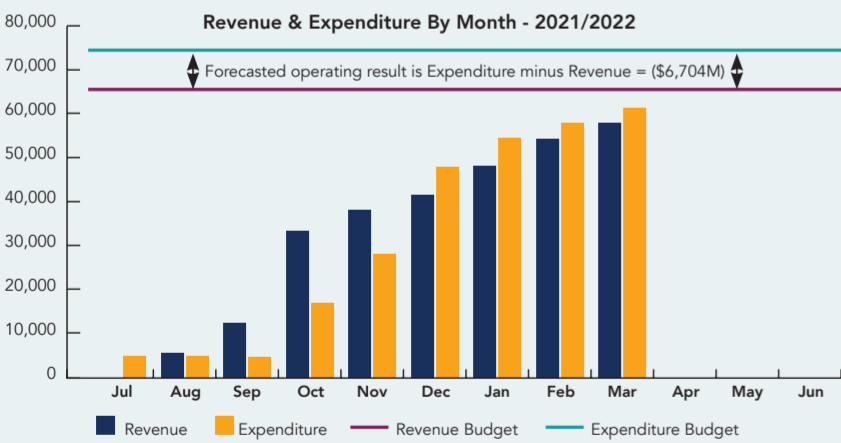
Council continues to deliver against many targets – end of year budget preparation, the delivery of numerous capital projects, audits, infrastructure and facilities management, including water, sewerage, waste and airports. Stand out projects with Cape-wide participation include the Gateway to the Cape at Lakeland celebrating Lakeland's role as the entry to one of Australia's most iconic destinations with sculptural artwork from every Cape York community. It is with pride that Cook continues as an active partner in the Torres and Cape Council Alliance, adding strength to the collective voice of all Cape Councils. Council's commitment to Indigenous Reconciliation has seen the development of our own Reconciliation Action Plan, a draft of which is due to be released for community consultation in coming weeks. Our many planning initiatives have also seen significant progress in many areas, working with State agencies to plan for infrastructure and strategic development in Lakeland, a Council subdivision and land release in Cooktown, and further north, in partnership with landowners, for the first time, the negotiation of major gravel leases – essential for the reconstruction of roads throughout the Cape. We manage the extensive biodiversity, health and local laws demands across the Cape's 100,000 sq kms with just a few staff.

With very few ratepayers Cook functions substantially with grant funding – much of which, the result of competitive processes and the skills of staff in preparing applications. It has been hugely rewarding seeing Cook go from strength to strength as it pursues and delivers on innovation, economic development and tourism, media and communications, major community events, community services and disaster management. The roles of the quiet achievers, customer service, the libraries, the magnificent Nature's Powerhouse, the parks and gardens team, mechanics and stores, the tireless HR team, those who keep the services to the community going regardless of the challenges, the team at the depot and the many involved in governance, safety, compliance, financial management and reporting and our miracle workers - the executive assistants. It's been truly wonderful. *Thank you.*

ON TRACK: BUDGET SNAPSHOT

Cook Shire Council's Annual Budget for the 2020-21 financial year was adopted on the 22 June 2021. In line with industry best practice and prudent financial management, this budget was revised at Council's Ordinary Meeting 22 February 2022 to capture any financial activity/transactions that were not foreseeable at the time the original budget was adopted.

The following graph depicts the progress of revenue and expenditure against the revised operating budget as at 31 March 2022.



The end of March 2022 is the 75% or three quarters of the financial year and by way of comparison, Council's revenue stood at 89% of budget, and expenditure stood at 85% of budget. This indicates that Council is progressing well against budget and at this stage of the financial year it is anticipated that the forecast operating result for 30 June 2021 will be achieved.

As is standard practice, financial reports detailing progress against budget are provided to Council at its Ordinary Meeting each month. The information contained in these reports are discussed in open session and community members can access this information on Council's website. Council meetings are also live streamed to provide greater access for interested parties who cannot attend in person.

Work on the 2022-23 annual budget is progressing well and it is anticipated that Council will release details of this budget, for community feedback in late May. Council's budget meeting has been scheduled for 28 June 2022.

THE EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM

Council's Executive Leadership team comprises the Chief Executive Officer and the Directors of three separate departments:

Community Economy and Innovation – A customer focused department charged with the responsibility of developing and maintaining social and economic capital and identifying and implementing new and innovative actions and projects.

Organisational Business Services – Manages a diverse portfolio of corporate and business responsibilities including finance, governance, facilities, land tenure, planning and environment, customer service, human resources and information technology.

Infrastructure – Responsible for civil works and engineering, airports, water and waste water, parks and gardens, fleet management, major capital projects and asset management.

Over the last three months the Executive Leadership Team has represented Cook Shire in a wide range of forums and meetings with a number of agencies, including:

NAME OF EXTERNAL PARTY
Bloomfield River District Residents and Ratepayers Association
Blue Water Club
Cairns District Disaster Management Group
Cape York Natural Resource Management
Cooktown Chamber of Commerce and Tourism
Cooktown District Community Centre
Cooktown Re-enactment Association
Cooktown RSL Sub Branch
Crime and Corruption Commission
Dept. Agriculture and Fisheries
Dept. Communities, Housing and Digital Economy
Dept. Environment and Science
Dept. Premier and Cabinet
Dept. Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water
Dept. Resources
Dept. Seniors, Disability Services, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships
Dept. State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning
Dept. Transport and Main Roads
Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils
FNQROC Regional Roads and Transport Group
FNQROC Waste Management Advisory Group
FNQROC Water Alliance
Gamaay Aboriginal Corporation
Government Employee Housing
Hope Vale Congress
James Cook University
Lakeland Progress Association
LGIA Super
Local Disaster Management Group
Local Government Association Queensland
Local Government Finance Professionals of Queensland
Local Government Managers Australia, Queensland
Metallica Minerals
National Heavy Vehicle Regulator
North Queensland Sports Foundation
Plastics Pirate
Queensland Ambulance Service
Queensland Audit Office
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services
Queensland Health
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service
Queensland Police Citizens Youth Welfare Association
Queensland Police Service
Queensland Reconstruction Authority
Reconciliation Queensland
Regional Arts Services Network
Regional Development Australia Tropical North
South Cape York Catchments
Space Oz
State Emergency Service
State Library of Queensland
Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service
Torres and Cape Indigenous Council Alliance
Tourism Tropical North Queensland
TRC Tourism

GET INVOLVED: BUDGET 2022-23

The Community Consultation period for the proposed Cook Shire 2022-23 Budget is now open. Community review and feedback on the proposed budget are important to Council and can help shape the final budget before it is formally presented to Council for adoption.

Please review the Draft 2022-23 Budget document on Council's website then provide your feedback by answering the online survey available by scanning the QR code. Alternatively, Hard copies of the document are also available at all Cook Shire Libraries and at Council's Main Administration Building in Cooktown. You can email your responses to mail@cook.qld.gov.au



YOUR COUNCILLORS

The workload associated with being an elected member is shared between all Councillors by strategically dividing local government responsibilities and the large geographical expanse of Cook Shire into portfolios aligned to the strengths and interests of each individual Councillor.



COUNCILLOR PETER SCOTT, MAYOR

- Finance, Audit and Risk
- Community Wellbeing, Housing and Inter-Agency Groups



COUNCILLOR ROBYN HOLMES, DEPUTY MAYOR

- Finance, Audit and Risk
- Community Wellbeing, Housing and Inter-Agency Groups
- Environment and Waste
- Economic Development and Tourism
- Health and Education



COUNCILLOR PETER BURNS

- Coen Inter-Agency Group
- Economic Development and Tourism



COUNCILLOR JOHN DESSMANN

- Indigenous (Bama) Partnerships
- Climate Change and Sustainability



COUNCILLOR LARISSA HALE

- Coen and Laura Inter-Agency groups
- Indigenous (Bama) Partnerships
- Climate Change and Sustainability
- Sport, Recreation and Arts



COUNCILLOR ROSS LOGAN

- Coen Inter-Agency Group
- Environment and Waste
- Economic Development and Tourism



DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM COUNCILLOR MARILYN MORRIS

- Indigenous (Bama) Partnerships
- Sport, Recreation and Arts

GETTING MORE DONE WITH GRANTS

Grant funding enables Council to deliver capital and operational programs with around 80% of Council's operating expenses funded by State and Commonwealth grants.

The table below provides a snapshot of grant activity including new applications, successful application and the finalisation of the Botanic Gardens Upgrades legacy project.

Council is pleased to have received funding for several important projects including large capital upgrades such as the Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grant – Cooktown Bush and Fire Resiliency Infrastructure Upgrade to install solar power and generators at key Council infrastructure.

Funding also enables Council to support smaller community based initiatives such as Move IT NQ sports funding to deliver programs encouraging participation and an Indigenous Language Grant enabling a digital Welcome to Country video to be produced.

Grants applied for	Grants received
Building our Regions Round 6 - Annan Water Treatment Plant SCADA Upgrade	W4Q 2021 - 2024 - Stage 1 Cook Shire Water and Wastewater Electrical Upgrade
Building our Regions Round 6 - Water and Wastewater Planning for Expansion of Lakeland	National Recovery and Resilience Agency (Discovery Festival Sponsorship)
Remote Airstrip Upgrade Program Round 9 - Cooktown Aerodrome Boundary Fence Repairs	Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grant
Remote Airstrip Upgrade Program Round 9 - Coen Airport Runway and Lighting Safety Upgrades	Fishing Infrastructure Fund - Cooktown Dinghy Pontoon
First Nations Sport and Recreation Program - Sport and Recreation Co-ordinator	Fishing Infrastructure Fund - Installation of Toilet Facility at Starke
	Move IT NQ Round 2
	Queensland Local Government Roadside Littering Signs
	Indigenous Language Grants

COUNCIL INVESTS INTO THE FUTURE OF LAKELAND

Cook Shire Council has acquired an 11-hectare freehold lot adjacent to the township of Lakeland in preparation for the potential exponential growth of the agricultural hub.

Located at Lot 210 Peninsula Developmental Road, Lakeland, the 13,200m² (approximately 11.23 hectares/27.97 acres) parcel was purchased for \$610,000 and adjoins Council's freehold land located within Lakeland – known as 'Perfume Gully' – which currently provides for natural drainage of the township.

"There are some fantastic large-scale projects being discussed that will offer significant growth and development of Lakeland," said Cook Shire Mayor, Peter Scott. "The challenge is that the current needs of the town have already outgrown the land that's available.

"The purchase of this land is a strategic investment into the future of Lakeland and the Shire as it allows for expansion and potential construction of critical local government infrastructure and the potential availability of land for essential services, government agencies, residential and commercial purposes."

Full master planning, including extensive community consultation, will be undertaken before a decision will be made on the future use of the land. While the future use of the land is being decided, the land will be maintained 'as is'.



COUNCIL STAFF CONQUER CORRUGATIONS

Well done to the Council staff who endured 40-degree heat, blisters, dust and aching feet to Conquer the Corrugations in October last year. The team joined hikers to trek 42km along the PDR in order to help raise awareness of the mental health challenges in Cape York. Donned in vintage frocks and 80s glam rock costumes, the Council team won the 'Best Dressed' trophy, turned a few heads, prompted conversations and helped to promote the event and its very important cause.



GATEWAY TO CAPE YORK

Lakeland's Gateway to Cape York and sculpture park was officially opened on Friday 8 April by Cook Shire Mayor, Peter Scott at a ceremony that was attended by more than 60 stakeholders, Cook Shire Councillors, community members, artists and representatives from neighbouring Aboriginal Shire Councils and local government agencies.

Featuring an iconic "gateway," a purpose-built traveller information centre, a rest stop area and an interactive sculpture park that showcases communities from Cape York, the \$1.2 million project at Lakeland on Mulligan Highway welcomes visitors to Cape York Peninsula and was delivered with \$998,000 from the Queensland Government's Building our Regions program. Cook Shire Council contributed \$290,000 and managed delivery of the project.



ROARING SUCCESS

Following more than six months of ongoing redesign, re-certification and unfortunate supply chain delays, works to complete the upgrade Cooktown's much-loved Lions Park Playgrounds are now complete.

To celebrate, Council welcomed the Endeavour Lions Club to host their Lions Biggest BBQ charity event at the Park on Saturday 9 April 2022, where community members came together to help raise more than \$626 towards Childhood Cancer Research and kids of all ages enjoyed the new, fantastic, all-weather playground.

"We are incredibly proud of the work that's gone into making the Lion's Park a facility that the whole community has contributed to and will be able to enjoy for years to come," said Mayor Peter Scott.

The Lion's Park Playground Upgrade project is an initiative of the Queensland Government and Cook Shire Council.



AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS



It was a pared back, invitation only, Covid-safe Australia Day event at Cooktown PCYC to celebrate the nominees and winners of the Australia Day Awards, and welcome six new Australian citizens to the Shire.

Lou Norgard received the Citizen of the Year Award for her significant contribution to Cooktown and surrounding communities as a health and wellbeing advocate and volunteer, while internationally acclaimed Indigenous Artist, Naomi Hobson received the Arts and Culture Award.

Other winners included: Ella Hartwig (Young Citizen of the Year); Bob Norris (Volunteer of the Year); and the Cooktown Underwater Hockey Club (Sports Award).

EGG-SELLENT FAMILY FUN AT AYTON

The Big Bunny, lots of family fun and plenty of chocolates were enjoyed at the Ayton Family Fun Day held at the Ayton Library Market Place on Saturday 26 March 2022.

Attendees enjoyed face painting, kids' crafts, live music from Nelson and Linda, entertainment from Rachel Bradley, a magic show, an Easter egg hunt, and of course, a visit from the Easter Bunny himself.



GAMBA GRASS TASKFORCE

Cook Shire Council and Cape York NRM recently hosted a taskforce to assist with management of gamba grass in the Annan-Endeavour Catchment. Participants included teams from Douglas, Mareeba, Tablelands, Cairns and Hinchinbrook councils, OPWS, South Cape York Catchments and Biosecurity Queensland. Between 5 to 7 May 2022 eight teams surveyed and treated gamba grass on 37 properties across the region. Outcomes included a substantially reduced fire risk on participating properties and greatly enhanced knowledge of the current distribution of this species and its spread through the landscape. It is hoped that this initiative will be repeated next year and result in increasing collaboration with landholders in managing a priority invasive species of regional significance.



APPRENTICESHIPS WORK

It was congratulations and farewell to Mikel Whipper, Don Woods and Taylor Russell who all completed (respectively) their plumbing, diesel fitter and carpentry apprenticeships with Council in February 2022. Armed with their new qualifications, all three gents look forward to developing their careers in their chosen trades.

Following on from their departure, Council was then pleased to welcome two new apprentices to our teams – Cooktown locals Matthew Martich (Apprentice Plumber, Water and Wastewater), Connor Morgan (Apprentice Diesel Fitter) – in March.

These apprenticeship opportunities are proudly funded by the Queensland Government through its First Start program under the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative.



SMOOTH LANDING

Works to upgrade and reseal the runway, taxiway and apron areas of the Coen Airport are now complete. The works were part of a critical transport safety infrastructure project to help to enhance safe aircraft operations and facilitate the continuation of commercial and passenger services, food supplies, health services, and mail delivery – especially during the wet season – to communities throughout Cape York.



DIGITAL NOTICEBOARDS ANOTHER CHANNEL FOR COOK SHIRE'S COMMITMENT TO BUILDING RESILIENCE

Cook Shire Council, with funding from the Australian and Queensland Governments Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements 2018, has completed the installation of digital notice boards at central locations in Cooktown, Coen and Laura.

"In times of emergency, ensuring our community has access to timely, local and accurate information is critical," Cook Shire Mayor Peter Scott said.

"These digital boards will provide an additional channel for Council, government agencies and relevant organisations to communicate important information and emergency notifications to residents and visitors.

Council's Disaster Management Officer, Narelle Dukes added that the new notice boards, along with the recent upgrade of Council's Disaster Dashboard are one of several funded projects that demonstrate Council's commitment towards building resilience across the Shire's regional and remote communities.

"The Council website and newly upgraded **Disaster Dashboard** remain the most important channels of emergency information, but these notice boards add another readily accessible source of truth that our community can rely on when they need it most."

The content for the notice boards will be managed remotely by Council using an internet-based content management system.

The Digital noticeboards are funded by the Queensland Bushfires - Category C Flexible Funding Grant through Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy and will provide important disaster and community information to residents and visitors to Cooktown, Coen and Laura.



PAVING THE WAY FOR THE GROWTH OF COOKTOWN

In response to Cooktown's growing population and consequent housing shortage, Cook Shire Council undertook works to extend the roads and provide services to the area known as "The Backtracks" between Boundary, Garden and Power Streets in Cooktown.

Works involved upgrading the roads to seal and providing water, sewerage, power and telecommunications capabilities – all vital infrastructure that will help accommodate Cooktown's growing urban footprint.

"Council has been proactively planning for the growth of Cooktown for some time.

Over the last decade there's been significant improvements to the amenity of the town with new schools, more services, better facilities and amenities, and a growing number of new employment opportunities, all of which has attracted

an influx of people and families who now call Cooktown home," said Cook Shire Mayor, Peter Scott.

"Add the current trend towards regionalisation, and the reality is we're running out of suitable residential offerings to meet the needs of our growing community," said Mr Scott.

"This project lays the infrastructure for Council to be able to develop freehold land to create residential housing solutions that better utilise the first-rate facilities and services we've created.

"As one of the main service centers in the Cape, getting this infrastructure in now will help facilitate continued growth, provide investment opportunities, attract new businesses, families, residents and rate payers to Cooktown, and have a positive economic impact for the whole of the Shire."



NEW HOME FOR ANT PLANTS

As part of these works, Council engaged the services of a professional consultant to conduct a flora and fauna survey of the project area. The subsequent report identified the presence of Ant Plants (*Myrmecodia beccarii*) which are listed as vulnerable under *Nature Conservation Act* and *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act*.

Council teams then prepared a plan to preserve and protect these important species. This plan included translocation of almost 600 plants from the project site to the Cooktown Botanic Gardens, where they will be cared for and closely monitored to help give them the best chance of survival.

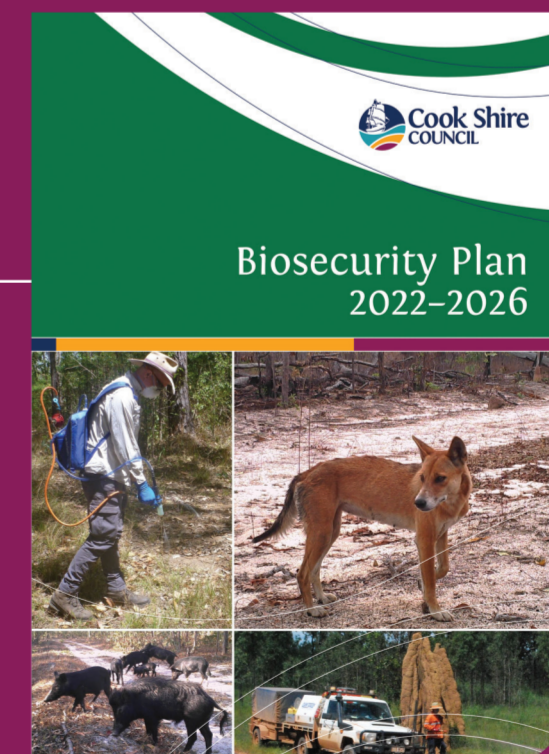


Cook Shire Local Area BIOSECURITY Plan 2022-2026

The Cook Shire Local Area Biosecurity Plan 2022-2026 was approved and adopted by Council on 26 April 2022. Following a consultation process and prioritisation workshop fourteen priority invasive plants and six priority invasive animals were nominated for inclusion. The new plan has undergone a thorough redraft that is intended to make the document more relevant and easy to use. It is intended to fulfil several purposes including:

- Identifying the invasive species of primary concern (priority invasive species) to our local government area
- Development strategies to reduce the impact of priority invasive species
- Describing performance indicators designed to assess the effectiveness of these actions
- Providing landholders with a reference document outlining how they can contribute to management of priority invasive species

It is intended that the Cook Shire Local Area Biosecurity Plan 2022-2026 be reviewed annually to ensure that it's content remains relevant. This review process is overseen by the Invasive Plants and Animals Advisory Committee (IPAAC).



If you would like to join IPAAC and contribute to this process, please contact Council's Biosecurity Services team on 4082 0500.



2022 DISCOVERY FESTIVAL GUIDE

17-19 JUNE 2022

After the excitement of last year's Cooktown & Cape York Expo, Cooktown locals and visitors alike are looking forward to the return of the much-loved Cooktown Discovery Festival in 2022.

Taking place from 17-19 June, this year's schedule includes Discovery Festival favourites including the famous re-enactment of Captain James Cook's stay at the Endeavour River, fireworks, and the community street parade, as well a whole-weekend of family-friendly events and entertainment, nature and history tours, arts and craft workshops, and some new, premium ticketed events.



BANK'S BANQUET

Enjoy live entertainment and an exclusive four-course set dinner menu by the team from Nature's Powerhouse, as you soak up the surrounds of the heritage listed Cooktown Botanic Gardens.

Nature's Powerhouse
Friday 17 June 2022, 6.30 – 9.30 pm
Cocktail attire
\$80 per person (BYO beverages)
Bookings are essential.

QUEENSLAND BALLET WORKSHOPS

As part of their 2022 Community Regional Tour Queensland Ballet is hosting a number of inclusive workshops designed to get you moving and inspire your inner creativity. Delivered by Queensland Ballet's highly skilled teaching artists, workshops will focus on improving poise, core strength, memory and mobility. No dance experience is necessary and here a number of workshops for all ages available.

Cooktown Shire Hall
Saturday 18 June 2022

9 – 9.30 am: 2-5 years
9.45 – 10.45 am: Adults 18+
1.30 – 2.30 pm: Ages 12-17 years
2.30 – 3.30 pm: Ages 6-11 years
\$10 per person

Bookings are essential.



REGIONAL STREET PARADE

Always a riot of colour, creativity and fun, under the banner of this year's festival theme of History, Adventure, Culture enjoy and join in as community-made festival floats compete against each other in a celebration of what makes living in Cooktown and the Cape so great!

Proudly sponsored by Essential Air Solutions.

Charlotte Street, Cooktown - FREE
Saturday 18 June 2022, 12 noon – 1pm

HISTORY THE RE-TOLD

This year crowds can enjoy the retelling of two significant historical events at the sites where they actually unfolded more than 250 years ago:

First Recorded Act of Reconciliation - FREE
Reconciliation Rocks
Friday 17 June 2022, 5.30 – 6 pm

Captain Cook's Landing - FREE
Bicentennial Park
Sunday 19 June 2022, 10 – 11 am

HATS AND HIGH TEA

Enjoy a selection of fresh and delicious, traditional high tea treats, accompanied by coffee, tea and live music from local artist, David Pyke, from the veranda of Nature's Powerhouse. Guests are encouraged to don suitably stylish hats and headwear for a chance to win the coveted best dressed prize!

Nature's Powerhouse
Sunday 19 June 2022, 3 – 5 pm
Dress: Smart casual with a fancy hat!
\$45 per person

Bookings are essential.

CREEPY CRAWLY NIGHT TOURS

Ever wondered what creepy crawlies come out at night time in the Botanic Gardens?

Join entomologists, Dr David Rentz (AM) and Buck "the moth whisperer" Richardson, as they guide you through the spectacular Botanic Gardens identifying some of the fascinating, weird, whacky and whimsical insects and animals that come out at night.

Cooktown Botanic Gardens
Friday 17 and Sunday 19 June 2022, 7 – 9 pm
Adults: \$10 per person, Kids: Free
Bookings are essential.

FIREWORKS

Saturday night festivities come to a spectacular crescendo as the night sky over William Daku Park and the Endeavour River comes alive in an explosion of colour and light, proudly sponsored by the National Recovery and Resilience Agency.

William Daku Park - FREE
Saturday 18 June, 8 – 8.15 pm

LOADS OF FUN FOR KIDS

Hyper the Clown and mini magic shows
Roaming Wild Encounters
Bubble fun with Buzzy Bumble Bee
BMX Demonstrations and workshops



For more information and to book, visit
www.cooktowndiscovery.com.au

Staff Infocus

Get to know our team as we showcase the exceptional talent of some of our newest recruits



COMING HOME... Lucy Deemal, Chief Financial Officer

Tell us a bit about yourself:

I'm Lucy, my partner Anthony and I recently relocated to Cooktown, for me to take up the Chief Financial Officer role at Cook Shire Council. My people are the Thitharr Warra from just outside of Hopevale. After spending many years down south, I'm very lucky to have the opportunity to be back home.

Where did you grow up?

I grew up in Cairns, my family moved from Hopevale when I was very young. Growing up I would spend almost every school holiday break with my cousins either here in Cooktown, Hopevale or Cape Flattery. As an adult, I moved to Brisbane for university, and then spent four years in Canberra before coming back to Queensland in 2015.

Your career so far?

I started working when I was in high school, as a school-based trainee with the Queensland Government. I worked for various state government departments through their shared services corporations until I decided to go to university when I was 20 years old. My first few university holidays, I came back to Hopevale, and spent a few weeks working for Hopevale Aboriginal Shire Council, helping in the stores which was my first introduction to local government.

In my final years of university, I started a cadetship in the Australian Public Service, which then took me to Canberra to work for the Australian National Audit Office. When I returned to Cairns in 2015 I was working on the audits of local government clients in Cairns, the Cape and out west. I moved in to local government when I took on the Finance Manager role with Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council. I also worked as Finance Manager for Aurukun Shire Council before starting here with Cook.

What's the best part about your new career with Cook Shire?

I'm enjoying being closer to family, and working for the people of the Cape. We really like the laidback lifestyle here in Cooktown particularly, but I'm also really looking forward to making time to see the rest of Cook Shire.

TRADING PLACES

As part of an ongoing partnership with the British Consulate of Australia Council's Economic Development, Trade and Investment Officer, Sha-Lane Gibson, was invited to shadow the Consul General for Queensland and Northern Territory, and Director of Trade for Australia and New Zealand with the UK's Department for International Trade, Ms Joanne Freeman, in Brisbane.

A unique opportunity to work directly with the Consulates Trade and Investment Team and gain insights and develop practical strategies that will help influence trade and investment in Cook Shire region, Sha-Lane represented both Cook Shire and the Consul General at several official functions and events.



Council's Economic, Trade and Investment Officer, Sha-Lane Gibson; Her Excellency Vicki Treadell CMG MVO, British High Commissioner to Australia; Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young RSM, Governor of Queensland; Consul General for Queensland & Northern Territory and Director of Trade for Australia & New Zealand at the UK's Department for International Trade, Ms Joanne Freeman.

WORLD CLASS TALENT

In September last year, Council welcomed Peter Symes to Cook Shire as Curator of the heritage listed Cooktown Botanic Gardens. With more than 30 years' experience at the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria (Melbourne), Peter brings with him a wealth of world-class horticultural experience that includes hands-on support and garden management and publishing and presenting academic research papers.

Amongst his many professional affiliations and accolades, Peter was also a founding member and volunteer for Global Gardens of Peace where he travelled to the Gaza Strip to work with Israeli authorities and technical experts, Hamas government, Palestinian Authority, diplomats and the United Nations to design and build gardens for traumatised children and vulnerable people.

Peter was drawn to Cooktown for its amazing gardens, as well as the chance to learn and understand the gardens from the perspectives of Traditional Custodians.



RECOGNITION OF SERVICE

Congratulations to the following Council staff who celebrated significant milestones and commitment to their careers with Council:

10 years	Saeng Mouykeng
15 years	Darryn Higgins, Richard Lee, Adam Snell, Les Treloar
20 years	Billy Pratt
25 years	Neil Thompson

HEALTHY DOGS, HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

As part of the Healthy Dogs, Healthy Communities program, Council's Animal Management team regularly visit Laura and Coen offering house-to-house visits and complementary flea, tick and worm treatments for eligible pets!

Thanks to the generous donation of parasite treatments from AMMRIC (Animal Management in Rural and Remote Indigenous Communities) and Elanco Pet Health, more than 130 animals received flea, tick and worm treatments when the Healthy Dogs program's vet, Justin from Central Vets in Mareeba (pictured left) joined the team in October last year.



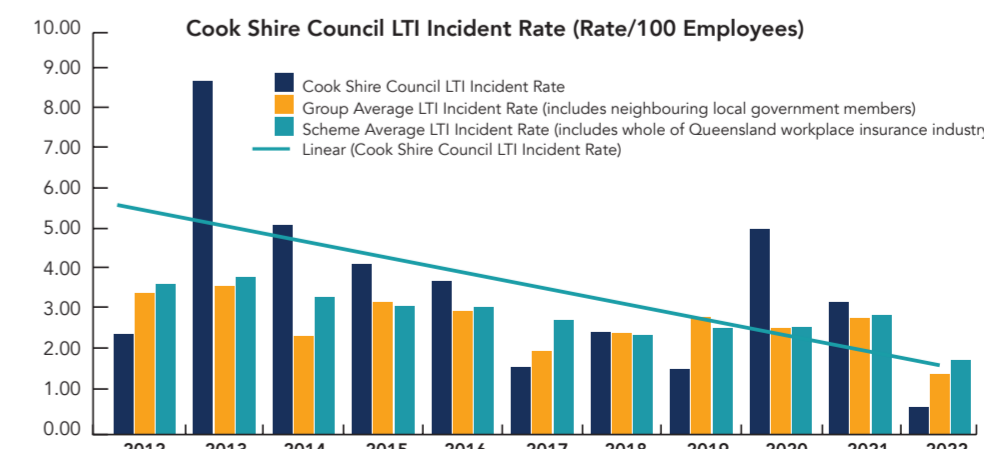
This initiative is proudly supported by the Queensland Government, Mental Health and Wellbeing Community Package under Queensland's Economic Recovery Strategy.

WORK HEALTH & SAFETY

Work Health and Safety (WHS) involves the management of risks to the health and safety of everyone in your workplace. This includes the health and safety of anyone who does work for the Council as well as our customers, visitors and suppliers. When WHS is implemented effectively, Council saves the funds that might otherwise be spent managing and recovering from accidents, paying compensation, and dealing with rehabilitation expenses.

One of the key performance indicators of WHS is Lost Time Injuries (LTIs) – LTIs are occurrences that have resulted in either a fatality, permanent disability or time lost from work of one day/shift or more.

Demonstrating our commitment to WHS, the graph below* shows that Council's 2022 LTI Incident Rate is less than half of the Group Average and approximately one third of the Scheme rate of 1.81.



BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE SPLASH PARK

Annual maintenance has been carried out on the splash park including cleaning out the water tank and checking the filter media. The diaphragms on each of the water features regularly need replacing. They become pitted and damaged due to wear and this prevents the water features from being able to be switched off.



Water team member Joe Lengyel with one of the damaged diaphragms.

GET READY! BUSHFIRE SEASON

Due to significant rainfall this wet, fuel loads will be higher leading to greater risk of bushfires during the dry months. Now is the time to start your bushfire mitigation programs. Check rural and house numbering is identifiable and talk to the Rural Fire Brigade in your area about any concerns you may have. Becoming a volunteer is another way to support your Rural Fire Brigade and learn valuable lessons about bushfire prevention and protection.

RURAL NUMBERS ARE A LIFESAVER

Rural road numbering provides an easy to use address reference, similar to urban residential street addresses.

Emergency services rely on clear and legible property identification to enable access and egress when responding to an emergency situation.



HOW DO RURAL NUMBERS WORK?

The numbering system is based on the distance in metres (divided by 10) from the start of the origin of the road to a formed driveway.

It also identifies which side of the road your property is located, with odd numbers on the left and even numbers on the right.

GETTING A NEW RURAL NUMBER

For new residences, please contact Cook Shire Council on 4082 0500 and you will be supplied with a post and the reflective rural numbers at no charge. The property owner is responsible for installing the post number themselves. The post should be located 2 metres outside the edge of the road shoulder and approximately 1 metre above the ground.

MAINTAINING YOUR RURAL NUMBER

Once installed, maintenance of a rural number marker becomes the responsibility of the property owner. Maintenance should include removing grass and vegetation to ensure the marker is clearly visible from the road. The marker should be regularly checked to ensure the numbers are legible. If your rural number has become illegible due to sun or other damage, Council will replace the marker at the property owner's cost.

HOW TO PREPARE YOUR PROPERTY

- Clear leaves, twigs, bark and other debris from the roof and gutters.
- Keep loose items around your property and garden secure.
- Point LPG cylinder relief valves away from the house.
- Conduct maintenance checks on pumps, generators, water systems.
- Check and fix any corrosion, rotten timber and loose fittings.
- Seal all gaps in external roof and wall cladding.
- Reduce vegetation loads along your access path.
- Mow your grass regularly.
- Remove excess ground fuels and combustible material (long dry grass, dead leaves and branches).
- Trim low-lying branches 2 metres from the ground surrounding your home.



HAVE YOU CHECKED?

- That you have sufficient personal protective clothing and equipment.
- That flammable items are not stored near your home, including woodpiles, boxes, crates, hanging baskets and garden furniture.
- That your first aid kit is fully stocked.
- That your household Emergency and Bushfire Survival plans and Evacuation Kits are up to date.
- Make sure you have appropriate insurance for your home and vehicles.
- If you have a water tank, make sure it is full.

BUSHFIRES? BUT I LIVE IN TOWN

You don't have to live in the bush to be threatened by bushfire. Houses close to forested areas or large vacant lots can be affected by burning material, embers and smoke.

Residents should be familiar with the official bushfire warning levels. *Bushfire Advice* means monitor conditions; *Watch and Act* means conditions are changing, and *Emergency Warning* means you are in danger.

PREPARING FOR BUSHFIRE SEASON

When there's a bushfire in your area, it's your responsibility to take notice, seek information, make decisions and act. If your property is unprepared, it is not only a risk to you, but also to your neighbours.

Prepare a Bushfire Survival Plan and Bushfire Evacuation Kit and ensure your family and pets are prepared and know the fire risks for your area.

2022 FREE DUMPING DAYS

Get your home and property disaster ready with free dumping available for sorted domestic waste at all Cook Shire waste transfer stations during the following dates:
19–26 July, and then 25 October until 7 November 2022.

IN AN EMERGENCY

If you are aware of a fire which could cause harm to people, property or the environment, always phone 000 to report.

OTHER FIRE CONTACTS

For fire permits, information about membership, training or hazard reduction burns, contact your local rural fire brigade, or Queensland Fire and Emergency Services Rural Fire Service by phoning 07 4232 5468.

USEFUL CONTACTS

FIRE INFORMATION

- www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au/map/Pages/default.aspx
- www.cook.qld.gov.au/services/disaster
- www.getready.qld.gov.au/Roads/Status
- www.qldtraffic.qld.gov.au
- www.cook.qld.gov.au/services/disaster
- 13 19 40

WEATHER AND DISASTER UPDATES

- www.cook.qld.gov.au/services/disaster
- ABC Far North 105.7FM
- Print and social media, Shire noticeboards

FLOOD AND STORM ASSISTANCE

- SES 132 500



get
ready
QUEENSLAND