



Cook Shire
COUNCIL

Your COUNCIL

inFOCUS

Quarterly Review
January - March 2021

ON TRACK: BUDGET SNAPSHOT

WAS IT WET ENOUGH?
2020-21 Wet Season Review

COOKTOWN & CAPE YORK EXPO 2021

UPCOMING BUSHFIRE SEASON
Are You Prepared?



Message from the CEO



LINDA CARDEW
Chief Executive Officer

In our efforts to bring Council news to the community in an increasingly friendly format, this quarter's edition is in a new form as an insert to the local paper and is also available online. We are keen to get your feedback and ideas so please accept this as an ongoing invitation to engage with your council and your council staff – we are all part of the community too!

The new 2021 year was supercharged from the start. Did you know that aside from our usual business we have around 100 community and infrastructure projects that are grant funded – with stimulus funding gratefully received from both the Commonwealth and State governments - all requiring delivery to extremely tight deadlines while staff and contractors juggle timeframes between weather events and road closures. Cook Shire Council is the highest grant recipient in Queensland with 82% of our operating budget supported by grants. We also have the 4th lowest "Category 1" (small council) staff costs (relevant to our operating budget) in Queensland. It is true that we are continually aiming to do more with less!

Perhaps you are seeing some of the changes around the Shire. In Cooktown the Botanic Gardens has had a fabulous upgrade with the new carpark, new pathways and signage, the Orchid House and installation of BBQs. The Nature's Powerhouse café is going strong with locals and visitors enjoying Keith and Vicki's wonderful meals. Work on the painstaking heritage restoration of the Shire Hall has started after a lengthy heritage assessment process. The installation of Braham Stevens' sculptural art at Reconciliation Rocks has infused this special place with dignity and an opportunity for reflection as the place of the first reconciliation in Australia. Construction of the new Boathouse (Waalmbal Birri Cultural Centre) was well underway during this quarter and will be ready for a formal opening at Expo 2021. Further afield, and although the Peninsula Development Road has been closed by the State Government for weeks due to extensive rain, work has started on the rebuilding of the facilities at the Coen airport and the construction of a modest Council depot at Coen. Solar powered lights to be installed in several local Coen streets have been delivered with installation imminent pending the delivery of concrete once the road is open. Council and the State Government also facilitated two re-supply deliveries of food to the Coen community and nearby stations.

In the meantime staff and Councillors embarked on the very detailed annual budget process – with many workshops and briefings. The Cooktown Expo 2021 planning has moved into its final stage – we are told it has the largest number of events over the longest timeframe in Australian festival history. Almost all events are free of charge – see the full program at CooktownExpo.com.au.

Finally – many thanks to the communities across the Cape for expressing your aspirations for the next 10 years. Your new Community Plan has been adopted by Council and will guide much of our work going forward.

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.

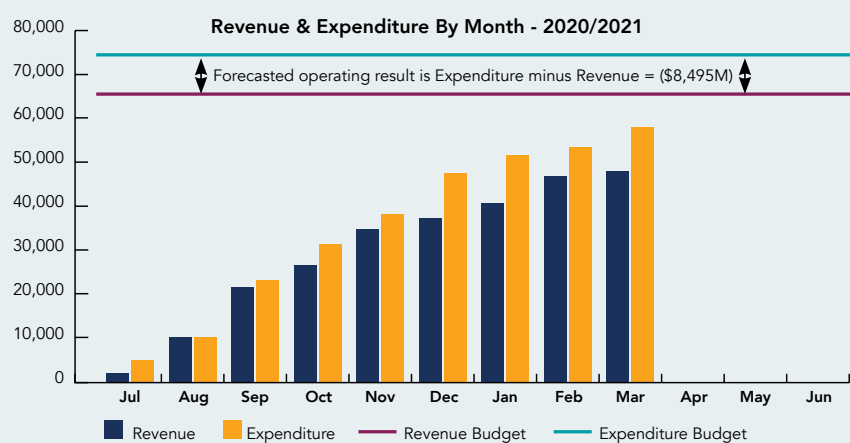
Over the last three months the Executive Leadership Team has represented Cook Shire in a wide range of forums and meetings with a number of agencies, including:

NAME OF EXTERNAL PARTY	
Arup	LGIA Super
Bloomfield River District Residents and Ratepayers Association	Local Disaster Management Group
Cairns District Disaster Management Group	Local Government Association Queensland (LGAQ)
Cape York Institute	Local Government Managers Australia, Queensland
Cape York Natural Resource Management	Mackay Farms
Coen Interagency Committee	Mass Gathering Executive Committee
Cooktown Chamber of Commerce and Tourism	Metallica Minerals
Cooktown and District Interagency Group	North Queensland Sports Foundation
Cooktown Market Stall Holders	Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council
Cooktown RSL Sub Branch	Queensland Audit Office
Dept. Communities, Housing and Digital Economy	Queensland Fire and Emergency Services
Dept. Environment and Science	Queensland Health
Dept. Premier and Cabinet	Queensland Police Service
Dept. Resources	Queensland Reconstruction Authority
Dept. Seniors, Disability Services, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships	Reconciliation Queensland
Dept. State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning	Regional Arts Services Network
Dept. Transport and Main Roads	Regional Development Australia
Douglas Hockey Association	Remote Community Solutions
Environment North	Saltwater Club
Expo 2021 Advisory Committee	South Cape York Catchments
Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils (FNQROC)	State Library of Queensland
FNQROC Regional Roads and Transport Group	Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service
James Cook University	Torres and Cape Indigenous Councils Alliance
Kowanyama Biofutures	Tourism Tropical North Queensland
Lakeland Progress Association	Vera Scarth-Johnson Gallery Association
Laura Interagency Working Group	Wet Tropics Management Authority
	Windlab

ON TRACK: BUDGET SNAPSHOT

Cook Shire Council's Annual Budget for the 2020-21 financial year was adopted on the 25 June 2020. In line with industry best practice and prudent financial management, this budget was revised at Council's Ordinary Meeting 9 March 2021 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 30 March 2021.



The end of March 2021 is the 75% or three quarters mark of the financial year and by way of comparison, Council's revenue stood at 71.83% of budget, and expenditure stood at 77.21% 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 2021-22 annual budget is progressing well and it is anticipated that Council will release details of this budget, for community feedback, either late May or early June 2021. Council's budget meeting has been scheduled for 22 June 2021.

GETTING MORE DONE WITH GRANTS

Grant funding is an essential element of Council's annual budget allowing for the delivery of projects outside of normal operations. The table below provides a snapshot of grants activity during the quarter including applications, new funds received and finalised grants which have been successfully acquitted. Grants applied for include the annual Regional Arts Development Fund bid which enables Council to partner with the State Government to deliver arts and culture initiatives. Further funding has been sought to provide resiliency improvements to the Cooktown Events Centre to improve the buildings capacity as a place of refuge. An application has also been submitted to Queensland Health requesting the continuation of the Healthy Dogs, Healthy Communities program in Coen and Laura. These projects will provide both economic and social benefits to the community if successful in gaining funding.

Further allocations of Federally funded Local Roads and Community Infrastructure and State funded Works for Queensland have been received this quarter, providing funds for essential maintenance projects throughout the Shire. These funds total just over \$3M and will contribute significantly to the local economy creating more than 50 jobs during works which will be delivered by contractors and Council employees. Finally, Australia Day funding was finalised and acquitted following the success of the event with attendance of 120 people despite COVID-19 restrictions. Funding received allowed Council to purchase crowd control and sanitisation equipment as well as Australia Day branding to add some extra cheer.

Grants applied for	Grants received	Grants acquitted
Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) - annual bid	Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) round two	Australia Day 2021 COVID Safe Grants Program
2020-21 Resilience and Risk Reduction Funding – Cooktown Events Centre Resiliency Upgrades	Works for Queensland W4Q 2021-2024 allocation	Australia Day 2021 Branding
Department of Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing Program – Coen and Laura Healthy Dogs, Healthy Communities Program		

EXPO PROGRAM ANNOUNCED

The program for the Cooktown & Cape York Expo 2021 – The Rising Tide was announced to media at a special event held at Nature's Powerhouse on Friday 26 February. Media and guests were welcomed with a smoking ceremony by Wayburr Warra Traditional Owner and Elder, Fred Deeral before Cook Shire Mayor, Peter Scott gave an overview of some of the highlights of the 10-day festival program. Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Mayor Jason Woibo and CEO of Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire, Stephen Wilton addressed the crowd to discussed the importance of the Expo for tourism and the economy of the Cape.

See page 6 for more Expo news and a quick reference guide to all of the festival highlights for you to keep!



TALKING TRASH WITH COUNCIL'S WASTE WARRIORS

In January, Councillor Ross Logan was joined by Council's Waste Management Coordinator, Sheils Barra for a COVID-safe journey to Townsville to attend Local Authority Waste Management Advisory committee (LAWMAC). The March meeting was held in Gladstone where Cr Burns was joined by Council's other representative on the Committee, Cr Peter Burns.

LAWMAC is an organisation of 30 North Queensland Local Government Councils and 24 Associate Members dedicated to best practice waste management that aims to provide sustainable solutions through its regional forum and interactive participation across the LAWMAC region on current and future Waste Management Practices and Technologies.

"Rubbish is everyone's problem," Cr Burns said while addressing Council staff at a recent staff meeting.

"Everyone can help to reduce the amount of waste we produce by refusing single use plastics, reusing and repairing what we can, and then recycling what remains."



COOK SHIRE LAUNCHES ITS YOUTH COUNCIL

In March, Council sent out a call to young people aged 12 – 23 years of age from across the Shire to apply to be a part of Cook Shire's first Youth Council.

The Cook Shire Youth Council will develop 'youth-led' projects and campaigns, and advocate for young people who live, work, study or volunteer in the Cook region. The Youth Council will also function as an advisory committee to Council by:

- Providing a means for young people to engage with people, gather feedback, and suggest innovations to Cook Shire Council, other levels of government, and the community;
- Identifying key issues relating to young people in Cook Shire and actively participating in the development of strategies to address these;
- Raising the profile of young people in Cook Shire and promoting their contribution to community life;
- Maintaining inclusive and representative membership of the Youth Council, which encourages and supports the participation of young people with a broad range of life experiences and future aspirations; and
- Providing the opportunity for young people to experience civic decision-making processes and supporting their own active participation in these processes.

As Chairperson of the Youth Council committee and vocal advocate for engaging young people, Cr Holmes was on hand to answer any questions from Youth Council hopefuls when they attended a workshop hosted by Sgt Dave Goode and guest speakers, including Council's own Sha-lane Gibson, at the Cooktown PCYC.



COOK SHIRE CEO TALKS GENDER EQUITY

International Women's Day was on Monday 8 March. As part of the global day that celebrates the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women, Cook Shire CEO, Linda Cardew was profiled in a report published by the Local Government Professionals of Australia entitled, From the Leader's Chair – Gender Equity in Local Government.

Sharing a glimpse into her own leadership journey as well as her views on gender equity and the diverse range of career opportunities local government offers to women, Mrs. Cardew also highlighted how family-friendly the Cook Shire workplace is and her 'top down' belief in creating a positive and nurturing culture within organisations.

"I think gender equity can best be achieved when you have a culture that will foster an appreciation of the person rather than the superficial way in which a person is perceived as a result of their gender"

LINDA CARDEW
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
COOK SHIRE COUNCIL
DIRECTOR NORTH
QUEENSLAND
LGMA QUEENSLAND



"The culture of an organisation from the top down is probably the most valuable and most important thing that one can encourage."

What does gender equity in leadership mean to you?

It means providing exactly the same opportunities regardless of gender and creating a platform which is equitable across the board. It is a blind spot against whether a person is a man or a woman, instead really getting at the heart of what that person is and what that person can do, regardless. I think gender equity can best be achieved when you have a culture that will foster an appreciation of the person rather than the superficial way in which a person is perceived as a result of their gender. It's interesting for me because obviously I'm a woman, but I'm also about five feet tall, and I work substantially in a male world, and yet I don't often feel that there is an inequity in terms of the way in which people respond to me or perceive me.

What was your leadership journey?

I always felt I could add a little bit more. I always felt that I wanted to provide greater value, and the way to do that was to, almost unintentionally, move to the next stage up the ladder. I was always keen for a professional adventure and I loved the idea of intellectual and professional growth but, without being overly ambitious, I just thought that I could contribute more at a higher level and I think before I knew it I found myself being promoted.

But I also sought out work within different organisations. I have rarely sought internal promotions, instead I have been attracted to opportunities and the variety and diversity of other organisations, other cultures and other ways of thinking that seemed to add a great deal more from a professional perspective than simply working within one town or one organisation or one level of government.

Were there barriers to getting to where you are today?

Actually, I don't think so. I don't feel that I have been challenged or blocked because I was a woman or because I was simply working within one organisation.

"I guess I have taken the initiative to seek out new and challenging roles when they were on offer, comfortable and confident that my life journey would take me where I wanted to be."

How has the pandemic affected the pursuit of gender equity in local government?

It has not in any way affected the gender balance within our council. We have adapted in a very flexible way to be able to deal with the pandemic requirements including working from home and so forth. I think the COVID impact has created a much greater amount of work for certain people within the organisation, and some of those people may coincidentally be women, but for us COVID has not created a particularly gender-focused problem, but rather an organisational and a resource challenge. We have a family-friendly workplace approach to life in any case, and that understanding of family needs is possibly a little more driven because obviously I'm in the CEO role and two out of four people in our executive leadership team are also women. I can't think of any example where the pandemic has negatively or positively impacted on the ability to parent though, for example. Our staff have already been able to generally fulfil and juggle their parenting roles with the endorsement of the executive team – it's not something that has been brought about because of COVID.

What needs to change to reach true gender equity in leadership across the sector?

At this time, local government is typically identified by conservative male leadership.

"In anticipation of the change that will inevitably come we need to encourage millennials at every opportunity."

We need to communicate the reality that local government is enormously attractive professionally, it provides opportunities for a fabulous career.

They say that there are 345 separate professions or trades within local government, and so there is something for everyone. I think we need to tackle the problem systematically. We need to be advertising at universities and in vocational institutions that there is a valid and rewarding career in local government and we need to encourage young people to understand that you can have both professional success and an exceptional quality of life while also having the personal satisfaction that comes from serving the community that you're working for. And I think that if we work to encourage and keep the next generation in local government, then the traditional older male executive model will change. But it will be a generational thing. You can't just place women in senior roles and expect that to work – that's not a strategy that's sustainable. A more sustainable approach is to work to understand the drivers for next generation, to understand their needs so we attract and keep the most ambitious and motivated and committed young professionals.

The culture of an organisation from the top down is probably the most valuable and most important thing that one can encourage. The culture need not come from a woman in the CEO role, however it needs to come from a person who understands the value of the individual regardless of whether they are male, female, or other, and value people as they are for the professional and personal contribution they can make to an organisation. A sustainable local government is absolutely dependent on people being able to work together with and for the elected members and for the community, because that is the role of local government.

And you have got to be human. You have got to, at the top of your list, recognise that people and the community we serve are human beyond all else. And if the organisational culture respects that, then we are on our way to achieving gender equity and well advanced to support equity in all other areas.



RESILIENCE AND DEDICATION AT THE HEART OF COOK SHIRE'S AUSTRALIA DAY AWARD WINNERS

Dr Des Hill of Cooktown Medical Centre has been announced as Cook Shire Council's Citizen of the Year at the 2021 Australia Day Awards Ceremony held in Cooktown on Tuesday 26 January 2021.

With a strong interest in rural and remote medicine, Dr Hill first arrived in Cooktown to take on the role as the hospital Doctor. He then went on to build and establish the Cooktown Medical Centre on Helen Street in 1983. His Citizen of the Year Award recognises his 35-plus years of dedication and innovation to the community, as well as his ability to lead his team to adapt to the challenge of COVID-19 while maintaining a high level of medical services and customer care.

"This Australia Day we reflect on the resilience of our community and the spirit of helping, giving and supporting, that defines us as Australians. Dr Hill, through his years of service and commitment to the health and wellbeing of our community, and other communities across the Cape, is the embodiment of this spirit," said Cook Shire Mayor Cr Peter Scott. "It's an honour to be able to present him with an award that recognises his work and dedication to our community."

High-school student Wudarabin Snider, and Lakeland teachers aid, Sam Simmonds have been announced as joint winners of the Young Citizen of the Year.

The other Australian Day Award winners included:

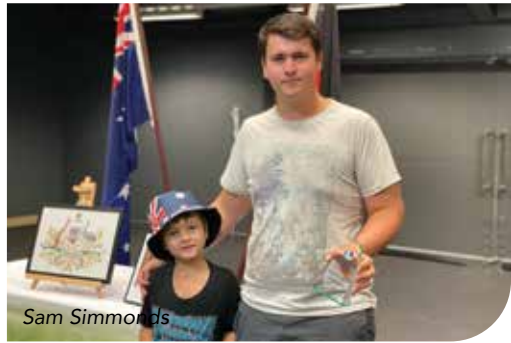
Jackson Agale – Sports Award

Peter Shields – Volunteer of the Year

The Awards were held at the Cooktown PCYC Events Centre and included guest speaker and Australia Day Ambassador Uncle Barry Watson, presentation of the Australia Day Awards, and a citizenship ceremony, followed by a community morning tea.



Wudarabin Snider



Sam Simmonds



Dr Des Hill

REEF GUARDIAN WORKING GROUP

With assistance from the Great Barrier Marine Park Authority who funded the travel costs, Senior Grants Officer Jenni James was able to travel to Cairns in March to attend the Reef Guardian Working Group meeting. This was a great opportunity to network and catch up with representatives from other Reef Guardian Councils who all work together to protect and conserve the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park through a range of activities that improve the health and resilience of the Reef.



MEET AND GREET WITH QFES

On 22 February, Mayor Peter Scott and Councillors joined the Cooktown Auxiliary Fire Brigade at a casual barbecue hosted by Deputy Commissioner Roche and Acting Assistant Commissioner Gwin from Queensland Fire and Emergency Services.



COUNCIL LENDS A HAND TO BEACH CLEAN UP

A motley group of drenched Council staff joined forces with community volunteers and teams from PCYC and South Cape York Catchments to help clean up Walker Bay Beach on Sunday 7 March.

VOLUNTEERS AND EVENTS TRAINING

On Tuesday 16 March, attendees at the Volunteer and Events Training Program held at River of Gold, learnt practical information and techniques to use in creating and delivering a range of events. From event orientation to resilience and leadership, the program is part of the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.



EXPO 2021 PRESENTED TO TCICA

Cooktown & Cape York Expo 2021 Creative Director, Vanessa Gillen, presented the Expo program to the Mayors and CEOs of the Torres Cape Indigenous Council Alliance at a meeting in Cairns on 3 March 2021.



OPERATION: RESUPPLY



Thursday 4 March 2021 Cook Shire Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) carried out a resupply operation to three isolated properties along the Strathgordon/Pompuraaw Road. Due to continuous flooding property owners were unable to access the airstrips where their supplies, medication and mail are delivered via the mail plane. Council and QFES organised a resupply as a part of Counter Disaster Operations (CDO) under the Far North Queensland Tropical Low DRFA activation. A helicopter was engaged to transfer properties' essential supplies from nominated airstrips to the properties. Upon receiving notification that Coen

had not had a stores truck in more than five weeks, Cook Shire LDMG requested the State Disaster Coordination Centre (SDCC) to assist with a resupply to Coen of nearly 3 tonnes of supplies. This was coordinated by QFES and lead by the State. Daintree Air was the successful charter company. Great to see a local business getting this work.

A further resupply was carried out on 26 March due to the roads still being closed and with a 5 tonne load limit on permits, road transport had not been able to access Coen in nearly nine weeks. This request for assistance was again sent to the SDCC through the District Disaster. Resupply ensures isolated individuals and communities have essential goods for survival and are not economically disadvantaged by additional transport costs. In such circumstances, the Government will pay the additional transport costs to deliver essential items to isolated individuals and communities. Individuals and communities should not become reliant on resupply operations and are encouraged to become self-sufficient in all their needs in case they become isolated.

IF IT'S FLOODED, FORGET IT!

On 4 January 2021, due to flooding at Laura and Archer Rivers, the Department of Traffic and Main Roads (DTMR) closed the Peninsula Development Road (PDR) to through traffic.

DTMR was aware of the challenges this would pose across the Cape and locals were able to apply for a permit through DTMR provided they adhered to a 5 tonne limit and did not cross flood waters. Public safety and preventing further damage to the road was paramount, however, due to continual heavy rainfall and saturation of the road pavement, heavy transport along the PDR was prohibited.

Council also closed multiple roads across the Cape including the Strathgordon Road at the request of Pompuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council in an effort to keep people safe and prevent further damage to the road. Most council roads have

had significant damage due to flooding making it necessary to close the road but can be accessed by locals or under a permit in most cases. Thank you also to all who sent through photos of the roads, it gives a great perspective of what is happening in the Shire outside of Cooktown.

During this time DTMR kindly granted Cook Shire Council permission to publish images from cameras on crossings in the Cape to provide the public with a visual perspective of the flooded rivers. These were then published on the Cook Shire Council Facebook page and shared to key social media pages and Facebook groups - one post was viewed more than 94,267 people!

For information on road conditions for Cook Shire visit:
www.cook.qld.gov.au/services/roads/current-road-status



WAS IT WET ENOUGH? 2020-21 Wet Season Review

This season saw three weather events affecting Cook Shire occur between January and March. The first cyclone for the season was Tropical Cyclone Imogen which developed in the Gulf and caused flooding along Western Cape York Peninsula.

This event was followed closely by Tropical Cyclone Kimi that formed off the coast of Cooktown on 17 January 2021. While TC Kimi didn't cross the coast it brought further heavy rainfall and

flooding to the majority of the Cape and further restricted access to the Cape.

On the 25 February another tropical low formed in the Gulf of Carpentaria and again brought extensive rain to Cape York.

The Northern Cape experienced significant amounts of rainfall throughout the season as shown in the Rainfall table (right). Thank you to all those who provided photos and rainfall totals.



Location	Dec 2020	Jan 2021	Feb 2021	Mar 2021	Total
Archer River Roadhouse	197.6	374.2	318.8	271.7	1162.3
Artemis Station	157.5	668	988	92	1905.5
Astrea Station	357	618	621	197.5	1793.5
Batavia Station	87.4	523.4	401.8	274.4	1287
Cape Flattery*	27	281.6	529.4	220	1058
Cape Weymouth	151	542	280	190	1163
CY Biosecurity Centre Coen	254.5	654	457	183	1548.5
Coen Airport*	215.4	550.4	464	178	1407.8
Coen Water Treatment Plant	159.2	375	410.8	206.5	1151.5
Coen Wastewater Plant	132	410.3	504.7	194.1	1241.1
Cooktown Airport*	247.2	241.4	271	193.4	953
Cooktown Water Treatment Plant (Annan)	122.5	425.5	529.5	279.5	1357
Cooktown Wastewater Plant	155	438.5	472	270.5	1336
Hann River	412.5	391	323.5	72.5	1199.5
Harkness Station	369	775	431	50	1625
Kalinga Station	233	523.5	351	94	1201.5
Lockhart River Airport*	366	690.8	343.8	273.4	1674
Lotus Bird Lodge	151	721	320	225	1417
Palmer River Roadhouse	139.5	312	343.5	89	884
Palmerville*	113.4	291.8	386.6	71.8	863.6
Poison Creek	181	469	353	223	1226
Rinyirru (Lakefield) National Park	-	371	392.5	124.5	
Rossville	175.5	556	591	263	1585.5
Scherger RAAF Base*	453.2	614.2	251	284.4	1602.8
Strathmay Station	321	646	392.5	80	1439.5
Weipa Airport*	373.6	593	354.2	400.2	1721

*Bureau of Meteorology weather stations - <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/dwo/IDCJDW0400.shtml>
©December tally not included.

REMEMBER: • Don't enter floodwaters • Don't let children play in or near floodwaters
• Warn visitors about the dangers of floodwaters... **IF IT'S FLOODED FORGET IT!**



COOKTOWN & CAPE YORK
EXPO 2021
The Rising Tide
11-20 JUNE 2021

BUSINESS INNOVATION SHOWCASED IN COOKTOWN

Far North Queensland businesses are invited to attend a two-day dynamic Business Symposium being hosted by James Cook University and Clean Growth Choices. The Symposium being held 15-16 June will explore the need for resilience, adaptability, innovation and sustainability in Cape businesses and feature keynote addresses from industry leaders including, CEO of Tourism Tropical North Queensland (TTNQ), Mark Olsen; Chair of Cape York Natural Resource Management, Emma Jackson; Director of Medical Services at Cooktown Hospital, Natasha Coventry and Austwaste FNQ Managing Director, Ken Reid who transformed his Cooktown skip bin business into an enterprise that now turns over \$3.5million per annum and employs 15-20 people.

The dynamic Business Symposium sessions are free to attend - simply register online at cooktownexpo.com.au



CAPE YORK CHILDREN TO BRING COOKTOWN STORY TO LIFE

Children from across Cape York Peninsula have been working with Sacred Creations Dance Troupe choreographer Tamara Pearson to bring to life the traditional Endeavour River creation story in Warrma, a performance incorporating traditional Indigenous dance with modern special effects, during Cooktown & Cape York Expo 2021 – The Rising Tide on 11-20 June.

Ms Pearson has been busy travelling around Cape York Peninsula teaching traditional and contemporary dance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

The Bagarmuguwarra and Kuku Yalanji artist, who grew up in Hope Vale, said the Endeavour River story had been passed down by the late Hope Vale Elder, grandfather Tulo Gordon, and published in the book *Milbi* which will be launched at the festival.

"What will make this performance special is many of Tulo Gordon's great grandchildren will be performing in the show," Ms Pearson said.

"It is a beautiful story that we will mash up with elements of traditional dance like live didgeridoo and grass skirts as well as contemporary performance. I have collaborated with events specialist Culture Mechanics to create special effects, lighting and amazing costumes that will bring this Dreamtime story to life."

"It is about neighbouring clans coming together to celebrate their respect for the land they have lived on and relied upon for thousands of years, and acknowledges the reconciliation that has existed between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people."

Ms Pearson has been working on the contemporary dance in the studio with artists Tahlia Burchill and Miya Healy who represent language groups from the Cairns and Mossman region.

The Warrma will be performed on 13 June as part of the free Reconciliation Rocks Music Festival and again on 20 June during the Cooktown Discovery Festival weekend.



SIGNATURE EVENTS SET TO SELL OUT

Renowned for its proximity to the reef and some of the country's finest fishing and diving experiences, it's the cornucopia of regional culinary ocean delights that will be showcased and celebrated at the Cooktown Long Lunch on Friday 18 June.

Set on the banks of the Endeavour River and having attracted award-winning Cairns restaurant, Ochre, to cater the occasion, the Long Lunch is promising to be a three-course seafood extravaganza starring seasonal produce and some of the finest ingredients from across the Cape.

As one of only a few tickets events on the Expo program (most of the events and entertainment is completely free) tickets are \$100 (+ booking fee) and include the decadent three-course meal, live entertainment and sweeping river views, making it little wonder why foodies from across the country are booking tickets faster than they can scoff foie gras.

Add a black-tie dress code (period costume for the historically inclined), to another stellar menu from Ochre and you have The Endeavour Ball on Saturday 19 June.

A highlight on the Cooktown social calendar for years, tickets to the Endeavour Ball are strictly limited this year due COVID restrictions, and are certain to sell out.

Tickets are \$125 (+ booking fee) and include a drink and canapes on arrival, followed by a three-course meal, live music, dance, festivities and entertainment. Tickets for both events must be booked online at cooktownexpo.com.au



BANKS' ILLUSTRATIONS BLOOM IN 3D ANIMATION

An immersive sound and light experience capturing the natural beauty of Australia through the eyes of botanist Joseph Banks will make its regional debut at Cooktown & Cape York Expo 2021 – The Rising Tide.

The 3D animation called Beauty Rich and Rare showcases the botanical illustrations Banks and his naturalists made 250 years ago, including the drawings completed while the Endeavour was being repaired in Cooktown.

Cooktown & Cape York Expo 2021 Creative Director Vanessa Gillen said the 20-minute digital artwork has just returned from successful screenings at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, Washington D.C. and the National Library of Australia in Canberra.

"The digital show and narration helps the audience experience the wonder that the Endeavour's passengers and crew felt on their historic journey in search of the Great Southern Land," she said.

"It will be presented at Nature's Powerhouse in Cooktown's Botanic Gardens from 11 June to 6 July".



CAPE & TORRES STRAIT ARTISTS SET TO SHINE

Another highlight on the jam-packed Expo schedule is sure to be the Cape and Torres Strait Regional Arts Showcase.

Funded through the Regional Arts Services Network, the Showcase will see forty artists and performers from across Cape York and Torres Strait participate in a series of professional development workshops with industry professionals designed to develop their arts practice and professional business acumen. They will also have opportunities to perform and exhibit their work to art lovers and Expo-goers.

From illustrators and photographers, to musical groups, soloists and weavers – the Showcase has attracted some of the finest established and up-and-coming artistic talent from across Cape York and the Torres Strait, including:



ROYSTON SAGIGI

Hailing from Old Mapoon, Royston Sagigi grew up surrounded by nature – taking every opportunity to tune in to all he heard and saw. In high school, after watching the award-winning film, The Sapphires, Royston reached out to Indigenous Australian actress and singer, Jessica Mauboy who encouraged and inspired Royston to pursue a career as a professional performing artist.

Royston moved to Brisbane in 2017 to pursue his dream, studying at The Aboriginal Centre for Performing Arts (ACPA) for 2 years. During this time, he auditions for The Voice in 2017, won the Take The Mic Singing Competition, travelled to America to perform at the Chicago Thanksgiving Parade and the Hollywood Christmas Parade and placed third in Channel 7's singing competition, All Together Now.

Royston now lives in Cairns where he's been working with industry professionals to develop and release his music. This young man is sure to make big waves when he and his band perform at the Cape York and Torres Strait Regional Showcase on Friday 11 June from 6pm



YAZMINDI

Multi-instrumentalist, YAZMINDI, is one of Australia's new, underestimated, up and coming songwriters.

Born in Cooktown, Tropical North Queensland, YAZMINDI picked up her Mini Maton and recorded her first song at age 12. She joined a country rock band at 13, released her debut EP in 2014, travelled to Austin Texas to perform at South by Southwest at 16. Now at only 22, YAZMINDI has performed at many diverse festivals both nationally and internationally, including twice at South by Southwest, The

Gympie Muster, Woodford Folk Festival, Tamworth Country Music Festival, Wallaby Creek Festival, Urban Country Music Festival, Black Mountain Unplugged and supported Megan Washington at her Cairns show at Munro Martin Parklands in 2020.

YAZMINDI is returning home to FNQ to play to her favourite crowd as part of the Cape York and Torres Strait Showcase on Sunday 12 June from 4pm, and on Thursday 17 June from 7pm on the Main Stage.



NANCY KIWAT

Born on Thursday Island and raised on Erub (Darnley Island) since birth, Nancy is of the Saisarem tribal clan: one of the four tribes of Erub.

Producing unique creations from a young age, the multi-talented, award winning artist works with a number of different media. She has works featured in galleries around the world. Renowned for her rare, hand-crafted pieces, Nancy started to recycle and repurpose fishing and cast nets from the shores and beaches in order to help clean up and conserve the unique, Torres Strait Island environment.

Nancy's works will be exhibited in the pop up gallery opening being held in the Blue Water Marquee on Friday 11 June 2021 from 2pm.

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.

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.

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.

USEFUL CONTACTS

FIRE INFORMATION

<https://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



Traditional Owners overjoyed with the result of the collaboration with artist Braham Stevens

'TEARS OF JOY' AS RECONCILIATION ROCKS ARTWORKS INSTALLED

On Tuesday 16 March 2021, a Traditional Waymburr Owner was overheard likening the torrential downpour over Cooktown to "tears of joy from Ancestral Elders" as Traditional Owners joined artist and sculptor Braham Stevens, architects, Council staff and the project management team to witness the installation of the artworks at the revitalised Reconciliation Rocks precinct.

The two larger-than-life artworks celebrate and commemorate the Indigenous narrative of the first recorded act of Reconciliation that took place in Waymburr (Cooktown) at Reconciliation Rocks in 1770.

"Reconciliation is not about tearing down statues, but ensuring the Indigenous side of the story is accurately and meaningfully told, shared and commemorated," said Cook Shire Mayor, Peter Scott.

"What took place at Reconciliation Rocks, is corroborated by the stories of the Waymburr Warra and the journals of the crew on the Endeavour. There is no hero or villain, but rather two leaders with the wisdom and insight to cultivate respect and trust despite their differences. It's an uplifting and unifying example of reconciliation that can be celebrated inclusively by all Australians."

Queensland artist Braham Stevens worked closely with representative of the Waymburr Warra people, of the Guugu Yimithirr Nation who are the Traditional Custodians of the land on which Cooktown sits, to share their perspective of the historically significant series of events that occurred between clan Elders and Captain James Cook

The two artworks focus on the central story the Waymburr Warra Elder, referred to in Cook's journals as 'The Little Old Man' who instigated the first recorded act of reconciliation, by approaching Cook and his crew with a broken spear while performing the Ngaala-ngun Daama – a traditional way of welcoming visitors to their land.

Funded by the Australian Government's Community Development Grants Program, the project is part of the Council's on-going revitalisation of Cooktown's Cultural Precinct that also includes installation of accessible pathways, amphitheater-style seating around a natural performance space, and landscaping to complement and enhance the unique biodiversity of the area.

With installation of the artworks and revitalisation of the area now complete, the public are encouraged to visit the park for themselves and to 'snap and share' their experience of Reconciliation Rocks to help broadcast the special shared history of Cooktown as the site of the first recorded act of Reconciliation across Australia and around the world.

The official opening of Reconciliation Rocks will also feature as part of the Cooktown & Cape York Expo 2021: The Rising Tide from 11-20 June 2021.



Reconciliation Rocks
Braham Steven and Freddie Deeral unwrap the artworks

CELEBRATE YOUR COMMUNITY THROUGH ART

Artists and communities from across the Cape are being invited to submit design concepts that represent their community for a chance to have their work featured at the Gateway to Cape York Sculptural Park in Lakeland.

Submissions are welcomed from art centres, schools, individuals and community groups, from 16 communities including, Wujal Wujal, Cooktown, Lockhart River, Port Stewart, Coen, Iron range, Bamaga, Pajinka, Mapoon, Weipa, Napranum, Aurukun, Pormpuraaw, Kowanyama, Hope Vale and Laura.

A simple drawing is all that's required for the submission. A panel from each community will then select the concept that best embodies the unique identity of their community to be constructed and installed at the sculptural park. The successful artists will work with a professional sculptural artist and fabricator to see their concept come to life and be awarded \$500 for their design.

Artists are being asked to consider the 'Thoughtful Traveller' message that is promoted at the Gateway to Cape York information hub, and are encouraged to consider using recycled, repurposed and natural materials in their designs.

Submissions must close 17 June 2021 and artists can submit their concepts either online or by returning them to Cook Shire Council in person to 10 Furneaux Street, Cooktown or by post to PO Box 3, Cooktown, QLD 4895.

The Gateway to Cape York Sculptural Park is proudly funded by the Queensland Government's Building Our Regions program.



FISH OUT OF WATER

A familiar face at the Cooktown Swimming Pool, pool attendant, Peta Buhmann was a fish out of water in full safety gear, including a helmet and harness when she took to the roof to fold away the swimming pool shade cloth.



RECOVERY AND CONNECTION IN THE WAKE OF DISASTER

Working across Cook Shire, Douglas Shire and Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire, Community Development Officer Kathrina Southwell is one of a team of Community Development Officers who – funded by Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy each work in their shires to promote recovery and build resilience in the wake of the 2019 Monsoonal Trough. In February Kathrina attended a workshop in Townsville for all of the north Queensland Community Development Officers where they had the opportunity to discuss the recovery process faced by the residents they work with and share the creative initiatives and activities they've been able to implement. Kathrina is the only Community Development Officer that looks after three shires, an area larger than Victoria and enjoys the uniqueness of each community.

IN FULL BLOOM - BOTANIC GARDENS WORKS COMPLETE

Recently completed, the upgrade works to the Cooktown Botanic Gardens have seen the installation of a new Orchid House and an Information and orientation Hub; vastly improved all ability access around the gardens with new footpaths and access ramp to Nature's Powerhouse; installation of barbeque picnic facilities; a major upgrade to the entry road and carpark to allow bus access and creation of 15 additional carparks; and construction of the First People's Grove – an exciting new space that's been designed to showcase and celebrate Indigenous culture and history through storytelling, art and performance.

Pictured are our Botanic Gardens crew members, Jeanie Allen and Ganger Dan Little, admiring the recently installed Information Hub signage at the Botanic Gardens, and Mark Mitchell filling the new Orchid House with a display of orchids just as the Cooktown Orchid came into bloom.



Jeanie Allen getting back to basics at the Botanic Gardens



Ben Giblet mid-battle in Coen



Stephen Fetz tackling the turf at Cooktown Airport

TURF WARS EPISODE I – III: BOTANIC GARDENS, COOKTOWN AIRPORT AND COEN

It's a battle as old as time: with the rain, comes the grass. From Cooktown to Coen, the Shire's Parks and Gardens team has been battling it out on ride-ons, with whipper-snippers and even – due to concreting works at the Botanic Gardens - with hand mowers.

NEVER A DULL MOMENT

With all hands back on deck after the Christmas break, Council's small and multi-skilled Building and Facilities team have been hard at work across the Shire. Some of the works completed this quarter include:

- Preparing the Shire Hall for restoration works to commence
- Installing a new pipeline to the Cooktown History Centre
- Installing grab rails and replacing the moulding on the soffits and repainting the eaves of the toilets at the Cooktown Lions Park
- Installing kitchens in the aged-care units
- Upgrading sewerage systems at the Laura Town Hall and public toilets
- Organising and managing the preparation of the handover of the Coen Airport to contractors for upgrade works
- Ongoing works to upgrade the Lakeland public toilets

Pictured below, several members of the team also undertook training for how to manage an Oil Spill Response. As part of this program Maritime Safety Queensland in conjunction with Ports North conducted a demonstration of the first Strike Oil Spill response equipment in Cooktown. Participants learnt about the different pumps and how to use them as well as how to build the dam on the shore in the event of a spill, followed by how to clean the equipment after use.



BIOSECURITY

With more than 106,000km² of land – roughly half the size of the state of Victoria and twice size of Tasmania - the Cook Shire Biosecurity team work tirelessly to prevent, control and recover from the impacts of invasive plants and animals across the Shire.

Many of the invasive plants targeted by the team germinate with the onset of the wet season. Controlling these pests required breaking their lifecycle and preventing them from seeding once the rains end. This quarter saw the team joined forces with Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services (QPWS) and South Cape York Catchments who hiked up Mt Cook to the helipad, to treat the area for a number of weeds and invasive plants.

Some of the other actions and initiatives undertaken included:



INVASIVE PLANTS TREATMENT

- 135 km of roads treated for rubber vine (7054 individual plants treated)
- 310 km of roads treated for thatch grass
- Oaky Creek Rd and Mungumby Rd treated for grader grass
- Leucaena treated near Lakeland



INVASIVE ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

- 4 Baiting services/assessments undertaken



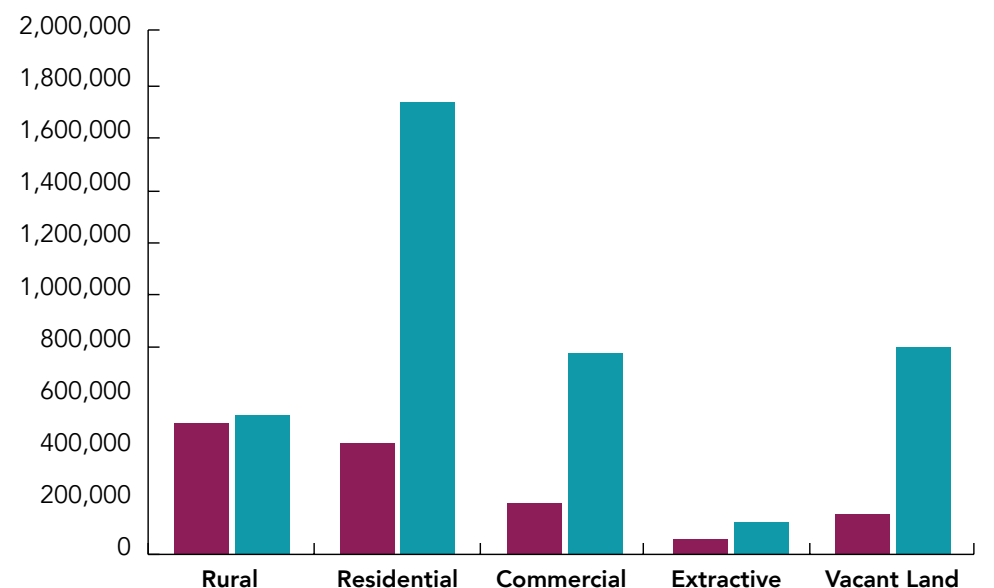
BREAKDOWN OF RATES AND CHARGES (CURRENT & ARREARS)

	Rural	Residential	Commercial	Extractive	Vacant Land
1st Levy 20/21	509,369	420,515	199,268	54,609	158,692
2nd Levy 20/21	532,873	1,726,024	786,662	123,878	793,930

Explanatory Note: Total of Rates and Charges including the current levy and arrears. Current Rates and Charges are not due until 27.04.2021.

Interpretive Comments:

Totals for each category are:-
 Rural 72 Residential 849 Commercial 171
 Extractive 108 Vacant Land 475



Women At Work

on the job with Dr Robyn Maddalena



To coincide with International Women's Day that was on 8 March, we took a few minutes to catch up with Council's Manager of Water and Wastewater, Robyn Maddalena:

How long have you been with Council?

4 years with Cook Shire Council

What did you do before starting at Council?

I worked for Central Highlands Regional Council for 3 years in Emerald looking after 21 treatment plants in Emerald, Blackwater, Capella, Tieri, Springsure and Rolleston. Before that I worked for Scenic Rim Regional Council and then Queensland Urban Utilities for 6 years. The water section of Scenic Rim Regional Council was amalgamated into the QUU with Lockyer, Somerset, Ipswich and Brisbane water sections.

What was the role you first started in and what is it now?

My first role after school was working in a bakery making bulk orders of biscuits. I worked at the IGA and Hungry Jacks during school. I then worked as a gardener with a local Council. When I went to uni, I worked in a plant Nursery and had my own small gardening business. Since then I have worked in the water industry, as an operator, as a research assistant, as an algae counter, as the Principal Scientific Advisor on Water at Queensland Health and then as Coordinator Water and Wastewater. My role now is Manager of Water and Wastewater for Cook Shire Council

Briefly describe a typical day at work.

Very busy. I am responsible for all the water reporting, updating management plans for both water and wastewater, delivery of capital, budgets, ordering parts and equipment, dial before you dig enquiries for water assets, updating maps of our assets, day to day management of staff and well as working with State Government Departments to ensure we comply with all the relevant regulations of which there are numerous. I don't do all this alone. Wal Welsh and Cath Hocking and I work well as a team and Andrew Vela is very helpful with all our mapping requests.

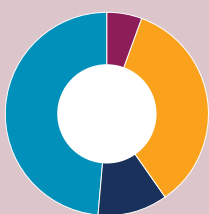
What do you love about your role?

I love the diversity of the role. In Water and Wastewater treatment and reticulation there are always issues and each day brings a new challenge.

What makes Cook Shire a great place to work?

I have a really good team here. I think due to the remoteness of Cooktown, staff here tend to tackle problems on their own and have a lot of knowledge. Down South, staff tended to rely on contractors to fix things and the knowledge of the business is held by outside people which is not the best. I like the fact that my staff are resilient and are really good problem solvers. I like working in the depot. It is a good atmosphere and we all chat during lunch breaks and have a good laugh.

WORKPLACE DIVERSITY – MALES AND FEMALES



Explanatory Note: This graph shows the number of female and male staff expressed as Leaders and Non-Leaders.

Interpretive Comments: During this quarter Council employed an average of 163 staff - 41.7% female and 58.3% male. 9 of the 68 female staff and 18 of the 95 male staff held leadership roles.

HAPPY DOGS MEAN HAPPY COMMUNITIES



There's been a puppy BOOM across the Shire and as a result, the number of complaints about dogs, as well as the number of dogs found wandering and impounded by Council has sadly seen a very significant increase on last year.

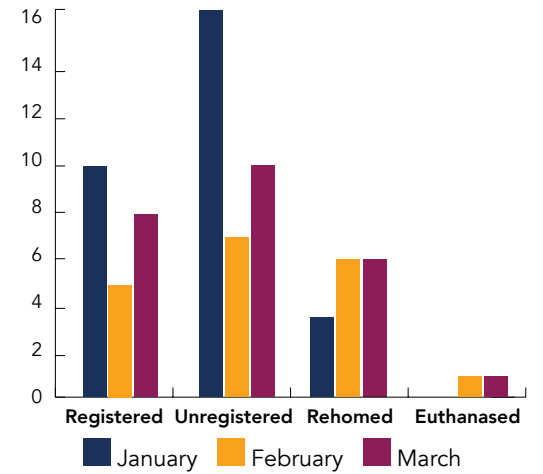
Dogs allowed to wander are in danger of getting lost, hit by a car, or injured in fights with other dogs, and they can pick up germs, parasites and diseases. They can also be a nuisance to the community and your neighbours, a danger to small children, wildlife and other domestic animals, and they can also cause traffic accidents.

Being a responsible pet owner means keeping your dog safe and secure at home unless they're out walking with you on a lead.

For more information on responsible pet ownership, visit the Animal Management page on Council's website.

Pictured: Impound Number 198 who was handed in to Council for impounding in very poor health. Tired, seriously dehydrated, riddled with worms and covered in ticks, Council shared his photo on the website and on social media, but when no owner came forward after more than three business days in Council care he was rehomed. Fostered by a loving new family, microchipped and given a new chance at life.

ANIMAL IMPOUNDMENTS



'PIECE BY PIECE' THE RESTORATION OF COOKTOWN'S SHIRE HALL COMMENCES

In March, restoration works commenced to Cooktown's iconic and much-loved, heritage-listed Shire Hall on Helen Street.

"The Shire Hall has a very special place in the hearts, minds and memories of the community of Cooktown, which is why Council is committed to its preservation," said Cook Shire Mayor Peter Scott.

"With the overwhelming support of the community, Council secured 100% of the funds required for these important and intricate works to proceed from several Federal and State funding programs," said Cr Scott.

Funded by the Australian Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program and the Queensland Government's Works for Queensland, and COVID Works for Queensland programs, works include significant structural remediation works, which – because of highly delicate and complex heritage considerations – will see much of the Hall reverse-constructed before it will be rebuilt piece-by-piece, using modern tools to replicate the same traditional building techniques used to construct the Hall.

Significant structural upgrades to the roof, the eaves and the floor structure will also be undertaken with new roofing, verandas and insulation

installed. The Hall will then receive an aesthetic rejuvenation, with repairs, repainting and refinishing of all internal and external walls and floors. Where possible the original building materials will be reused, repurposed and recycled.

Federal Member for Leichhardt, Warren Entsch MP said "This building is an icon for Cooktown, for the residents and visitors and I am proud the Federal Government has provided these much needed funds to ensure the building is bought back to its glory for everyone to continue to use it for many years to come."

Member for Cook Cynthia Lui also welcomed the joint investment.

"The Cooktown Shire Hall is so important to the community here in Cooktown," Ms Lui said.

"By delivering an upgrade we're ensuring the hall can be used by future generations and can continue to bring our community together.

"The construction will deliver local jobs and help Cooktown's economic recovery after a tough year for locals."

The Hall as it stands today was built in 1907. It was closed for bookings in April 2015 following an engineering assessment carried out to assess the damage caused by Tropical Cyclone Ita.

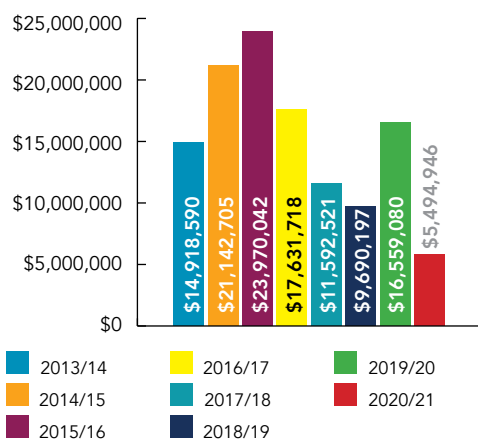


Cook Shire Mayor, Peter Scott; Cook Shire CEO, Linda Cardew; WIP Site Manager, Kevin Nankervis; Cook Shire Building and Facilities Team Leader, Dustin Miller.



BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT

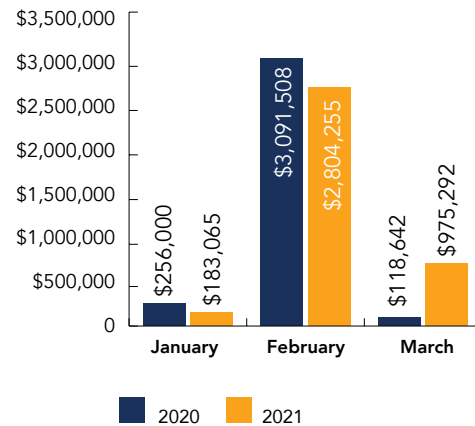
\$ COMPARISON OF THE VALUE OF BUILDING APPROVALS IN FINANCIAL YEARS 2013 - ONWARDS



Explanatory Note: The figures reflect the \$ value of new Building Applications approved for construction by Financial Year indicated.

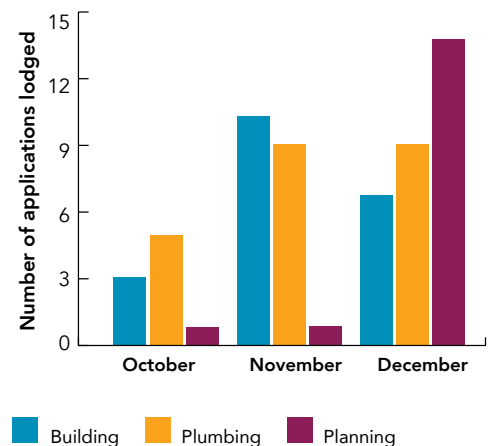
Interpretive Comments: 2013-16 saw a considerable spike in \$ mainly due to Cyclone Ida damage to buildings throughout the Shire and major reconstruction works at the Lizard Island Resort > \$3 million. These years also saw growth and new construction work in Cook Shire which included \$11.5 million Residential Rehabilitation Centre; \$7.1 million Holy Spirit College; \$1.6 million Stage 3 Endeavour Christian College; \$1.2 million Waterfront Kiosk, Gazebo and 2 Ablution Blocks; \$1 million Offices Weipa; \$2 million Day Respite Care Coen. 2019/20 saw another jump in \$ value for construction work in the Shire with \$5.5 million development at Lizard Island for a House and Pool (private ownership). The stats for 2020/21 will continue to be adjusted quarterly.

\$ VALUE OF BUILDING APPROVALS 2020 V 2021 FOR THE PERIOD OF JAN, FEB, MAR



Explanatory Note: The figures reflect the \$ value of new Building Applications approved for construction in the months indicated. It does not include other requests and inspections associated with existing applications

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS LODGED IN JAN, FEB, MAR - 2021



Explanatory Note: The figures reflect the number of new Development Applications lodged in the months indicated. It does not include other requests, pre-lodgement advice, assessment processes and inspections associated with existing applications.



COEN SHINES A LIGHT ON SAFETY WITH SOLAR

Cook Shire Council, with funding from the federal Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program will be installing 12 solar-powered street lights at key locations on Mungkan, Shepard, and Regents streets in Coen in coming weeks.

At a series of community consultations sessions held in the second half of 2020, members of the community expressed significant interest in improving the street lighting in the area. Cook Shire Council then worked with Queensland Police (QPS) to determine the best locations for the light poles in order to enhance the safety and accessibility of the area.

"Improving the street and public lighting in Coen helps both pedestrians and motorists feel safer and better connected to the main retail area along Regent Street. This will provide long-

term benefit to everyone in Coen," said Cook Shire Mayor, Councillor Peter Scott.

The system utilises solar power which is both a clean energy solution, and offers long-term cost efficiencies.

Federal Member for Leichhardt, Warren Entsch MP said he was very pleased that the solution for new street lighting in Coen was made possible by federal funding and powered by solar energy.

"Keeping the lights on and these streets safer will be of great benefit to the local Coen community and what better way to do it than through the use of clean and cheap solar energy" said Mr Entsch.

WHEN IT RAINS...

While Cooktown seemed to have avoided the deluge, the rains well and truly hit other areas across the Cape which had flow on effects to the rivers and waterways throughout the Shire. Pictured, the high turbid waters of the Annan River flowing over the weir.



TURNING MUD INTO WATER

Wizardry and a fair dose of science is what it takes to turn the muddy, turbid waters that flow through the Annan Water Treatment Plant into clean, clear drinkable water. The process includes adding a coagulant to it that has a charge to it. This charge pulls the dirt particles together, most of which then settles out in the sedimentation basin, the rest of which is filtered out when the liquid is passed through a sand filter. After bacteria, debris and impurities are removed, the water is chlorine-treated ready for distribution. Cook Shire's Annan Water Treatment Plant continuously does this at the rate of approximately 50L/second and the water is used throughout Cooktown and the surrounding towns.



WATER & WASTEWATER WELCOME MATT HOOK

Matt Hook (pictured) started as the Water and Wastewater Electrician this quarter and was put straight to work replacing the Micrologix unit at Sewage Pump Station 6 near the Cooktown State School.



CIVIL TEAM WORK IN ACTION

Council's Civil team headed out to Four Mile Creek to prepare for Emergent Works on Wilton Access Road. Warren Kulka (pictured) worked with Andrew Woibo, Ross Seagren and Leon Davies to load and deliver gravel out to site and prepare the area for works to commence.

MAIN REPLACEMENT ON ENDEAVOUR VALLEY RD.

This quarter also saw work continue on the water main replacement on Endeavour Valley Road that commenced late in 2020. Works to replace the old 80mm AC main that at its end of life with a new 100mm uPVC pipe had been held up due to wet ground conditions. Picture: Henry Pope (left) and Mikel Whipper with Zac Adams (right).



ONWARDS AND UPWARDS - FUTURE PROOFING COOKTOWN'S AIRPORT

In February, the works to Stage Two of delivering the Cooktown Airport Masterplan were completed. Commencing in November 2020, delivery of this stage of the Masterplan included works to realign and extend the Airport Drive roadway, the resealing of the current car park, and the construction of a new carpark to provide much needed additional parking spaces.

An economic enabling initiative, the Airport Masterplan forms part of Council's commitment to developing the aviation industry in Cooktown with the long term goal of developing the Cooktown Airport into a regionally significant aviation precinct servicing Cape York and the Asia Pacific region. Stage one of these works included construction of a new taxiway to give airside access to the aviation park with future stages to include a commercial airside land release.

