

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

More shade for William Daku Park

July 5, 2019
COOKTOWN

Cook Shire Council has planted a dozen new trees to help provide shade at William Daku Park and the Cooktown waterpark this summer.

The trees would join the existing figs, casuarinas, sea grapes and melaleucas at the popular waterfront park, and were suited to the coastal conditions, Cook Shire Mayor Peter Scott said. "The species have been carefully chosen by a landscape architect to be native to the area and suited to the strong winds and coastal conditions at the waterfront, while providing the best shade possible," Cr Scott said.

The trees planted are Spanish Cherry (*Mimusops elengi*), which is a medium sized evergreen Australian native with edible fruit and traditional medicine uses. The tree provides thick shade and sweet smelling flowers. Also planted are Beauty Leaf trees (*Calophyllum inophyllum*), which have distinctive large, shiny leaves with a broad, shady crown. Joining these two is a Red Beech tree (*Dillenia alata*), which is a medium-sized Australian native rainforest tree and was one of the species collected by Joseph Banks during James Cook's voyage in 1770.

William Daku Park is on Webber Esplanade in Cooktown, and features exercise stations, fishing platforms, picnic tables and barbecues, a waterfront promenade and viewing platform, and the waterpark, which is open from 9am to 7pm daily.

~ end ~