

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## Exercise tests plane crash response

**October 22, 2019**

**COOKTOWN**

Airport staff and local emergency services sprang into action in response to a simulated plane crash at the Cooktown Airport last week.

Dubbed Exercise River Flat Rescue, the event helped airport and emergency personnel assess their preparation and systems, Cook Shire Council Chief Executive Officer and Local Disaster Coordinator Linda Cardew said. "The team responded to a simulated plane crash just outside the aerodrome boundary," Ms Cardew said. "While all measures are in place to ensure an event like this does not happen at the Cooktown Aerodrome, it was great to see the professional response and know that we are in capable hands in the unlikely event of such an incident."

The exercise involved Cook Shire Council, State Emergency Services, Queensland Ambulance Service, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, Queensland Health, Hinterland Aviation, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, My Pathway, Daintree Air Services and the Queensland Police.

The Cook Shire Emergency Services Cadets gained a valuable insight into an emergency response, with some shadowing emergency services personnel, while others played crash victims. Councillor John "Chook" Giese and fellow parents and media also took part, convincingly acting the part of bystanders, media and concerned parents. Cook Shire Council conducts emergency exercises at both Coen and Cooktown airports on a regular basis to assist with emergency response assessment and preparation.

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