

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Strangler figs removed from historical monument

September 23, 2019
COOKTOWN

Council has acted promptly to protect a heritage-listed main street monument from encroaching strangler figs.

Council prioritised the removal of the small fig seedlings which had taken root on the sandstone monument, a popular tourist drawcard in Cooktown's Endeavour Park. Three plants were removed by Council's Building and Facilities and Parks and Gardens teams on Friday, September 20. Strangler figs are quick growing with aggressive root systems, and begin their life as an epiphyte on the surface of a tree or structure, before putting down roots to the ground and eventually growing to sheath their entire host.

The heritage-listed monument was designed by the office of the Queensland Colonial Architect, George St Paul Connolly, and built by Hobbs and Carter of Brisbane for a total cost of 1297 pounds. The foundation stone was laid in September 1887 by then Mayor of Cooktown, John Savage, and the work was completed in January 1888. It was added to the Queensland Heritage Register in 1997.

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