

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## Lakeland Sports Reserve Master Plan signed off

**February 25, 2020**  
**COOKTOWN**

Lakeland residents' vision for a community reserve has been ratified after a master plan for the site was adopted at Cook Shire Council's February meeting.

Council and the Lakeland Progress Association (LPA) began working on the Lakeland Recreational Park in 2014, with works to date including fencing, clearing and levelling of a sports oval, irrigation and grassing and installation of football goals. In 2018 Council and the LPA engaged contractors to develop a long-term master plan to ensure the community's needs were taken into consideration in future development of the site.

LPA secretary Stefanie O'Kane said future development of the Lakeland Recreational Park would be focused on catering for the community, while also ensuring larger sporting competitions and events could be run at the site. "Our community has a clear vision for the site and we see it being something the locals can use every day for fitness and fun," Ms O'Kane said. "People are already using the site, and we would like to see that grow with weekly sports, weekend cricket, school sports days and the like. The parking, amenities and shaded areas are designed to cater for both locals and visitors and would hopefully attract larger events to the area such as rugby league carnivals and cricket matches. It's a very exciting project for both Lakeland and the region."

Cook Shire Council Community, Economy and Innovation Director Lawrence Booth said consultation around the master plan had been extensive. "The contractors consulted with the Lakeland community and Council, including holding several site visits and in person consultations at the Lakeland Progress Association meetings and the Lakeland school," Mr Booth said. "The Master Plan outlines a staged approach to meet the community's needs and also takes into consideration the ability of Council and the LPA to secure funding for that development. This is a great example of Council and a community association collaborating to achieve outcomes for the benefit of the community."

The Lakeland Recreational Park will be officially opened at an event on March 21. More information will be provided closer to the date.

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