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Deputy Premier

Minister for State Development, Infrastructure & Planning



Member for Callide

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Cooktown to realise its esplanade vision

Cooktown will have a vibrant esplanade full of new community infrastructure by 2016 thanks to Round 3 of the Queensland Government's \$495 million *Royalties for the Regions* program.

Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning Jeff Seeneey said the major upgrade would be great for residents and visitors and would be delivered in partnership with Cook Shire Council.

"The Queensland Government has a strong plan for regional Queensland's future and we are building on Cooktown's strengths through the *Royalties for the Regions* program," Mr Seeneey said.

"Works totalling \$4.1 million will allow for the reclamation and revitalisation of the Cooktown foreshore, providing a welcome boost to local tourism.

"We promised to deliver better infrastructure and better planning and Cooktown will receive exactly that through \$3.5 million from *Royalties for the Regions* and \$600,000 from Cook Shire Council.

"A rock wall will be built to protect the Endeavour River from erosion and reclamation of land will occur at the river mouth.

"Plus great recreational infrastructure will be constructed such as new fishing platforms, a tidal pool and water play area and cycle path.

"Upgrades will also be made to Webber Esplanade to accommodate recreational vehicles and tour buses and deliver more car parks to accommodate a greater number of visitors to the esplanade."

Cook Shire Council Mayor Peter Scott said the Webber Esplanade reclamation and creation of an activity precinct has been a community aspiration since 1998.

"This funding allows Council to complete this catalytic project to encourage business, social and lifestyle opportunities for Cooktown and the regional community," Mr Scott said.

"I'd like to thank the Queensland Government for their ongoing support of Cook Shire and for recognising the value of this project."

Mr Seeney said Cook Shire deserved to receive its fair share of resource royalties as mining was a key industry in the region.

“Mining is the largest industry employer in Cook Shire and it is high time the Cook community received benefits from the royalties earned in its region,” he said.