

State cash could be flushed

DA 27/5/08

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A \$15.2 million State Government grant toward a sewerage scheme for Cardwell and Port Hinchinbrook has placed the Cassowary Coast Regional Council on the horns of a dilemma.

For the \$21 million project to proceed, CCRC must find \$6 million from its depleted coffers.

And at the same time, it is seeking Government funds to upgrade the Innisfail treatment plant to tertiary level.

The Cardwell funding, representing 70 per cent of the proposed plant's cost, is the result of a successful bid by the former Cardwell Shire Council for Government subsidies under the Small Communities Assistance Program (SCAP). But the funds cannot be

More money for that other hall

Renovation costs for the former Johnstone Shire Hall continue to mount.
The Cassowary Coast Regional Council has agreed to a further outlay to upgrade the fire detection and alarm system at a cost estimated between \$50,000 and \$90,000.

A report from Acting Deputy Chief Executive Officer Stuart Randle was presented to last Thursday's CCRC meeting.

The report stated that Council at its April 24 meeting resolved to proceed with the development of the base-ment level of the hall.

"Councillors were made aware at the time that aspects of the construction work had not yet been finalised and would be referred to Council as necessary, from time to time for direction," the report stated.

"One of these matters is the installation of a fire detection and alarm system for the entire building..."

"Council has the opportunity to replace the existing system with a new installation that would be Australian Standard compliant (and) able to be monitored by the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service."

"The existing system cannot be economically upgraded and so if Council resolves to improve the level of protection, then a completely new system would need to be installed."

Councillor Bill Horsford moved seconded by Cr Ian Rule that the officer's two recommendations be approved to replace the existing system and to authorise the Acting Chief Executive Officer (Mark Kelleher) to accept the most advantageous offer to supply and install the system. The motions were carried unanimously.



"If we had \$6 million in our sewerage fund, I would rather it go to upgrading the Innisfail plant."

— Mayor Bill Shannon

transferr- Mayor Bill Shannon has told ed be- council.

cause Inn- And the council has voted to take isfail does not qualify as a small the first step by referring the matter community, and must seek funding to its budget discussions.

Innisfail's existing plant only said at this stage a tertiary plant treats sewerage to secondary level able to serve 15,000 connections at removing solids while allowing Innisfail was just theory.

discharges of nutrients, including "There is no definite information or costings," he said. sulphates and phosphates, into the Great Barrier Reef lagoon.

"If we had \$6 million in our consultants to get a design and sewerage fund, I would rather it go work out costs and the impacts on to upgrading the Innisfail plant," ratepayers, and then go to the pedestal charge.

Government and make a bid for funding for a completely new plant."

At present, the Tully plant — a state of the art tertiary system — is the best in the region.

Its total cost, after meeting environmental management and other requirements, was \$28 million.

This included \$15 million for infrastructure at Mission Beach, \$5 million for the Mission Beach-Tully pipeline, and \$5 million for the treatment plant.

To qualify for the \$15.2 million offered to Cardwell, the community still has to meet further SCAP requirements. They include ratepayers, currently using septic tanks, agreeing to pay a \$570

Beach bank is at half-way mark in funding

EFFORTS to raise money to launch a satisfying a need for having the services community bank in Mission Beach have of a fully fledged bank at Mission struck an important milestone, with half Beach, but also for the obligation of the necessary \$675,000 raised since Bank to return part of the profits to the public offer opened on April 30. community through projects and grants.

Community Bank Chair Rhonda Murdoch said the initial response had invest while you can. It is a limited offer and once the share offer is fully subscribed, there will be no more."

"It is not yet a certainty that the Bank will go ahead but the Board is very optimistic that the community will make it happen," she said.

"We have put up thermometer signage at Wongaling Beach so that people can monitor the progress."

"While many people are investing for future dividend returns, most consider the benefit to the community as their primary motivation. Not just for



DIRECTORS: Rhonda Murdoch, Tracey Charmin, Tom Brant, Richard Giuliany and Tony Lee. (Absent: Debbie Brittain, Patrick Biddlecombe.)

IA 22/05/08