

Cooktown 2020 National Indigenous Reconciliation Event

Qld Plan Foundation: Education, Community, Regions, Health and Wellbeing, and People

State Electorate: Cook

Federal Electorate: Leichhardt

Council: Cook Shire Council

Priority Recommendation

FNQROC advice for noting purposes only re future collaboration/funding opportunities.

Priority Overview

In 2020, Cooktown will celebrate its shared history in the spirit of reconciliation on the 250th Anniversary of Captain Cook's sojourn in the mouth of the Endeavour River.

Inspired by the history of the encounters between Europeans and Australia's first peoples, it is about working in partnership to educate and inspire individuals and communities and build a stronger future through a greater understanding of past events.

The landing at Cooktown was a traditional 'neutral meeting place' site where no blood could be deliberately spilled.

The Cooktown 2020 National Indigenous Reconciliation Event is a 48-day Festival celebrating the 48 days on shore and the interactions that occurred between the crew and the Guugu Yimithir people and the scientific discoveries recorded.

Cooktown has three unique claims that underpin the significance of these anniversary celebrations:

1. 48 days of mutual respect on shore
2. First recorded act of reconciliation, and
3. Scientific achievements that shaped Australia.

Key Strategic Economic Drivers:

Social Enterprise	Strengthen and grow communities through a greater understanding of historical events.
Education	Foster reconciliation, preserve the legacies of Australian Indigenous peoples, bridge cultural divides and create better futures by sharing culture and history.
Employment	Offer employment and training opportunities through performances and events.
Tourism	Build connections to local and domestic visitors through the celebration of Australia's unique Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural and historical heritage.