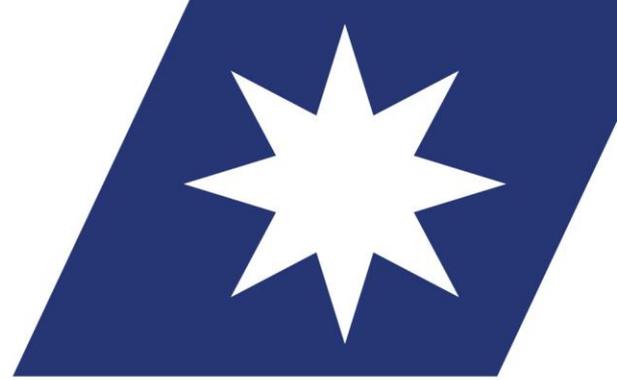


SHANE KNUTH

Member for Hill

MEDIA RELEASE



12th August, 2019

Innisfail Bowls Club river erosion

Member for Hill Shane Knuth MP is pleased upgrades to the Innisfail Bowls Club could soon become a reality thanks to combined lobbying to the Minister's Office with the Bowls Club Committee and representatives of the Cassowary Coast Regional Council since early this year.

The Bowls Club, only four years shy of its centenary, has been experiencing erosion from the Johnstone River for more than 10 years which has resulted in visible signs of collapsing toward the river along the footpath, around the bowling green, and part of the carpark.

After inspecting the site Mr Knuth along with the Bowls Club Committee, raised the issue with the Minister, which resulted in a visit with the North Region Executive Director of the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy Andrew Buckley last month.

Mr Knuth said while they don't have the green light yet, the steps to this point look positive, "Mr Buckley reported back from the Minister's Office recommending two highly suitable grants, one which requires application from The Bowls Club, and one requiring the backing of CCRC," Mr Knuth said.

Cr Nolan tabled a letter to council written by Shane Knuth MP after Mr Knuth received a directive from the Minister's office outlining ministerial guidance to application process.

"The Innisfail Bowls Club has become a community asset hosting social and competitive events for clubs and groups in the region, so keeping its doors open and the bowling green usable is vital," Mr Knuth said.

Cr Mark Nolan said management will now process the request to apply for Building Our Regions funding application through the Executive Management Team, once they have addressed the matter it will come back to the counsellors for adoption.

"I think the word partnership is important and I'd like to say that with local Member for Hill Shane Knuth MP helping to source external funding to assist or correct the erosion issue at the Innisfail bowls club along with the council, it looks positive.

"It's not just a sporting complex or hub it's also very much a social hub now. They've got very strong support from backpacking fraternity, on a Friday night the facility is packed out.

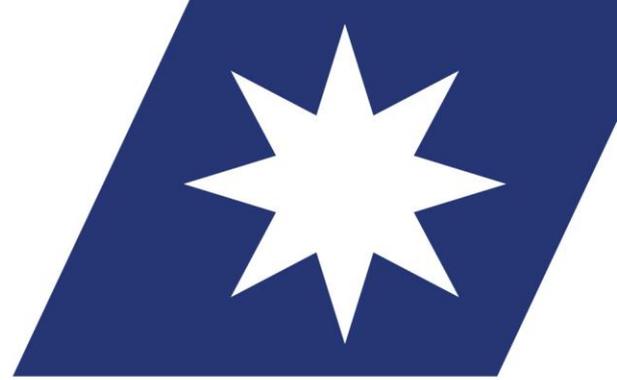
"The other important aspect is the club will celebrate their centenary in three years and they're endeavouring to turn it into an all-weather complex via a cover over the Bowling Green," Cr Nolan said.

Innisfail Bowls Club Vice President Diana O'Brien said it would be a tragedy to lose the Bowls Club after all this time, "In 2012 the River Improvement Trust reported that since 2004 the 'erosion is now much worse', The Geotech assessment in 2013 recommended 'reinforced retaining wall structures,' ... With the celebration of our

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centenary in 2023, just four years away, it would be an unthinkable tragedy to lose our club by allowing it to fall into the river," Ms O'Brien said.

"The protection from sun and rain provided by a roof is not possible until the river bank is secured; this retaining wall is essential to achieve this goal.

"The Member for Mulgrave, Curtis Pitt, lobbied on our behalf when we were part of his electorate and now we congratulate Shane Knuth, Member for Hill, on taking up our cause and his representations on their behalf. A letter of commitment from the CCRC is critical for this grant to be obtained," Ms O'Brien said.