



An artist's impression of the proposed Atherton Community Centre shows it will be a warm and welcoming place for all Tablelands residents

Atherton community centre wins big-money backing but needs federal support

Tablelander

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THE Queensland Government will chip in \$1.6 million towards the construction of a new Atherton community centre.

The Member for Hill, Shane Knuth, made the announcement last week after four years of lobbying the State Government.

The total cost of the centre will be \$3.9 million, with Community Services Tablelands (CST) contributing \$350,000 towards establishing the centre on Tablelands Regional Council land.

The catch is that the funding is dependent on the Federal Government matching them with \$1.95 million.

Mr Knuth said he was confident the Federal Government would come through.

The project covers 3000sq m between the Girl Guides Hall and the Atherton library on Robert St.

“This is great news for the Tablelands, it’s a rare opportunity to get something in the vicinity of this vital service for our region,” Mr Knuth said.

“With this security of funding through the State and CST we are confident that Federal



Community Services Tablelands chief executive John Russell, Member for Hill Shane Knuth and CST president Trevor Brady at the site of the proposed Atherton Community Centre in Robert St, between the Girl Guides Hall and the library. Picture: Katje Gibson

Government funding will be delivered and we will be in discussions with the Federal Member (Bob Katter) this week. The completion of this will no doubt improve the quality of life for many families, children and seniors.”

Mr Knuth thanked the State Minister for Communities, Coralee O’Rourke, for her assistance and the former Minister for Communities, Shannon Fentiman, for the initial Tablelands visit and providing \$250,000 for the case study and plans.

CST chief executive John Russell is excited at the prospect of the community centre going ahead, saying it is shovel-ready.

“This is more than a neighbourhood centre, it’s a purpose-built community hub, allowing us to do proactive work focusing on community development, families, children and seniors,” he said.

“It will offer professional services such as psychologists, social workers, counsellors and home community maintenance workers.”

He said transport would be offered as far as Mount Garnet for medical appointments or to take someone to a community event.

“It will provide a focal point for the community, things like music in the park, a place for get-togethers and celebrations,” Mr Russell said.

The centre is set to employ around 40 people and will consist of just as many volunteers eager to play their part in the community.

<https://www.cairnspost.com.au/news/cairns/atherton-community-centre-wins-bigmoney-backing-but-needs-federal-support/news-story/217b0cbe60d756351b86dd89d8abd800>