

By Lea Guy

SUPPORTERS of a new library for Innisfail were unable to contain their excitement on Monday, when the Cassowary Coast Regional Council chose to lodge a funding application for the

project with the Federal Government.

But it was not all bad news for the project's main rival - a pool for Mission Beach - which was the subject of a council funding commitment.

Councillors met on Monday to

discuss reports prepared by separate consulting firms.

Following councillors' comments, Mayor Bill Shannon moved that the council submit the library for federal funding and include preliminary works on the Mission Beach Pool in the

upcoming budget, with a view to seeking other government grants. The vote was 5-1, with Cr Jennifer Downs against the motion and fellow pool supporter Cr Carmel Silvestro absent.

But Cr Shannon warned that any new assets would hit rate-

payers in the hip pocket.

"It will come at a significant cost - the community will be paying for it," he said.

"We are not going to run at deficits; if people want services, they have to pay for it."

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## NEWS

# Staged pool commitment

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To progress the library, the council will need to borrow \$1.24 million - the amount raised through an insurance payout and sale of the former library and later spent on the Johnstone Shire Hall - to contribute to the project.

In the application, CCRC will also supply land to the value of \$1.28 million behind the Shire Hall.

A grant of \$4.26 million will be sought from the Federal Government.

With a round of Department of Sport and Recreation funding due in October, Cr Shannon said the pool would be an ideal candidate for the 50 per cent subsidy.

"That funding is capped at \$1 million," he said.



HOPEFUL: Library supporters Rebecca Sweeney, Wendy Zerner and Nola Jappe at Monday's meeting.

Photo: Lea Guy

"We would be looking at a staged project funded over three years, with council contributing \$1.5 million."

He said up to \$500,000 could be funded by fees

collected from developers in Mission Beach.

Cr Shannon said it was important the council made a commitment to the Mission Beach pool project.

"I think Mission Beach people will be pleased," he said. "Here is a council that has moved to do something on this long-overdue project."

Co-founder of the Residents for the Restoration of Innisfail Library Service, Wendy Zerner, said she could not have hoped for a better outcome.

"It's great - really wonderful that the council has made this wise decision," she said. "It's about the kids and making sure they get the same opportunities other kids have had."

CCRC will be informed in April as to whether the application is successful.

### HAVE YOUR SAY

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## What the councillors had to say...



**BILL SHANNON, MAYOR**  
Both are very compelling cases. The library is a \$5-million project - this is the cheapest option.



**ROSS SORBELLO, DIVISION 1**  
Why should we have that facility (regional library) in Innisfail? I think we should be spreading these things around.



**JENNIFER DOWNS, DIVISION 3**  
Mission Beach needs this project (pool) for all the right reasons. The safety issue can't be underplayed.



**MARK NOLAN, DIVISION 4**  
Cyclone Larry destroyed our library. No other shire can put that on their application form.



**IAN RULE, DIVISION 5**  
We spend \$500,000 a year on swimming pools in this shire and how would it affect Tully if people from Mission Beach stopped going there?



**BILL HORSFORD, DIVISION 6**  
With the success of the MPC in the first round (of funding), our chances of getting a double-up are fairly slim but the project that has more chance is the library.