

3/10/09

Funding chance for new library

By Lea Guy

AN OPPORTUNITY to secure funding for a new Innisfail library has been identified but Cassowary Coast Mayor Bill Shannon says it is too early to get excited.

A Federal Government spending package could provide significant funding for an eligible project. Senator Jan McLucas told a meeting between Mulgrave MP Curtis Pitt, Cr Shannon and library campaigner Jacque Duffy this week.

Ms Duffy said she was buoyed by the news.

"I walked out of there thinking

there was more than one avenue for a new library," she said.

"For the criteria, the library was the best project that should be applied for."

Mr Pitt said he was pleased the opportunity for funding had been made available.

"We are trying to find out what options are on the table federally," he said.

"The amount we think might be needed for a library would fit in nicely with the amounts that may be distributed under this scheme."

The option of a partnership with a private developer also remains open.

"The scheme doesn't disallow joint ventures," Mr Pitt said.

Cr Shannon said the council would likely apply for the funding, but there was no guarantee it would be used for a library.

"The amount of grant money available to us would probably be in the vicinity of \$2 million," he said.

"(The Federal Government) want this money to be stimulus money — they want it to be spent immediately and we might not be able to do that with a library.

"We could probably get a pool for Mission Beach for \$2 million.

"That might be easy to do and design in a hurry."