

Funds approved for Tully Hall

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TULLY will get its multi-purpose hall, following approval by the Federal Government to provide \$2.1 million from its local government stimulus package.

Cassowary Coast Regional Council applied for the funding to make up a shortfall that existed after the Federal Government withdrew a previous funding offer.

Mayor Bill Shannon said the new funding would ensure the project went ahead.

"They're reinstating that funding, plus more," Cr Shannon said. "It means it goes ahead."

Queensland Senator Jan McLucas will be in Tully today to formally announce the funding,

which will help to provide much-needed space for a range of community, sporting, cultural, performance and educational activities.

"Financial support for such a facility has already been committed by Cassowary Coast Regional Council, Education Queensland and the Department of Local Government, Planning Sport and Recreation, Arts Queensland and Sport and Recreation Queensland funding," Senator McLucas said.

"Tully has always been the preferred site for a Shire Community Centre in the former Cardwell Shire Local Government area. It is centrally located and provides the best opportunity to support the social, educational and sporting communities."

Cr Carmel Silvestro, who has been working

on the project for 12 years said she was "very excited" about the news, when contacted yesterday by the *Innisfail Advocate*.

"Tully doesn't have a community hall; it's a project that the community has been waiting for a very long time," she said.

Cr Shannon said work would start on the hall "as soon as possible".

"The designs have been updated and we are ready to go," he said. "We could have used this money anywhere in the region, but we're really pleased that we can deliver this for the people of Tully.

"We want to start straight away."

The hall will include a foyer, toilets, kiosk, kitchen, office, stage, dressing rooms and sound and lighting equipment.