

# Community groups to cash in on markets

**Markets at the Flinders Mall, The Strand and Riverway could soon be generating thousands of dollars for community groups as Townsville City Council looks to partner with not-for-profit groups to run the successful events.**

Corporate Governance Committee chair Cr Natalie Marr said the council was in the process of testing the market place to see if there was a service club or community group that could partner with the council to deliver the markets.

“It is good business practice to go to the marketplace and offer an opportunity, but it will only eventuate if a suitable provider can be found and if the integrity of the markets is maintained,” Cr Marr said.

“Our intent is to give the markets to the community, so that any funds raised can be used for local projects.

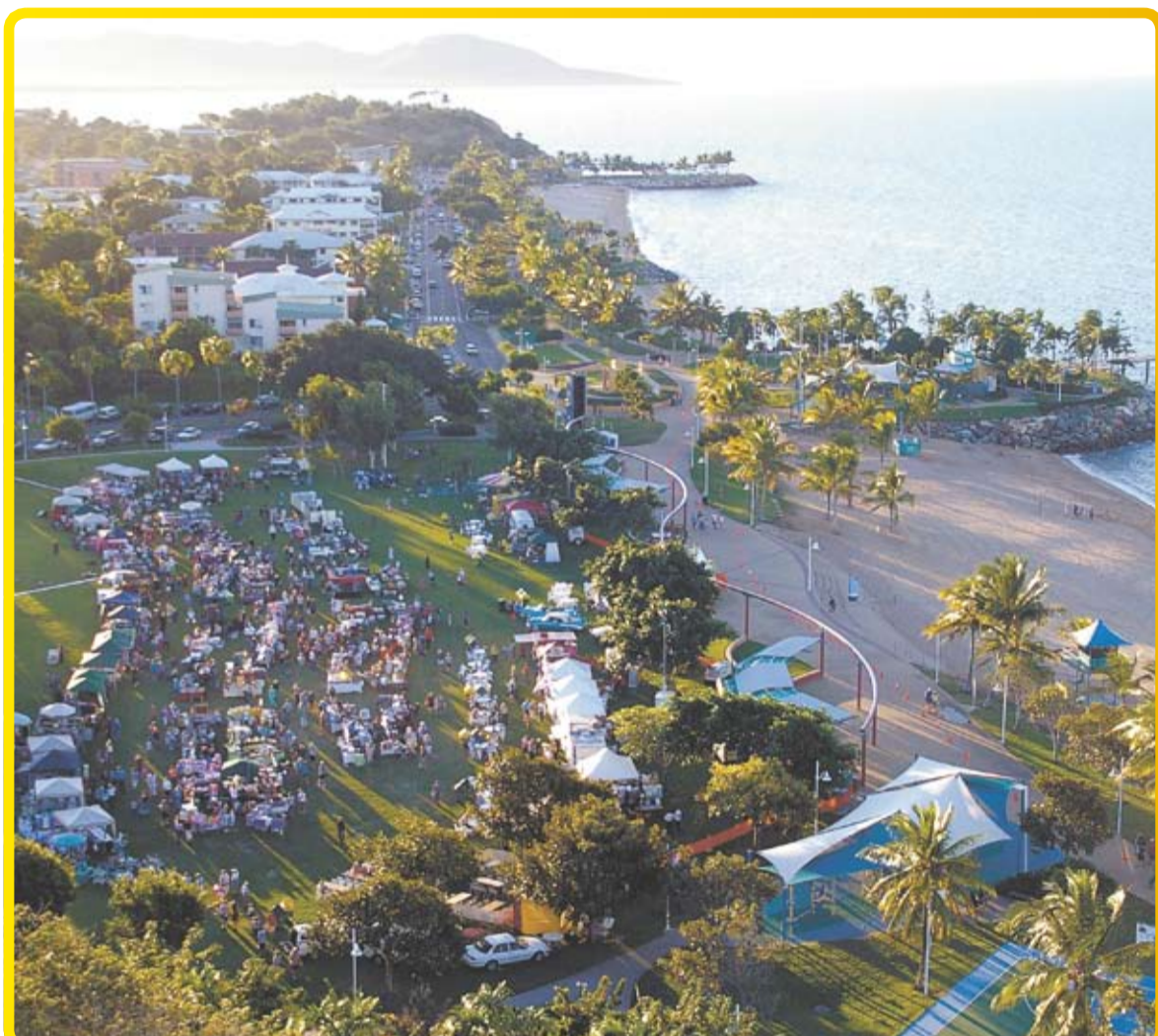
Cr Marr said there would be little impact on stall holders and patrons, except for the knowledge that, by attending the markets,

they were contributing to worthwhile community projects.

Under the proposal, the council and the successful provider would form a management committee to ensure the integrity, safety and growth of the markets.

Traders in Flinders Street have also been reassured the popular Cotters Market would remain in its current location and would run throughout the construction period.

**The Strand Night Markets could soon come under new management if a qualified community group can be found to manage the city's markets.**



## Council team wins state challenge



A team of Townsville City Council staff have shown up the best in the state, winning the yearly Local Government Management Association Challenge. The prestigious competition pits teams against in each other in a full day event of solving problems for a trouble-ridden hypothetical council. Judges said the council's team won by a clear margin, beating 18 other teams from around the state, including four from Brisbane City.

Back row L - R: Russell Warner, Hayley Page, Kylie Doyle  
Front row L - R: Nina Schonfeldt, Emily Morgan, Bri Kasper

## Disaster messaging to improve public safety

**Townsville is to become the first local government area in Queensland to introduce a new early warning message system for natural disasters.**

The service will allow the Townsville Local Disaster Management Group to send alerts via mobiles, landline phones, pagers, and email accounts to anyone who may be in the path of a cyclone, a damaging storm, tsunami or flash flooding.

Residents who opt to use the service can choose their preferred methods for being contacted.

Mayor, Cr Les Tyrell said the service would be free for residents.

“Reaching people, particularly during the middle of the night and even

during work hours, can be difficult through radio and television alone,” Cr Tyrell said.

“We only need to think about the horrendous speed of the Victorian bushfires to realise how critical it is to have an early message system.

“Ultimately, this is about saving people and property.”

Residents who opt in to the service will only have their contact details used for the purposes of the Early Warning Network.



**Residents can sign up to an early warning text messaging system.**