7.9. GEORGE DAVIS PARK MURAL PROJECT

REPORT AUTHOR	Sport and Recreation Development Officer
EXECUTIVE	General Manager Corporate and Communities
DEPARTMENT	Corporate and Communities
TEAM	Community Services
DATE	24 November 2026

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the proposed community-led mural project for the George Davis Park amenities block, noting that the project is fully funded by Mossman Youth Services.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Mossman Youth Services has proposed a youth and community-led mural project for the George Davis Park amenities block, facilitated by artist Lalania Fa'aaefili through Paperbark Cultural Consultancy.

The mural would reflect Mossman's natural environment, connection to place and community, with the design developed through consultation with Council, young people, community and Traditional Owners.

Any final artwork, mural locations and installation would remain subject to Council approval and completion of relevant Council processes.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATIONS / RESOLUTIONS

The existing artwork on the George Davis Park amenities block was previously approved by Council in August 2004, with the mural commissioned to Liquid Wall Art.

REPORT/BACKGROUND

Over time, the existing artwork has become significantly worn and faded due to age and exposure to the elements. The mural also has limited connection to the contemporary Mossman community, with an opportunity now identified to develop new artwork that better reflects local identity, community stories, and the aspirations of local young people.

The proposed project provides an opportunity to renew the amenity block while creating a stronger sense of community ownership and connection to place through a contemporary, community-informed artwork.

Mossman Youth Services approached Council regarding the proposed youth and community-led mural project, the project would be professionally facilitated by mural artist Lalania Fa'aaefili through Paperbark Cultural Consultancy.

The proposal has evolved from an initial concept for the rear wall to a cohesive mural across the exterior of the amenities block and selected internal entrance areas, excluding toilet areas. The final mural surfaces and technical requirements would be confirmed with Council prior to installation.

The proposed artwork would be contemporary and colourful, reflecting the Douglas Shire environment and incorporating themes of Country, connection to place, rainforest, coastal environments, waterways, native flora and fauna, family and community. The detailed design would be developed through consultation with Council, young people, the community, and Traditional Owners.

Youth participation and co-design are central to the project, with opportunities for young people to contribute to the design and participate in the mural installation under professional guidance. Cultural consultation would also be undertaken to ensure appropriate protocols, stories, and design considerations are incorporated.

Given the public and high-use nature of the facility, the project would use durable, weather-resistant materials and protective coatings suitable for local environmental conditions. Council requirements regarding surface preparation, access, work areas, and protection of existing infrastructure would be confirmed prior to commencement.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Mossman Youth Services has advised that it will fully fund and coordinate the proposed mural project, with no direct financial contribution sought from Council. Council's involvement would be limited to consideration and approval of the project, site requirements, access and appropriate stakeholder consultation This includes the artist/facilitator, materials and equipment, consultation workshops, travel, documentation, surface preparation, protective coatings, site setup and other agreed delivery requirements.

While Council would not be responsible for direct project delivery costs, Council resources would be required to assess and process the proposal, coordinate internal requirements, participate in consultation and undertake any necessary approvals.

Any ongoing maintenance implications for the Council-owned asset should be considered as part of the final project approval and arrangements.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Key risks relate to the application of artwork to a Council-owned, public-facing facility and the management of consultation and installation. These risks can be managed through appropriate cultural consultation, Council approval of the final design, suitable materials and protective coatings, safe site management, and clear agreement on project scope, responsibilities and future maintenance.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

The proposed project would involve painting existing surfaces of the George Davis Park amenities block and would not require structural modification to the facility based on the information currently provided.

The artist has identified local environmental conditions including sun exposure, humidity, rainfall and mould as considerations in the selection of materials and preparation of surfaces.

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The project provides an opportunity for local young people to actively participate in the design and installation of a visible public artwork, supporting connection to community, place and culture.

The project would also provide opportunities to showcase local stories and identity, support Traditional Owner consultation and enhance the presentation of the George Davis Park amenities block.

CORPORATE AND OPERATIONAL PLAN

This report has been prepared in accordance with the following:

Corporate Plan 2025-2030 Initiatives:

Theme 1 - Liveability
To deliver community activities to promote safe, healthy, inclusive and socially engaged communities with an environmental conscious.
1.1 - *Deliver community initiatives that support healthy, inclusive and socially engaged communities.*
1.2 - *Encourage and grow creative opportunities across the arts.*
1.3 - *Be culturally sensitive, inclusive and improve Council's cultural competency.*
1.4 - *Promote inclusivity, connection and accessibility for individuals/people of all abilities.*

Theme 4 - Recovery and Resilience
To partner with community to build resilience against natural disasters creating a strong sense of social capital.

4.3 - *Foster collaboration, sustainability, and a strong sense of belonging.*

Operational Plan 2026-2027 Actions:

New project arisen during the financial year.

LEGISLATION AND POLICY

- *Local Government Act 2009*
- Arts General Policy

CONSULTATION

Internal Consultation:

- Manager of Community Services
- Property Team

External Consultation:

- Mossman Youth Centre

CONCLUSION

The proposed mural project presents an opportunity to enhance the George Davis Park amenities block while providing meaningful opportunities for youth and community participation. The project would be fully funded by Mossman Youth Services, with the final artwork and installation subject to Council approval, consultation and completion of relevant Council processes.

The proposal provides a positive opportunity to strengthen community connection, showcase local identity, and involve young people in a visible public art project.

ATTACHMENTS

1. George Davis Park Mural Project Overview [**7.9.1** - 4 pages]

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George Davis Park Amenities Block

Proposed Youth and Community-Led Mural Project

Project overview

Mossman Youth Services proposes a professionally facilitated, youth and community-led mural project for the amenities block at George Davis Park. The project would transform a highly visible public facility into a site-specific artwork that reflects the natural environment, connection to place and community, while creating a meaningful opportunity for local young people to contribute to a significant public art project.

Location	George Davis Park amenities block, Mossman
Proposed scope	Exterior walls of the amenities block and internal entrance areas, excluding the toilet areas themselves, subject to Council confirmation of the final scope.
Project model	Youth and community-led, facilitated by artist Lalania Fa'aefili.
Artistic direction	Contemporary, colourful and site-responsive artwork using symbols, native flora and fauna, and a continuous visual story linking land, water, rainforest and sky.
Target completion	December 2026, with exact installation dates to be agreed with Council and the artist.

Proposed scope

The initial concept discussed with Council related to the rear wall of the amenities block. The preferred project scope is to expand the artwork across the exterior of the full amenities block and into the internal entrance areas as people walk into the facility, while excluding the toilet areas themselves.

The exact surfaces to be painted, any areas that need to remain untreated, and site-specific technical requirements would be confirmed with Council before final design and installation. The intent is for the finished mural to read as one cohesive project rather than a series of unrelated panels. The artist's current project scope is based on eight walls. Current site photographs are included below to identify the proposed mural areas and existing conditions.

Site photographs and proposed mural surfaces

The photographs below show the current condition of the George Davis Park amenities block and the wall areas proposed for inclusion in the mural project. They cover the principal exterior and the internal entrance/approach walls. Several surfaces currently carry an existing rainforest-themed painted treatment, while the rear wall is largely unpainted. The new mural would be developed as one cohesive, site-specific artwork across the final Council-approved surfaces.

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Figure 1 – Entrance and internal approach (1).



Figure 2 – Front / East Facing.



Figure 3 – Entrance and internal approach (2).



Figure 4 – North Facing Wall.



Figure 5 – Rear / West Facing



Figure 6 – South Facing Wall.

Artistic direction and intended outcome

The proposed mural will use a contemporary visual style combining symbols and strong colour in a way that responds to the surrounding natural environment. The design is intended to move across the building as a continuous story, linking land, water, rainforest and sky.

Native plants and animals would be incorporated throughout the work to create layers of detail that locals and visitors can discover. A central feature would represent the relationship between people and Country, surrounded by elements reflecting the Douglas Shire environment.

Proposed themes include:

- Country and connection to place
- Rainforest and coastal environments
- Rivers, creeks and the sea
- Native flora and fauna
- Community, family and connection (symbolic)

Design note: The final composition is intentionally not fixed before consultation. The overall artistic direction, themes and quality standard are defined, while the site-specific story and detailed imagery will be developed through consultation with Council, youth, community, and relevant Traditional Owners.

Youth involvement and co-design

Youth participation is a core part of the project. Young people would be involved not only in painting, but also in the development of the themes and visual story. The consultation process is intended to ensure that their ideas are genuinely considered while maintaining an overall professional artistic standard.

Youth involvement is proposed to include:

- participation in consultation and design workshops;
- contributing ideas about place, community, environment and what George Davis Park means to local young people;

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- participating in the mural installation under the guidance of the artist/facilitator; and
- taking part in a visible community project that creates a sense of ownership and pride in a public space.

Cultural consultation

Cultural respect and appropriate consultation will be central to the project. The artist's proposed first stage is to meet and workshop with Douglas Shire Council's First Nations representative, young people and relevant Traditional Owners to establish cultural protocols, themes, story and design.

First Nations young people and community members would be encouraged to participate in culturally safe ways approved by relevant Traditional Owners. The artist's proposal confirms that the facilitator will consult with Traditional Custodians throughout the project and provide a culturally safe space for participants.

Materials, durability and public setting

The amenities block is a high-use, public-facing facility, so the project will place emphasis on finish quality and durability. The artist has proposed the use of high-quality, weather-resistant exterior paints and appropriate protective coatings. Material selection and preparation will take account of local conditions including sun exposure, humidity, rainfall, mould and general public use of the facility.

Before work begins, any specific Council requirements for surface preparation, access, protection of fixtures, work zones or permitted products can be incorporated into the project plan.

Indicative timeline

The timeline below is a draft and can be adjusted to Council approval processes, any Council workshop requirements, cultural consultation and artist availability.

August-September 2026	Council review of project overview; confirmation of preferred scope, technical requirements and approval pathway.
September-November 2026	Youth/community and cultural consultation; development and refinement of the site-specific concept.
Prior to installation	Final concept provided to Council for confirmation; materials and safety arrangements confirmed.
December 2026	Surface preparation and mural installation on dates agreed with Council and the artist, subject to weather.

Funding and responsibilities

Mossman Youth Services would fund the project in full. The current artist proposal is based on the proposed mural scope and includes the artist/facilitator, outdoor paint and equipment, workshop consultation, travel, and project documentation.

The Youth Service would also be responsible for surface preparation, protective coatings, site setup and other agreed delivery requirements. No financial contribution is being sought from Council. If the approved surface scope differs from the current proposal, the artist's scope will be reconfirmed and any agreed variation managed by the Youth Centre. Council support would be requested for project approvals, site requirements, access and consultation where appropriate.

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Artist / facilitator and quality standard

The project would be facilitated by mural artist Lalania Fa'aaefili, with the artist proposal issued under Paperbark Cultural Consultancy. Paperbark comprises First Nations men and women delivering community-inclusive projects that engage First Nations children and young people and the wider community. The supplied portfolio demonstrates experience with large-scale murals, strong colour, layered symbols, native flora and fauna and visual storytelling. Appendix A examples are indicative of style and quality only; the George Davis Park design would be site-specific and developed through consultation and Council approval.

Appendix A - Examples of previous work supplied by the artist

These images are provided as examples of previous projects completed by the artist and are intended to give Council an indication of artistic style, scale, colour and finish. They do not represent the final George Davis Park design.



Example 1 – Public mural with native fauna and symbolic elements.



Example 2 – Large-scale wall and ground treatment.



Example 3 – Flowing fence mural with symbols, handprints and layered texture.



Example 4 – Wall mural with strong colour, native fauna and symbolic motifs.



Example 5 – Blue-toned artwork using layered pattern, symbols and circular motifs.



Example 6 – Contemporary artwork showing layered pattern and symbols.

Next step

Subject to Council feedback, Mossman Youth Services is happy to meet with Council to confirm the preferred scope, approval pathway and any additional information required before progressing consultation and detailed design.