

CQ News

Friday, 9 September 2016

More free public Wi-Fi in more areas around town

VISITORS to Emerald will be Googling, tweeting and posting for free in more areas in coming months.

The Central Highlands Council last week decided to extend the footprint of free public Wi-Fi in the town.

Community and Customer Service manager Luke Lankowski recommended to the Communities Standing Committee in response to a request in July to investigate extending the service throughout the region.

The council currently has free Wi-Fi in its libraries and

the Emerald Visitor Information Centre and several businesses in the town offer free Wi-Fi to patrons.

Mr Lankowski told councillors that Wi-Fi hotspots provided an alternative internet connection to data allowances on mobile phone plans and were particularly beneficial to tourists.

He said the additional sites recommended were Egerton St from the library to the town hall and through to the Central Highlands

Development Corporation Offices, the botanic gardens, the showgrounds and the airport.

The council will explore providers for the service and the costs would depend on the infrastructure required and an ongoing monthly fee.

Other regional centres are also in-line for expanded public Wi-Fi.

Councillors were told any public Wi-Fi service would have a download limit, certain sites would be locked out and terms and conditions applied.