



**BENEFITS:** Woopi Regional Community Gardens Association president EJ Merrick is keen to get some free mulch for the developing green space.

PHOTO: ROBERT WATKIN

## Free mulch for green thumbs

TONNES of free mulch will be on offer for the local community by Roads and Maritime Services from the end of the month.

Over three consecutive weekends from Saturday, April 30, free mulch from the Woolgoolga to Ballina Pacific Highway upgrade will be available from a new rest area on the eastern side of the Arrawarra interchange.

RMS will also provide machinery on site on each weekend between 8am and 4pm to help load it.

Light truck or box trailers can be used to collect mulch.

Upon collection, recipients must complete a waste exemption form, comply with the Environmental Protection Authority pasteurised garden organics exemption requirements and use the mulch within a 50km radius of the project site.

An RMS spokesperson said the giveaway would ensure the mulch was reused to the benefit of the community in an environmentally sustainable way rather than being discarded and wasted.

The news of free mulch is music to the ears of Woolgoolga Regional

Community Gardens Association president E.J Merrick, who said it would help bring life to the four garden beds being built at the gardens.

"The mulch from the roads will be great," Mr Merrick said.

"Anything that's a free resource will be well-regarded and appreciated," he said.

The Woolgoolga Regional Community Regional Gardens runs open days each Saturday from 8am to noon.

For more information, visit the RMS website.

Sat April 9 / 2016 PAGES WOOLGOOLGA ADVERTISER