



Big win for Mossman Mill

After fighting long and hard for a sustainable future for Mossman's sugar industry, Member for Cook Cynthia Lui said she was pleased to see the Palaszczuk Government announce a support package for the long-term future of the Mossman sugar mill.

The money – \$25 million – will be used to assist Far Northern Milling Pty Ltd in the establishment of an innovative bio-refinery that will help to underpin the long-term future of Mossman sugar mill.

Ms Lui said the package meant the mill could keep running and building a bio-refinery was a step closer.

"I have been fighting to get certainty for the growers and to get a clear pathway forward to build a sustainable future for the industry, and this announcement is a strong outcome.

"The bio-refinery will provide a viable future for the mill and long-term economic benefits to the community.

"It will also diversify the Douglas Shire economy through the introduction of a considerable number of green chemical manufacturing jobs.



Pic thanks to The Cairns Post

ABOVE: Canegrower Liza Giudice with Cynthia Lui and Maryann Salvetti; **BELOW:** Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk with Douglas Shire Mayor Julia Leu.

Chair of Far Northern Milling Maryann Salvetti said the support provided by the Queensland Government was vital to helping Far Northern Milling realise their ambition to develop an innovative bio-refinery to provide certainty to the Mossman Mill and the regions canegrowers.

"We would like to thank Cynthia Lui, the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning Cameron Dick and the Department for this support and their vote of confidence in our vision of creating a bio-future for our community," she said. "We now have a pathway forward to save Mossman Mill and the jobs it supports, which is great news for the Mossman sugar community."





Mareeba Hospital on track

Projected time lines for a new Endoscopy Service / Operation Theatre Upgrade Project at Mareeba Hospital are on track.

"Refurbishment of the operating theatre is due to commence in May and services are expected to start early in the 2019/20 financial year," Ms Lui said.

She said they also expected CT scanning services to start in December 2019.

MEANWHILE new staff accommodation at the Hospital, opened in August last year, is well over two thirds occupied with

only two rooms available for extra staffing needs.

"The new staff accommodation cost \$1.5 million and was a big part of our commitment to improving health service delivery in regional Queensland," Ms Lui said.

"After promising to make things happen for Mareeba Hospital to support the great work they do, it's great to see the results making a difference to this community."

It was wonderful to join Mareeba community for the Australia Day Awards and Citizenship Ceremony - to witness and welcome our newest citizens and to acknowledge and celebrate the achievements of hard working Individuals doing extraordinary work in our community Ms Lui said.



January 19 is National Corrections Day which recognises 25,000 frontline staff in prison, parole and other corrective-services. "I would like to acknowledge the contribution and hard work of every staff member, custodial officer and community corrections officer within Queensland Corrective Services in upkeeping community safety in the region," Ms Lui said.

Newell Beach development means safety for all

The promised development of a two-lane boat ramp, floating walkway and an upstream rock groyne at popular Newell Beach is on-track to be finished by late next year, Ms Lui said she was happy to announce.

"Environmental investigation field work and data collection for wave, tide and flood modelling was completed in December 2018," she said.

"Modelling studies and environmental reports are scheduled

to be completed by mid 2019."

She said current investigations would help to assess the most appropriate configuration for the new facility.

"Consultation with local boating stakeholders, Douglas Shire

Council and state approval agencies will happen once the concept has been further developed," she said.

"We have worked hard towards making this popular launching spot be as safe as it can be."

'World class' Wangetti



Preliminary work towards a business case for the Wangetti Trail completed in October last year has resulted in a State Government contribution of nearly \$6 million towards the first phase of what will be a world-class eco-tourism experience, Ms Lui says.

The seven kilometre 'Mowbray North' component of the 94 kilometre Wangetti Trail will stretch from Port Douglas south to the Mowbray River, with construction scheduled to commence in September 2019.

The government had been forwarded a letter of support from the Traditional Owners who were working with the State to develop the idea. "We're partnering with the traditional owners, the private sector and local councils to make this project a reality," she said.

The Trail would be a 'game-changer' when it came to creating tourism jobs in north Queensland.

"This particular section of the Trail alone is tipped to create 30 jobs," she said.

"The Mowbray North piece

is also estimated to bring significant economic benefits to the region with 11,000 additional international visitors per year and \$6.1 million in overnight expenditure.

"Federal funding will be crucial to completing the Wangetti Trail. We'll continue to lobby the Commonwealth to get Tropical North Queensland's fair share and ensure the Wangetti Trail project stays on track."

Douglas Shire Council Mayor Julia Leu said the Mowbray North project included several improvements that locals and visitors would embrace.

"It is especially fantastic to see the re-purposed Old Mowbray River Bridge included, which is a really important project that Council has been keen to get moving," she said.

"This suite of projects will not

only give our visitors another reason to stay in the Douglas Shire, it will provide more recreational opportunities for our locals and deliver a better outdoors experience in their own backyard."

Works for the Wangetti Trail - Mowbray North project will include:

- Re-purposed Old Mowbray River Bridge;
- Visitors' carpark and safety upgrades to the Captain Cook Highway;
- Crocodile viewing platform
- 2.25km mangrove experience boardwalk;
- 5 km trail to Four Mile Beach and Flagstaff Hill; and,
- Indigenous business opportunities for construction, maintenance, guided walks and other activities.

For more information, please visit www.ditid.qld.gov.au/tourism/special-projects

Around the Cape...

Bamaga

The Bamaga Hospital Staff Accommodation project will see six new one-bedroom units and two new three-bedroom houses built over two years (2018-9) in the far northern community. This will help attract quality health professionals to the region.

Mapoon

Mapoon community's older members will soon benefit from the construction – now well underway – of a new Aged Care Respite Centre.

Ms Lui said the new Centre would deliver improved care and services for aged residents in Mapoon.

Kowanyama

Work on a \$3.4 million upgrade of six one-bedroom apartments for nurses' accommodation at the Kowanyama Primary Health Care Centre has been completed.

Kowanyama will soon have a new Men's Shed and a Women's Meeting place after the government committed more than \$2.5 million to the new project.

Coen enjoys local ov

"I'm proud to be part of a government that is investing Queensland communities in all corners of the state," Ms Lui

"And that especially includes supporting the sports oval in Coen, which is already having a real and positive grassroots impact for locals.

"This oval is not only a fantastic new space for local sports teams, it will be a gathering place for the community which will unite locals of all ages and support them to enjoy an active, fun and healthy lifestyle together."

Ms Lui said she recognised the key role sport played in Queensland's rural and regional communities, such as Coen, by contributing to community identity, sense of place, social



interaction and better health. "The installation of the new lighting system will also allow Coen locals to access this new facility during the evening, avoiding the impact of the Far



LEFT: "I know how important good infrastructure is to health service delivery. That is why I asked the Minister for Health Steven Miles to visit Cow Bay Health Clinic with me today to see first hand the ageing infrastructure and discuss the need for future upgrade," Ms Lui said.

'Building our Regions' helps Lockhart



The Lockhart River airport terminal, now complete, is one of the projects short listed in the government's latest round of the Building our Regions program, Ms Lui says.

The site received \$531,000 to provide a new airport terminal building with a total floor area of 108 square metres. Ms Lui said the old terminal would be maintained and refurbished as an important part of the history of the area.

"Projects like these are an exciting part of what can be achieved with this program," she said.

"The terminal will make a big difference to those coming and going

from Lockhart River and the Portland Roads tourism areas."

Lockhart River Council's new local workers project is the completion of the

Airport management assistant Gareth they were thriving terminal become past few months

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i says.



Pics thanks to Dion Creek

North Queensland sun," she said. "This is an important project requested by the Coen community and our government has listened to and delivered on their needs."



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Mr Brown said they hoped the old building would be refurbished because there was a lot of history attached to it. "We feel strongly that it should be maintained," he said.

LRASC Building Services Manager Regis Edmond said the community's own apprentices worked on the project, as did several others including local painters Ross Mackay and James Macumboy, pictured on page 4.



The long, slow PDR drive...

Nearly 20 years ago former Labor Member for Cook Steve Bredhauer predicted it would take 20 years to complete the seal on the Cape York Peninsula Development Road.

Now, in 2019, Ms Lui says remote communities across the Cape are still looking forward to finally have a well-engineered and more reliable sealed road in what she described was a 'transformational time' for Cape York residents.

"The important thing now is that as momentous and successful as the Cape York Region Package has been, the job is only half done," she said.

The Cape York Region Package was a 5-year \$276 million program of works (2014-15 to 2018-19) jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments to upgrade critical infrastructure on Cape York

Peninsula by the end of this year.

"When the final pour of bitumen on the current project is made next year, about 170 kilometres of this road will have been sealed," Ms Lui said.

"That leaves about 200 kilometres of unsealed ochre left to seal.

"I want to see that original partnership continue to finish and we will be pushing for a new agreement with the Federal Government.

"That means we can ensure the pipeline of jobs and training opportunities continues to help fully set up a new and more prosperous future for all our Cape communities."

Torres Strait tour reveals

Since my election prioritising seawall and coastal mitigation works for outer islands in the Torres Strait has been high on my agenda, Ms Lui says...

I was very relieved when the Palaszczuk Government approved additional funding of \$20 million to progress the priority seawall and coastal mitigation works on Saibai, Boigu, Poruma, Iama, Masig and Warraber Islands.

Mitigation works will protect critical infrastructure from the impacts of climate change and severe weather events.



Mer Island to have new health clinic

A new health care clinic on Mer Island in the Torres Strait is a step closer to construction after a detailed business case was reviewed by the government's Investment Review Committee in December last year, Ms Lui says.

"The \$7 million budget allows for design of the clinic and includes a plan for government employee housing to be built on the existing clinic site," she said.

"While there were some land use issues and an Indigenous Land Use Agreement yet to be finalised, it is hoped building will start by the end of 2019 and be finished around mid-2020."

climate change concern



FROM THE DIARY: The impact of climate change, coastal erosion and climate adaptation was one of the many community concerns raised during my visit to Warraber Island.

My visit coincided with the high tide and rough winds, where I got to see firsthand the impact it has on a vulnerable low lying community.

Porumalgal elders and community on Poruma Island greeted me with a very warm welcome to their home.

Climate change, high cost of living, unemployment, health, poor internet/mobile coverage and support for the elderly were some of the key local issues raised and a common trend throughout the region.

Huge thanks to Cr Fraser Nai on Masig Island community and elders for making the time to meet with me and share a wonderful meal.

Ugar Island faces similar regional issues and challenges, but is further disadvantaged by isolation.

I had a very insightful meeting with the community and look forward to working closely with the community and Local Government on various issues.



The Last Word...

Greetings!

I hope you have enjoyed the first of my half yearly newsletters '*Connecting Cook*'.

Connecting Cook is to invite you on our journey of achievements in the Cook electorate.

It is now eighteen months since I was elected as your State Member of Parliament and I feel very humbled and blessed with this wonderful opportunity to represent you, in this very unique and vast electorate.

As your local Member I believe it is important to use

all forms of communication to ensure you are informed of our Government's commitment to delivering for our region.

In the first 12 months I have made it my priority to visit as many of you as I possibly could, and made it my personal obligation to hear first-hand about the issues that are important to you.

My travels have taken me to nearly all our communities in

the Torres Strait, Cape York, Mareeba and Douglas Shires.

I understand and acknowledge that each issue in one part of the electorate may not be the same for another.

My travels haven't given me greater insight into regional issues so I can do my absolute best to effectively represent you in Parliament.

Cynthia

How to get in touch...

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