

Cynthia Lui MP

State Member for Cook

Connecting Cook

Spring 2019



Roads Minister Mark Bailey with Cynthia on the PDR

Better roads working for local jobs

Huge investments in road works will deliver hundreds of local jobs, better access and safer roads for people from Kuranda to Chillagoe to Weipa from the Queensland Labor Government's commitment to improving our road network, Cook MP Cynthia Lui says.

Queensland's Department of Transport and Main Roads is progressively sealing two unsealed sections on the Burke Developmental Road, between Almaden and Chillagoe, as part of the \$100 million Northern Australia Beef Roads Program. A \$45 million package of safety upgrades to a 31 kilometre stretch of the Kennedy Highway between Kuranda and Mareeba is a major step toward providing residents and visitors with safe and efficient travel Cynthia says. And the Cape York Region Package is 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.

"The Queensland Labor Government is working hard to improve safety and access and importantly ensure that local people get the jobs that come with this investment," Ms Lui said.

"It is also very important to us to improve community infrastructure and therefore employment, training and business development opportunities for local communities.

"Overall these works will improve safety and access while reducing maintenance costs and road closures during the wet season."

...IN BRIEF...

Kennedy Highway:

- 30+km safety upgrade between Mareeba & Kuranda;
- \$45 million investment;
- 280+ jobs

Peninsula Developmental Road (PDR):

- 18 projects Lakeland to Weipa;
- 170+km of bitumen seal;
- ongoing investment to deliver significant economic opportunities.

Burke Developmental Road:

- Sealing two sections between Almaden and Chillagoe;
- 14 jobs;
- part of \$100 million Beef Roads Program improving the resilience of a key cattle routes across northern Australia.

Festivals are go!

"Our electorate is blessed with many wonderful festivals and celebrations," Cook MP Cynthia Lui says. "Here is a snapshot of some I have enjoyed and some I'm really looking forward to."

Kowanyama

Ngethn o' was held in July and was attended by Ministerial Champion and Minister for Police, Mark Ryan and Cynthia (pictured right with Mayor Michael Yam).

An historical smoking ceremony was held to mark the return of traditional artefacts to the community.

Mareeba

In August Cynthia joined the Mareeba community enjoying the local Multicultural Festival's dancing displays, wonderful selection of food and plenty of time to speak with local people (pictured below right). This Festival has been around for more than 20 years and attracts visitors from across the region. The Queensland Labor Government has contributed \$60,000 to the Festival organisers over three years to 2021.

Cynthia is keen to encourage other festival organisers to apply for support through the Celebrating Multicultural Queensland program.

Coming up

From 17 July to 4 August next year, Cooktown Expo 2020 will showcase 250 years of shared history and will be an important celebration for the

region and the nation.

The Queensland Labor Government has provided funding to the festival organisers in what will be a significant boost to the local economy.

Ang-Gnarra Aboriginal Corporation has already been hard at work in preparation for next year's Laura Dance Festival to be held from 3-5 July.



Changing approach to Cooktown change rooms

\$300,000 was used to pilot a new approach to change room infrastructure with modular change rooms now installed at the John Street Oval, the home of the Cooktown Crocs Rugby League Club, Member for Cook Cynthia Lui says.

"Everyone loves the Cooktown Crocs, and we've seen that especially with the numbers of girls and women starting to play rugby league at the club," Cynthia said.

"So I am very pleased that the Sports Minister Mick De Brenni has seen how important this Club is to Cooktown and the towns

around it, and has provided funding for two new change rooms and four toilets, including disabled cubicles.

"The new modular facilities were completed in record time and I am determined to deliver new sporting infrastructure in more efficient, innovative ways."

Cooktown Crocs President John

"Chook" Giese thanked the Queensland Government for the funding and said it would make a huge difference to the club.

"We hope the new change rooms help us attract new teams from surrounding communities and increase the number of girls and women who want to play," he said.

Making a splash – another election promise delivered

One of several new Splash Parks promised during the last election has opened in Mapoon ready for summer.

"These Splash Parks are a great community asset, bringing children and their families together to enjoy positive and healthy play," Cynthia said.

"Our Government provided \$1.5 million to the project which we know will be well used – it's wonderful to see our children enjoying these parks in their community."

Mapoon Mayor Cr Aileen Addo acknowledged Cynthia's and Deputy Premier Jackie Trad's help in delivering the project, securing this important investment in the dynamic Mapoon community.

"Mapoon residents will now enjoy a place to cool off, particularly during the hot and humid summer months",



Mayor Addo said.

"Mapoon is a great place to live, and to visit, and this investment in community facilities make it even better".

Cynthia said her election commitments on Splash Parks were on track.

"Lockhart River, Pormpuraaw and Mapoon all have their

splash parks up and running.

"Coen, Napranum and Horn Island are next after approval in this year's budget."

"These facilities are much loved by our kids and also by their families as they provide a safe and healthy place where people can come together, building stronger communities."

Coen to review palliative care options

Better use of the JS Love building in Coen is a great example of community members, NGOs, Local Government and the State Labor Government working together Member for Cook Cynthia Lui says.

Cook Shire Council owns the building and successfully applied for \$500,000 from the State Labor Government for the upgrade, which is now complete.

"This building has been used by health services for many years and community members thought it might be used for the provision of end-of-life or palliative care in Coen," Cynthia said. "They saw there was significant social and economic advantages in providing palliative care right here in the community."

Cynthia worked with Ministerial Champion Cameron Dick, Cook Shire and Palliative Care Queensland to secure an additional grant of \$50,000 for a scoping study to determine current needs, best practice models of care and potential funding.

"A great example of Building Stronger Communities at work," Cynthia said.





Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Mark Bailey and Cynthia officially opened the Lockhart River Phythan Airport terminal in September.

They are pictured (above) with builders LRASC Building Services Director Reggie Edmond and recently graduated local carpenters Allister Bowie, Chris Johnson & Dominique Macumboy.

On the same day they were also with local elders, Councillors and other community members celebrating the opening of a new access bridge in and out of the community (above right).

In the middle picture with Cynthia and Mark is small business owner Donovan Moses, who is helping deliver repairs to Taylor's Landing Road.

Staff of Lockhart River State School's famous coffee shop (right) will be looking sharper and smarter with the help of a personal donation from Cynthia towards uniforms for their expert barista and retail service staff.

"This initiative is becoming quite the iconic stopover for locals and visitors alike, including Education Minister Grace Grace," Cynthia said.

"I'm very proud to be able to contribute to this very worthy venture."



Education top west

Ms Lui said the Government will provide quality education for all children, regardless of where they live in Queensland. "The kids are doing well in writing and reading," she said. "A big shout out to the staff and parents who have supported the school."



Queensland Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure & Planning Cameron Dick took the opportunity to inspect the new and highly popular Coen oval redevelopment last month (*above*).

"The oval has already hosted several local league fixtures and other sporting and cultural events," Cynthia said.

MEANWHILE a brand new \$2.8 million fire station on Horn Island was officially opened in June this year by Fire and Emergency Services Minister Craig Crawford (*right*).

"This station provides residents with a first-class emergency response and will support the community during severe weather events," Cynthia said.



Education Minister Grace Grace at the Mapoon School

Education Minister Grace Grace was a happy visitor to the Saibai Island State School (*left*) in the northern cluster of the Torres Strait, and Old Mapoon (*above*) earlier this year.

"I said the State Labor Government was working hard to provide quality education to all children no matter where they live in Queensland."

"I showed us their reading, writing and computer skills when we were there," she said.

"I put out to the principal

and teachers who have given many wonderful years to educating our children and building a great school in the Mapoon Aboriginal Community."

The visits were part of a three-day trip to the very far north taking in Saibai, Badu and Horn Islands as well as Lockhart River.

"It's very important that our Ministers

get to visit all our communities, so they better understand the distances and challenges faced by residents and the service providers," Cynthia said.

"I'm so pleased to receive great support from our Labor Ministers, many of whom have travelled to our electorate."

TORRES STRAIT/NPA NEWS

Four Primary Health Care Centres across the Torres Strait are set to benefit from more than \$17 million in redevelopment projects over the coming months.

"The Labor Government is determined to improve health outcomes for all Queenslanders, especially in remote areas," Cynthia said.

"Health infrastructure investment is critical to the economic and physical health of all Queenslanders, no matter where they live.

"This is a huge win for these communities, especially because it's also delivering 25 full-time construction jobs.

"It will also help accommodate a growing range of visiting health professionals delivering more specialised services to the island communities."



Cynthia with
Health Minister
Steven Miles

A \$1.3 Million upgrade for Thursday Island's TAFE has been put to good use, inside and out of the three buildings on site, with some money left over for technology upgrades.

"All the buildings have been painted on the outside and have new floors as part of a safety and maintenance investment," Cynthia said.

"Students are also enjoying 20 new laptops for the campus as part of an equipment update from the Department of Employment, Small Business & Training."

A new nurse-assisted dialysis unit is expected to be operational in Bamaga by the end of this year.

"This new four-chair unit should be ready to go by December," Ms Lui said. "I know NPA residents will really welcome this unit as it means they won't have to leave their families for treatment," Cynthia said.

The State Labor Government has provided \$3.6 m for a Bamaga Hospital Staff Accommodation project which will deliver six new one-bedroom units and two new three-bedroom houses.

Kowanyama enjoys new Men's Shed

Kowanyama men are enjoying a brand new Men's Shed, situated slightly out of town at the far end of the airport runway, thanks to an investment by the Queensland Labor Government in the new facility.

Cynthia said the new centre featured several meeting rooms and counselling spaces, a caretakers' residence, kitchen and other facilities as well as some space for overnight stays.

"This is a place for the men of Kowanyama to find healing and peace," Cynthia said.

Mayor Michael Yam said the space was about preventing issues and to help the community.



L-R: Cynthia Lui with Kowanyama CEO Gary Uhlmann; Mayor Michael Yam, Cr John Fry and Minister for Police & Corrective Services Mark Ryan.

"It's about rehabilitating men, trying to teach men to be men again and tackling all the other social issues we have in community such as domestic violence, suicide, anger management and

men's health," he said.

Cynthia said she had strongly advocated for the project and was pleased to see a new Women's Space also on Kowanyama's agenda to a value of nearly \$2.5 million.

MAREEBA NEWS



Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk officially opened the Mt Emerald Wind Farm in August (above).

The facility will supply 500 million kilowatt hours of renewable electricity every year.

"That's enough to power 80,000 homes a year and the equivalent to supplying about one third of the Far North's energy needs," Cynthia said.

The first steps towards an upgrade of the Mareeba Animal Refuge are ready to go with a State Government commitment of \$500,000 over two financial years to refurbish the facility.

"This funding will boost the Committee's fundraising efforts," Ms Lui said. "Without the refuge, there would be no safe place for abandoned animals.

"I'd like to encourage the community to donate generously to this essential facility staffed mainly by big-hearted volunteers.

Development of Mareeba's first Community Hub has been kickstarted with more than \$400,000 of more \$1 million committed over two years hitting the ground.

"The Queensland Labor Government recognises the importance of small business to our economy and is working hard to help them to grow," Ms Lui said

Cricketers and patrons will be happy to know the Mareeba & District Cricket Club's 'Frosty Firth Canteen' is now open for business.

"Previously the clubhouse had no hot water, no kitchen, an old cement wash tub and a bare old floor," Cynthia said. "Today, we have a brand new facility with new kitchen, canteen, storeroom, viewing deck, stainless steel benches, sinks and fans.

"I would like to acknowledge Mareeba Cricket Club President Irene Roy and the local contractor who delivered the project, Michael France, for their efforts and hard work, as well as the local community, who were dedicated to seeing this project come to fruition – if there is one thing I love, it's to see our communities thrive!"

DOUGLAS NEWS



A redesign and refurbishment of the Mossman Hospital Emergency Department will improve patient movement through the facility and facilitate improved models of care and service delivery.

The changes will cost almost \$7m and are designed to improve the experience of both patients and the dedicated staff of the service.

"No one wants to attend the Emergency Department, the best we can do is make the experience as comfortable and quick as we can," Ms Lui said.

The Queensland Labor Government has allocated \$36m for the first 7km stage of the 94km Wangetti Trail along the Great Barrier Reef coast from Palm Cove to Port Douglas.

"Investment into the Wangetti Trail has been welcomed by Douglas Shire, the tourism industry and the community in appreciation of the tremendous economic injection it will provide as well as the expansion and diversification in tourism opportunities," Cynthia said.

Works for the Wangetti Trail - Mowbray North project includes:

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

Construction on the new Mowbray River crossing and the trail north to Port Douglas could be completed by mid-2020.

The Last Word...

Thank you for taking the time to have a look at my 'Connecting Cook' Newsletter!

The past six months have been incredibly rewarding delivering on key infrastructure and listening to community members from across all corners of my electorate.

As you can see, my focus has been on improving our roads, creating better access to health services and supporting local sporting and community organisations that provide essential services to our communities.

I would also like to take this opportunity to report that the Palaszczuk government is continuing to work hard to create jobs for all Queenslanders.

Over the past 12 months alone nearly 14,000 jobs have been created here in the Far North.

As the year is drawing to an end, I wish you all a safe and peaceful Festive Season.

Cynthia

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