



Curtis Pitt MP

Treasurer & State Member for Mulgrave

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Mulgrave Matters

2016 Wrap Up Edition

Road construction underway



The \$58 million six-laning of the Bruce Highway **between Robert Road and Foster Road** is well underway and we are investing \$37.6 million to widen various sections of the Bruce Highway **between Innisfail**

and Edmonton which will mean better and safer roads.

While road users may experience some delays, your patience is appreciated and the end result will be worth it.

I'm especially pleased that a **pedestrian refuge has been constructed in Gordonvale** near the Draper Road intersection where many local school students have been short-cutting across the Bruce Highway for more direct access to and from the school.

Improvements worth \$6 million will include lighting, a footpath and fencing during the roll-out of **wide centreline treatment works** as part of a Bruce Highway Safety Package.

I've worked with the school principal and P&C for several years on this issue as I've been personally concerned for the safety of our kids on or near our roads, and I know many local drivers have been distressed by recent near-misses.

Delivering on our Marine Infrastructure

If you can't catch it in Far North Queensland it's not worth catching! That's why it's important we maintain and improve access to local boat ramps to ensure boaties have safe access to the water. Our \$30 million boost to the Marine Infrastructure fund is paying for the **Redbank Boat Ramp** to be widened to four lanes and to install a floating walkway.

We're also widening facilities at the **Bellenden Kerr Boat Ramp** and buying a new pontoon for the **Edmonton Boat Ramp**, as well as rebuilding the existing boat ramp at **Fearnley Street in Portsmith**.



Around one in 19 Queenslanders own a boat, probably higher in FNQ, so it's important for us to keep pace with the popularity of recreational boating and fishing.

Premier's Message



Throughout 2016 we have continued to deliver on the commitments we made to Queenslanders at the last state election, investing heavily in regions like the Far North through infrastructure, and improved services or facilities that also help generate jobs.

Job creation remains our top priority because we know how important a secure job is to individuals, families, and communities in all parts of our state.

Hon. Annastacia Palaszczuk

Putting the Far North First.

Mulgrave Matters



FNQ Economy headed in the right direction

The Far North's resurgent economy is no accident. Through the hard work of **local industry, business leaders and government working together**, we've seen the local tourism sector move out of the recovery phase and into a boom period. This is laying the foundations for an exciting 2017.

Our **\$100 million Back to Work scheme** is an important part of driving employment growth, offering **\$10,000 or \$15,000 to local businesses** to hire and keep a local person employed for 12 months. And until 28 February 2017, local businesses who take on unemployed

15 to 24-year-olds will receive a **'Youth Boost' of \$20,000 for each young jobseeker they hire**. This essentially doubles the existing \$10,000 incentive for regional businesses to hire young jobseekers.

The Palaszczuk Government has **strategically invested in key infrastructure across the region** that will position the Far North for the future – like the JCU Innovation Centre (\$10 million), Cairns Performing Arts Centre (\$15 million), Convention Centre refurbishment (\$7.1 million), Cairns Special School (\$25 million) and the Bill Fulton Bridge (\$34.2 million).

As your local member my firm priority is to deliver transport infrastructure and efficiencies in the Southern Corridor to cater for our burgeoning population and guarantee we have adequate police, emergency, health and education facilities in place to service local residents.

Delivering services for Gordonvale

Demands for Government services in Gordonvale have outgrown their historic homes and the Palaszczuk Government is stepping up to deliver the modern facilities and services our community needs.



In my first Budget I announced that the old Gordonvale station would be replaced with a **new \$3.5 million Fire Station**.



As part of our Accelerated Works Package **\$4.5 million has been allocated to replace the Police Station**.



We're investing **\$1.6 million to ensure children in need of protection have a safe place to stay** across the Mulgrave electorate including funding for local service providers.

Innisfail Commercial Wharf



I was proud to officially open the new \$2.95 million Innisfail Commercial Wharf in March. I congratulate Rod Timms, Sam Pagano, Ian Lewis, Fred James and the many others who mustered the local community and made it clear that Innisfail needed to get a new wharf.

The demolition and replacement of the old wharf has supported local jobs and we are supporting jobs into the future by providing the infrastructure needed to unlock much-needed economic opportunities.

It's also the **perfect spot for fishing when there are no commercial craft docked**. We also unveiled the new **Chjowai sign**. Chjowai is the local aboriginal word for 'where two rivers meet' and was unveiled with local MaMu traditional owners.

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Southern Corridor Sport

The Southern Corridor of Cairns is continuing to cement its reputation as an ideal lifestyle option with a range of offerings for families.

The Palaszczuk Government contributed \$95,000 towards the construction of **four brand new Hot Shot mini tennis courts** for players as young as five at Edmonton and **Edmonton PCYC** scored \$31,818 to purchase new sports equipment.



As Minister for Sport I recently announced that Far North Queensland clubs received a total **\$2.3 million funding for local sport**



and recreation. These funds will help FNQ clubs, associations, and local councils establish new or upgraded facilities, buy new equipment, and encourage greater participation at the grassroots level.

Cairns International Speedway receives \$98,430 to upgrade the existing track. **Leichhardt Soccer** secured \$91,832 to upgrade lighting at their White Rock home ground. **Mulgrave Cricket** scored \$100,000 to

construct undercover nets (the only ones of their kind north of Brisbane) and \$2,400 for coaching and modified programs (\$1,500 will also go towards equipment to increase female participation).

White Rock Cannons JRL Inc will get \$4,200 to purchase computer equipment and **Cairns Motocross Club** will receive \$6,154 for a portable PA system, UHF radios and timing system. Congratulations to all.

South Cairns Health Facilities

Since being first elected I've pushed for the further development of health facilities in the growing Southern Corridor of Cairns. As the local member who campaigned hardest for the original solution, I'm more disappointed than anyone that the former government didn't progress the Mann's farm opportunity.

Since coming to government, we have **moved swiftly to secure a new location** for the delivery of healthcare services we need now. As Treasurer I allocated \$230 million in the 2016-17 Budget for additional health infrastructure, to include the **development of a new Health Precinct for the Southern Corridor.**



The new parcel of land has many of the same characteristics that were needed when the original southern health land was acquired:

- It's **strategically located across the road from Edmonton PCYC.**
- It's on the western side of the highway and has good flood immunity.
- It's near where people live, go to school and do their shopping.

Additionally, a new Walker Road health facility will provide a **backup option during a natural disaster**, with room for a helipad in the precinct.

My view about the long-term needs of our local community is that wherever possible we need to keep ahead of the curve. I will continue to advocate that the growing Southern Corridor needs a future-looking health solution to service the Far North.

Mulgrave Matters

Bananas, Cassowaries and Yellow Crazy Ants

The centrepiece of the image and lifestyle of the Far North is our environment and the outbreak of Panama disease last year had the potential to cripple local banana farmers. As a Government we responded with a \$7.3 million package to continue the management of the biosecurity **response to the Panama Disease TR4 outbreak** in the Queensland banana industry.

I also successfully fought for **\$530,000 annual funding for the Garners Beach Cassowary Centre** to provide care and rehabilitation services for this endangered native species which gives the Cassowary Coast its name. Yellow Crazy Ants are one of the world's worst invasive species and have invaded numerous places across the world, especially in tropical environments. I share local concerns about the damage these pests wreak on our local unique environment.

That's why I'm pleased the Palaszczuk Government has committed over **\$3 million over three years to support the Wet Tropics Management Authority's (WTMA) Yellow Crazy Ant eradication activities**. As part of the Rural Assistance Package, more than \$1 million has already gone to WTMA. Disappointingly, the Federal Government has failed to deliver on the usual 80/20 funding split and their commitment is still more than \$4.5 million short of what is required. The future of the World Heritage Wet Tropics Rainforest is too important to ignore and that's why I will not give up my fight to ensure the Federal Government funds its share of this critical work.

Supporting Babinda's community and sport services



For a tiny town Babinda consistently punches well above its weight. The State Government supported the Babinda Harvest Festival with \$10,100 to help the purchase new equipment and the 2016 event didn't disappoint! I know the **\$40,000 overhaul of Babinda State School's tuckshop** will be welcomed by parents, teachers and students alike.

The school also recently received **flashing school zone signs** to further improve road safety. There's no excuse for motorists not sticking to 40km/hr but these lights will be an active reminder for motorists to slow down. And as patron of the **Babinda Pony Club** I was thrilled when they received \$25,000 to upgrade kitchen facilities on the grounds.

Babinda Social Touch has been in need of team goal post pads for some time and I was pleased to provide them with four custom made pads in traditional Babinda colours.

Finally, a shout out to the **Babinda Bakery** – now the #1 favourite treat around the Cabinet table after Annette and Mick McAloon helped me take some cream buns down on the red-eye flight to Brisbane.



Catch N Release

I recently caught up with Peter and Margaret Powell of White Rock-based Catch 'n Release.

They've **received \$91,000 from the Queensland Government's Ignite Ideas Fund for their anchor release system**, a clever invention to allow



the anchor to be retrieved safely while minimising damage to the reef and making boating safer.

Out and about in Mulgrave

Yarrabah



The newly-elected Yarrabah Council has wasted no time getting down to business and I'm working closely with them and the Yarrabah Leadership Group to progress new economic opportunities for the town. Negotiations have almost been

finalised around a site for **Yarrabah's \$7 million jetty** which should allow construction to soon get underway. A ferry service will provide tourists with a direct connection to an authentic Indigenous experience and, importantly, enable local people to easily travel into town and access employment opportunities.

In the meantime, we're delivering **more than \$600,000 for classroom refurbishments** at Yarrabah State School's Secondary Campus and \$244,000 to complete the **construction of a Pre-Prep outdoor learning area** at Yarrabah State School.

In addition, I was pleased to announce that Yarrabah Council

will receive **\$67,277 to upgrade the Yarrabah Seahawks clubhouse at Jilara Oval**, including expansion and fitout of the existing canteen, painting, tiling and replacing two cubicles in both change rooms. This facility is used by Yarrabah Seahawks Junior Rugby League, Yarrabah State School and other groups in the community.



Yarrabah Pharmacy opening

Greater health outcomes are now available to Yarrabah residents, who celebrated the opening of a dedicated Pharmacy at the Gurriny Yealamucka

Health Service on January 27. I was honoured to cut the ribbon as part of the official proceedings.

The pharmacy provides **same day access to life saving and essential medications, improving the health**

outcomes of the community. We welcome two onsite pharmacists, who also offer medication advice and education, further ensuring our commitment to enhanced patient care and safety.

Yarrabah RSL, Drop-In Hub and Men's Shed

I was pleased to **contribute \$1,000 towards Yarrabah RSL's** project to transport an army tank to Yarrabah, which has formed the centrepiece for their project to commemorate the service of local Vietnam Veterans.

Earlier in the year I enjoyed attending the official opening of the **new drop-in community centre** at Yarrabah. I congratulate local Elders, Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council, local Queensland Police Service officers and all involved for their efforts in making this Community Hub a reality.

The Hub provides a chance for young people to meet up with the older



generation to discuss community matters and local Lore. In this way we're providing modern infrastructure to help preserve ancient stories and traditions. It's a worthy initiative of the local Council in an effort to address youth crime at night.

Giving these young people a safe, inviting place to go in the evenings gives them another way to stay out of trouble and keep their lives on track.

Another great initiative that I am a proud supporter of is Men's Sheds which help to reduce social isolation by bringing men together and offering a place for them to share their stories, support each other and enhance their skills, confidence and self-esteem.

I was thrilled to hear from Brent Pearson that **Yarrabah is forming it's own Men's Shed** and was happy to assist by sponsoring the group's incorporation fee. If you are interested in getting involved contact yarrabahmensshed@outlook.com.

Out and about in Mulgrave

Gordonvale Early Years Centre

I was very proud to officially open the **\$2.2 million purpose-built Gordonvale Early Years Centre** at the end of May. The centre provides a permanent base for the Benevolent Society which has been working with



the local Gordonvale community since 2011.

In the first three months of operation alone, more than 1,500 parents and children attended programs at the centre. With activities and programs ranging from infant massage to parenting seminars, the centre is already providing great support to families in the community.

Earlier in the year the centre received **\$55,000 to purchase a new bus** to allow children and families to access the early childhood and family support services in Gordonvale.

School visits for Electricity Safety Week



In September I enjoyed visiting **Isabella State School** and **Babinda State School** with Ergon Energy to launch Electricity Safety Week. This year is the first time the school-based Safety Heroes program is being offered to every primary school in Queensland. The Safety Heroes program is a way for us to highlight the importance of safety around electricity to students in a fun and engaging way.

Sport in Gordonvale

The **Gordonvale Pony Club** will receive \$93,727 to construct a new amenities block. The club has been working very hard to build up participation numbers and has proven to be a great venue for hosting local gymkhana.

Gordonvale-based **Cairns Southside Judo Club** has received \$21,190 to install flooring and purchase safety mats and conduct an eight week introduction to judo course.

Gordonvale Touch has also been funded \$7,500 to conduct referee and coach accreditation courses to support touch footy.



Earlier this year I was pleased to donate a large sign and two lockable notice boards to Souths Football Club, Gordonvale Goldrush Netball Club and Mulgrave Cricket for use at their Johnson Park playing grounds.

MacKillop Catholic College Opening

In August I was honoured to officially open MacKillop Catholic College at Mt Peter along with his Most Reverend Bishop James Foley. I've been really pleased to have worked with the Catholic Education Dioceses of Cairns to see this school become a reality.

The **State Government contributed \$4.8 million of the \$5.2 million stage one build**, as well as supporting early trunk infrastructure works. As the local MP, the establishment of this school will be a catalyst for families to make their home in the Mount Peter area which is expected to see more than 40,000 new residents over the next 15 years. The College is currently offering Prep to Year 3 with future plans to cater for students up to Year 12.

The Great Pyramid Race Community Service Award



Gordonvale successfully hosted the Great Pyramid Race and Country Fair on Saturday 13 August. I was pleased to present **Leanne Kruger** with a Community Service Award for her wonderful lifetime of community service for Gordonvale and Far North Queensland in the fields of sport, environmental support, education and community service.

Out and about in Mulgrave

Innisfail Schools



The Palaszczuk Government has made a clear commitment to restoring government services in Innisfail and that's why we're investing \$265,000 for internal classroom refurbishment work at **Innisfail East State School**.

Additionally we are providing \$30,000 of \$100,000 to complete the

refurbishment of X Block and \$20,000 of \$100,000 to refurbishment Y Block at **Innisfail State College**.

We have allocated \$225,000 for internal and external refurbishment of A and B Block including replacement of aircon at **Innisfail State School** as well as \$44,051 to complete the upgrade of a sports field to support multi-sport at **Innisfail Combined Sporting Association**, worth \$88,102. And **Innisfail East State School's** new flashing lights have been welcomed by students, teachers and parents alike – as part of the Palaszczuk Government's \$12 million commitment to install an extra 300 Queensland school zones by 2018.

Innisfail sport



After much hard work, **Innisfail & District Netball** are receiving \$85,054 to upgrade six netball courts. Other clubs including **Innisfail Junior League**, **Innisfail Cricket**, **Innisfail Leprechauns** and **Innisfail Tigers Soccer** have received \$7,500 to conduct a range of activities including coaching, first-aid, umpiring/refereeing courses and come and try days.

Feast of the Senses and Innisfail Men's Shed

I was pleased to announce **\$35,000 towards the Innisfail Men's Shed** and **\$28,854 for Innisfail SES** to install a new ramp and awning.

With plans for the Ella Bay Integrated Resort coming along I'm keen to see Innisfail continue to develop its local tourism offerings which is why Tourism and Events Queensland provided **\$15,000 to this year's Feast of the Senses**.



I know **Cassowary Coast Regional Council** shares my vision to develop this region's potential and I look forward to continuing to work with them.

Innisfail Children's Cemetery

Innisfail hosted a deeply moving official opening and blessing of the new **Angel View Children Cemetery** in June which my wife Kerry and I were fortunate to attend.

Words cannot express what a great accomplishment this has been by **Melissa Zaini, Innisfail Lioness Club, Innisfail Lions Club, Innisfail Rotary Club** and the **Council** for our local community.

I was honoured to be able to contribute to the beautiful Angel



that overlooks the space, both as a local MP and also as Patron of Sands Queensland.

I am sure it will be a special place that local parents and families can come, knowing their angels will forever be with other little ones taken much too soon.

Turtle Rehabilitation



Congratulations to the **Mandubarra Aboriginal Land and Sea Inc** who received \$26,500 from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund to purchase a boat and trailer to assist with their turtle rehabilitation at Coquette Point. The **Innisfail PCYC** also successfully secured \$9,614 to purchase new equipment for the centre.

Mirriwinni State School Centenary

Mirriwinni State School may be humble, but it is one of the great institutions from the pioneer days of the Far North. I was thrilled to be the guest speaker at the school's historic grounds to celebrate its centenary in October and celebrate the cornerstone of a community that truly values quality education and civic involvement.

Our Plan for Far North Queensland

Grow your
business

WITH A

**\$20,000
YOUTH
BOOST**

Hire a young jobseeker by 28 February

For every 15 – 24 year old jobseeker you hire between 1 December 2016 and 28 February 2017, the Queensland Government will double the existing \$10,000 Back to Work payment. Find out more at qld.gov.au/backtowork, or call 13QGOV (137468).



How you can keep in touch

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Drop into my office at Gordonvale to collect your free Queensland Recreational Boating and Fishing Guide.

Far North Budget Highlights

The Palaszczuk Government is delivering for the Far North with initiatives such as:



\$15 million towards the Cairns Performing Arts Centre



\$10 million will be provided to JCU for the Cairns Innovation Centre



\$7.1 million in 2016-17 for the roof replacement and repair of the façade and structural building elements of the Cairns Convention Centre



\$19.3 million in 2016-17 to complete construction of the new Cairns Special School



\$34.2 million for the highly anticipated duplication of Bill Fulton Bridge on the Cairns Western Arterial Road



Good Money shops in Cairns – in partnership with Good Shepherd and NAB



12 month boost to the Queensland First Home Owner's Grant from \$15,000 to \$20,000 to help young Queenslanders achieve the dream of owning their new first home sooner



\$198.2 million over five years to reducing the devastating effects of domestic and family violence



Doubled the payroll tax rebate for apprentices and trainees from 25% to 50%

Does your organisation need new flags?

In May I presented the school captains and primary leaders at Djarragun College with an Australian Flag, Aboriginal Flag, Torres Strait Flag and Queensland Flag. If your organisation needs new flags, you can contact my Mulgrave Electorate Office at Gordonvale.



Putting the Far North First.