

November 2017

Curtis Pitt MP

Treasurer & State Member for Mulgrave

www.curtispitt.com.au

Mulgrave Matters

Gordonvale: A safer community for all



Construction of the new **\$4.5M Gordonvale Police Station** has now commenced and will be home to our existing police, and perhaps



some of the additional **47 officers announced for the Far North.**

The location has been chosen by the Queensland Police Service as the

best operational location to not only service the Gordonvale community, but also the emerging community of Mount Peter.

The project should **employ around 100 people** over the life of the build and at least 10 percent of the work hours completed on the project must be completed by local Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander workers and apprentices.

The new station is expected to be **completed by June 2018.**

Southern corridor road network expanding

In August I attended the official commissioning of the **\$58 million Bruce Highway upgrade between Foster and Robert Roads**, which was finished several months ahead of schedule.

The upgrade from four to six lanes was a joint state-federal project which has improved safety and greatly reduced peak hour congestion south of Cairns. The Palaszczuk Government has demonstrated our commitment to improving safety and traffic flow along the Bruce Highway and I'm pleased to report **an average of 147 direct jobs were created over the life of this project.** These works form part of the 10-year, \$8.5 billion Bruce Highway Upgrade Program, which is jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland governments. My next

Bruce Highway priority is to ensure the Federal Government maintains its commitment to the duplication of the highway between Edmonton to Gordonvale so that the Department of Transport and Main Roads can commence construction once planning is complete.

In other Bruce Highway news, \$7.5 million in 2017-18 will continue a **\$31.8 million program of widening various sections of the highway between Innisfail and Cairns.**



Message from our Premier



"I know there is nothing more important for Queenslanders than the dignity of work. That's why creating new local jobs is at the heart of everything my government does.

As Treasurer of Queensland, Curtis is a key member of my leadership team.

As a local MP, he's getting the job done and delivering real results for FNQ."

Annastacia Palaszczuk MP
Premier of Queensland

Putting the Far North First.



Mulgrave Matters



Local Boat Ramp Upgrades

This year I was thrilled to see works completed under the Palaszczuk Government's **\$30 million Marine Infrastructure Fund**. The very popular single lane ramp at Packers Camp had a major overhaul and boasts a new all-tide four lane boat ramp with a floating walkway. The new floating walkway down the centre of the ramp greatly improves safety and accessibility by allowing for faster and improved boat launching

and retrieval operations and better access.

Local contractor Pensar Building Pty Ltd completed the \$1.35 million upgrade ahead of schedule. Works to widen the facilities at the **Bellenden Kerr** boat ramp were also complete with works continuing on other local boat ramps including the **Edmonton Boat Ramp** and a \$1.3 million upgrade of the **Fearnley Street boat ramp** at Portsmith.

Cairns South Health

People will remember when **Cairns Hospital was evacuated** during Yasi and makeshift arrangements were put in place to cope. I recently inspected the Edmonton site where the Palaszczuk Government is investing \$25 million in the **Cairns Southern Corridor Health Facility project**, which will have an emergency operating theatre and be able to deliver **critical care, emergency medical treatment and birthing services during natural disasters**. The draft plans incorporate the **much-loved raintrees** in the design and will also include a **helipad** to ensure emergency helicopter access.



Getting Active in Mulgrave

There are plenty of opportunities for people in the Mulgrave electorate to get active and participate in a whole range of sporting activities.

The Queensland Government recognises that participation in sport and other recreational pursuits has **long-lasting health and wellbeing benefits** and that is why we are committing **more than \$2 million to sporting infrastructure and structured sport and recreation activities** in the Mulgrave electorate.

These commitments include the construction of rectangular football fields and a multipurpose amenities building at **Walker Road**



at Edmonton, upgraded lighting at **Leichhardt Soccer's White Rock home ground**, undercover nets for **Mulgrave Cricket**, nearly \$100,000 to upgrade the **Cairns Speedway**

track surface at Edmonton, a new amenities block for **Gordonvale Pony Club** and new range baffles, a fence and block dividing wall for **Cairns Target Shooting Club**.

Mulgrave Matters

Yellow Crazy Ants



Visiting the Yellow Crazy Ant team who has now successfully treated over 1,000 hectares.

Fire Station

Construction of Gordonvale's new **\$3.5 million** fire and rescue station is near completion and is soon due to open its doors. Its location near the roundabout on Riverstone Road will ensure our fire and rescue service can respond rapidly to vehicle crashes on the Bruce Highway and Gillies Range Road, and also provide **better services to Goldsborough and Little Mulgrave residents.**

I'd like to see the old fire station building in Gordonvale be used by community groups so it can continue to serve the people of Gordonvale.



Affordable Energy Plan

Electricity Savings for Regional QLDers
by paying via weekly/fortnightly/monthly billing

<p>\$75/ year</p> <p>savings for Regional Household Customers</p>	<p>\$120/ year</p> <p>savings for Regional Small Businesses</p>
<p>+ \$50/ year = \$125 total savings!</p> <p>Asset Ownership Dividend</p>	

Visit ergon.com.au/retail/residential to find out more.

We're committed to affordable electricity

Government ownership of energy businesses means we can **intervene to lower price rises** – something that is not possible in other states or territories who've privatised electricity. A government direction under our **Powering Queensland Plan** announced in June saw an immediate **lowering of wholesale electricity prices** and we also **reinvested \$770 million of power company earnings to cut an expected price rise from 7.1% to 3.3%** – lower than any other mainland State in the National

Energy efficient appliances rebate

<p>\$200</p> <p>rebate for an energy-efficient washing machine</p>	<p>\$300</p> <p>rebate for an energy-efficient air-conditioner</p>	<p>\$250</p> <p>rebate for an energy-efficient fridge</p>
---	---	--

We're committed to affordable electricity

Electricity Market (some saw prices rises of up to 20%). On top of this, our **\$300 million Affordable Energy Plan** will ensure typical Queensland households and small businesses **will see no increase in their power bills above average inflation over the next two years** (a far cry from 43% increases last term). Our expanded **Energy Savvy Families program** could help **save up to \$200** per year. And from March 2018, you could **save up to \$700** per year with **No-Interest Loans** available for people who take up solar and battery technologies.



Putting the Far North First.

3

Education in Mulgrave

Gordonvale State High received **\$376,000** to demolish the old tuckshop and construct new outdoor covered shade area.



On 20 October I turned the first sod for **Gordonvale State High School's** new **\$4.5 million multi-purpose hall**.

Local construction company Bryant Queensland have now commenced work on the complex which will include changing rooms, an audio-visual room, kitchen and servery area, a sprung-floor basketball court, new staff room and large Kinesiology Lab which P.E students will use for their studies.

Work will also soon commence on **Bentley Park College's \$1.5 million hall** expansion. Their upgrade includes two new covered netball courts, a Kinesiology Lab, new kiosk and a covered entrance.

These new halls are just two of many projects being delivered under the **\$200 million Advancing Queensland Schools** program.



Curtis and Principal Peter Krugle inspecting plans for Bentley Park College Hall upgrade.

It was a pleasure to attend the **St Michael's School** parade and see how much effort everyone put in to support Hear and Say's Loud Shirt Day. I was pleased to make a \$500 donation to this great cause. I also presented new Australian, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags to the school.



The Palaszczuk Government knows our children are our most precious asset and they deserve the best education possible.

Across Queensland, an additional **3,095 teachers and teacher aides** have been employed since March 2015 to help our school children grow and learn. The 2017-18 Budget will add another **230 more teachers** in 2018 and 2019 to ensure that Queensland's first Prep Year students from 2007 are not disadvantaged in subject choices as they complete their senior phase of schooling.



Earlier this year installation of **Woree State School's** new security fencing was completed.

The school was also successful in receiving a **\$124,584** contribution towards upgrading their classrooms. The project was part of the 2017-18 round of the Smart Schools Subsidy Scheme valued at more than **\$4.9 million**.

We know that quality learning environments support quality teaching and learning. That's why we are committed to looking after state schools for our students and teachers in Woree.

In April I was pleased to advise **Cairns Adventist College** would receive **\$130,323** towards their project for roadworks including improved pick up and setdown area and **\$77,521** to construct a footpath on Highleigh/Crossland Road including a road crossing, culvert extension, signage and linemarking.



Out and about in Mulgrave

Cairns South State Development Area (SDA)



Last month I signed a Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the Government with MSF Sugar, which sets out a balance between supporting the future industrial development of the region, while ensuring the long term protection of suitable land for sugar cane production.

The Queensland Government **has consulted and listened to feedback**

and we have now developed an alternative proposal that, through a range of initiatives, meets the needs of one of the biggest stakeholders and delivers the industrial land needed for the future of Cairns.

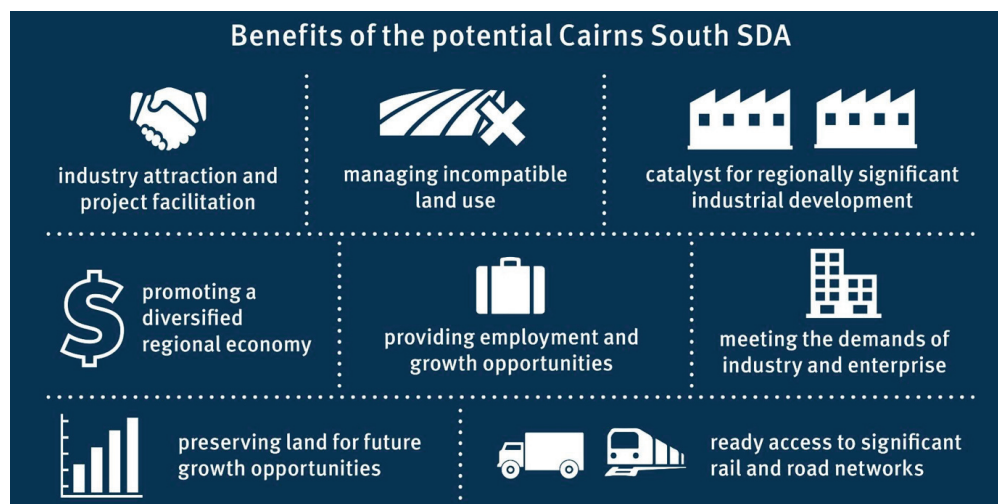
SDAs are about supporting industry and this **new proposal is recognition of the importance of the sugar cane industry** to employment and the Far North Economy.

In essence, we're talking about an 'industrial' SDA and an 'agricultural' SDA that together **provide certainty for the future of the Mulgrave Mill** and would allow more people the opportunity to work closer to where they live.

This, in addition to some of the land included in the existing proposed

Cairns South SDA, would address the predicted future shortage of industrial land supply in the region, while **achieving our goal of no net loss of cane land** that is suitable for sugar production.

The agreement complements MSF Sugar's future plans which include **\$150 million worth of planned investment at the Gordonvale site, including a cogeneration facility** (a green energy power station) and a biorefinery.



Gordonvale Men's Shed



Earlier this year I was pleased to donate some irrigation and seedling pots to the shed to allow them to propagate plants to use for fundraising. The men are at the shed between 8am and midday every Monday to Wednesday or drop in and see the fellas for a cuppa at 10am. You will find them at 18-20 Highleigh Road, Gordonvale.

It was an honour to celebrate SES week and recognise the dedicated members and groups from the Far Northern Region SES who have excelled in service to our community.

There were four members recognised for 40 years of services including Gordonvale's John Gaiardo and Dulcie Schnitzerling from Babinda, with Edmonton SES members Craig Mann-Jones and Daryl Jones also receiving awards.

Mulgrave Matters

Jilara Oval



For those of you not living in Yarrabah, if you haven't been before I encourage you to go for a visit to see what a friendly and beautiful community it is.

The Yarrabah Art Centre, which will receive **\$50,000** this year to create pathways for artists and showcase their work on the world stage, is a must see for displays of work by Yarrabah's outstanding artists and the Menmyny Museum offers a fascinating look into Yarrabah's history.

Pay a visit also to the old Yarrabah cemetery on the foreshore, which the boys from the Yarrabah Men's Shed have worked hard to restore. And during footy season, go and watch the talented Yarrabah Seahawks, this years reigning premiers play at the upgraded Jilara Oval. Funded by the Queensland Government, the **\$67,277** upgrade has helped out with expansion and fitout of the existing canteen and replacing cubicles in the change rooms.

Community Service Award



While at the Great Pyramid Race & Country Fair I had the pleasure of presenting a Community Service Award to Mr Tom Watters. Tom received the award for his longstanding work within the farming community and also his work as a member of the Gordonvale and Aloomba SES and Crossland Road Rural Fire Board. Tom is a leader in the region in land management, helping to establish the Russell-Mulgrave Landcare Group in the 1990s, an organisation he is still involved with today. Throughout his involvement with Landcare and as an advocate for best practice environmental management, Tom has worked to revegetate waterways and restore important riparian corridors to help protect and preserve native wildlife.

Yarrabah Highlights

As a growing community, housing in Yarrabah has been under pressure as it struggles to cater for increased demand. The 2017-18 State Budget commits **\$5.7 million** for much-needed new housing, and an additional **\$858,000** will ensure the completion of new houses already underway. Social housing will also be improved, with **\$2.1 million** going

towards maintenance and upgrades to properties.

Nearly **\$670,000** in 2017-18 will help with upgrade works to Yarrabah's sewerage pump stations and develop the first stage of a water transfer station. Funded under the Building our Regions program, this much needed work will ensure the Yarrabah community has the infrastructure it needs to support its growth now and into the future.

Gillies Highway Speed Reduction



My office worked with local residents to have the speed limit reduced on part of the Gillies Range Road at Little Mulgrave. Traffic accessing the highway from Appaloosa Street, the Mountain View Hotel, Roos Road and Little Mulgrave Road have limited visibility and previously had to merge with traffic travelling 100km/hr. After tabling a petition in parliament the Department of Transport and Main Roads have now reduced the limit to 80km/hr along this stretch of road.

Mulgrave Matters

Driving growth in Regional Tourism



A **\$176 million expansion** of the **Cairns Convention Centre** will be a major economic driver for Cairns and the broader region. Conferences and events contribute more than \$80 million to our economy every year. The expanded Convention Centre will double the amount of space available to 3,000 square metres and leave no doubt that Cairns is Australia's tropical capital and one of the world's

best destinations for conferences and events.

There will be immediate employment opportunities in construction when work starts on this project and it will provide ongoing direct and indirect employment opportunities long into the future. The new exhibition space will add around \$30 million additional economic benefit to the region each year.

The Cairns Shipping Development Project has moved to a new stage in its development, with the Coordinator General now assessing the revised draft Economic Impact Statement alongside submissions received during the public consultation phase

in July and August. Cruise shipping already generates tens of millions of dollars for our local economy however attracting even bigger cruise ships will mean another \$112 million will be pumped into Cairns each year. As Queensland's Treasurer, I am confident this project will deliver immeasurable benefits to Cairns and that is why I committed **\$60 million over two years** from 2018-19 towards this \$120 million development, which is expected to generate nearly \$850 million in benefits to the region while creating up to **800** new and indirect construction jobs over the five year period and **2,700 jobs** after the construction phase.

More flights means more tourists

Improved aviation access is critical to the ongoing growth of visitor numbers and that is why we established the **\$33.5 million Attracting Aviation Investment Fund**, which has already attracted new services or extra flights to Cairns.

In June, I announced our landmark deal with China Southern Airlines to operate three flights a week direct from Guangzhou to Cairns, a deal set to pump **\$90 million** into Tropical North Queensland.

These will be the first ever year round flights into Cairns by a Chinese airline and are expected to bring more than 33,000 visitors to our shores each year. The first flights are expected to land in Cairns in December. Tourism activity in Tropical North Queensland now generates around \$4.7 billion in total tourism output.

Plastic Bag Ban and Container Refund Scheme

Queenslanders can look forward to cleaner parks, beaches and public areas as the state now has a container refund scheme and a ban on plastic shopping bags ready to start next year. These two initiatives are part of Labor's overall plastic pollution reduction plan for Queensland.

The lightweight single-use plastic shopping bag ban commences on 1 July 2018. The ban stops retailers from supplying a lightweight single-use plastic shopping bag, including a biodegradable plastic shopping bag, to consumers to carry their goods in.

The container refund scheme also commences on 1 July 2018. Individuals and community organisations will be able to take empty beverage containers to a container refund point to receive a 10 cent refund.



The Container Refund Scheme will

*reduce litter
create business opportunities
protect wildlife*

Starts 1 July 2018

 **Queensland Government**

Far North Queensland Economy

FNQ unemployment the lowest in 9 years

9,000

JOBS CREATED IN CAIRNS IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS

Source: ABS Labour Force, September 2017



Far North Budget Highlights

A total spend in 2017-18 of **\$819.2 million** for productivity enhancing infrastructure and capital works in Far North Queensland

- ✓ **\$176 million** to expand the Cairns Convention Centre
- ✓ **\$175 million** over five years as part of the Palaszczuk Government's plan to protect the Great Barrier Reef
- ✓ **\$60 million** for the \$120 million Cairns Shipping Development Project
- ✓ **\$53 million** for Works for Queensland to support local governments in Far North Queensland
- ✓ **\$49.8 million** for maintenance and capital works projects for schools in Far North Queensland
- ✓ **\$5.6 million** to construct new police operational facilities in Cairns

Frontline services already delivered for FNQ


314
extra
nurses
Up **14.3%**

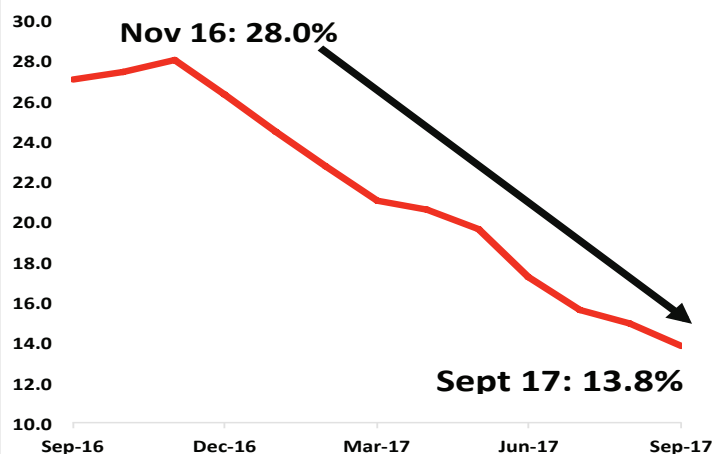

99
extra
doctors
Up **20.8%**


135
extra
teachers
Up **3.6%**

Source – Queensland Budget 2017-2018, FNQ Regional Action Plan

Cairns SA4 12 month average regional youth unemployment rate (%)

Source: 6202.0 Labour Force (Detailed), Australia Sept 2017



The unemployment rate for the Cairns region has fallen to **5.6%** - the lowest unemployment rate for Cairns for nearly 9 years. The last time our region's unemployment rate was lower was December 2008. And the **youth unemployment rate** for the Cairns Region has more than halved from 28% to **13.8%** in the last 10 months. The last time the youth unemployment rate was lower was in May 2013.




How you can keep in touch


94-96 Norman Street
PO Box 314
GORDONVALE QLD 4865

Phone: (07) 4237 1100
Fax: (07) 4237 1109

Web: www.curtispitt.com.au

Email: mulgrave@parliament.qld.gov.au

 /CurtisPittMP

 @Curtis_Pitt_MP



Putting the Far North First.