



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## Safer access to historical Maytown goldfields

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COOKTOWN

Historic machinery from North Queensland's biggest gold rush is now more accessible to tourists visiting the Palmer Goldfield Resource Reserve.

Cook Shire Mayor Peter Scott said council last month graded and widened the Maytown Road to make it more accessible and safer to use. "The last time a road was built into Maytown, the gold rush was on," Cr Scott said. "This road was previously a goat track, but with the hard work of local contractors it's now seven metres wide."

The \$80,000 project was funded by the Queensland Government's Works for Queensland program. Local Government Minister Stirling Hinchliffe said Works For Queensland had a great track record of kickstarting jobs and investment in Far North Queensland, with Cook Shire Council benefiting from \$7.25 million over three rounds of the program. "The Palaszczuk Government will continue to work with Cook Shire Council to deliver new infrastructure that supports employment in the local community," he said.

Western Yalanji Traditional Owners carried out cultural clearance prior to works starting and Traditional Owners were onsite during works as cultural monitors. "The positive working relationship Council has with the Western Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service was invaluable, and the outcome will benefit visitors and residents for years to come," Cr Scott said.

Western Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation Chief Executive Officer Brad Grogan said the upgrade increased traditional owners' access to country. "It was a pleasure to work in conjunction with Cook Shire Council and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services," Mr Grogan said.

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