

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Charlotte Street path ahead of schedule

October 8, 2019

COOKTOWN

The first stage of a new shared pathway on Charlotte Street has been completed ahead of schedule, with the path expected to be open for use in early 2020.

Member for Cook Cynthia Lui said the jointly funded path, from the Cooktown Cemetery to the Racecourse Road intersection, included a 23m long, 4m wide bridge, installed on Thursday, October 3. "We know that, on average, every dollar we invest in bike-riding infrastructure will return nearly five dollars in economic benefit to Queenslanders with improved health outcomes, reduced traffic congestion and lower transport costs," Ms Lui said. "That's why we're investing more than \$15.5 million in funding to local governments to deliver new high-priority bike networks over the next two years. I'm pleased to see regional councils like Cook Shire joining our commitment to delivery safer facilities for our bike riders."

The composite fibre bridge was supplied by Queensland company Wagners, and trucked to Cooktown before being lowered onto footings laid by Council's bridge crew. "The bridge turned quite a few heads on its way up due to the size," Cook Shire Council Infrastructure Director David Klye said. "Although the path construction isn't scheduled until January, we had an opportunity to install the bridge ahead of schedule during ideal weather."

The composite fibre construction meant the bridge had a long life expectancy and significantly reduced maintenance, Mr Klye said. "The bridge and associated shared path will significantly improve pedestrian and cycle safety on one of the major access roads into Cooktown," he said. The project will provide a link from the existing Charlotte Street path to the cemetery and racecourse, safe crossing over Two Mile Creek and a safe pedestrian crossing point on Charlotte Street at the Racecourse Road intersection. Construction will include major earthworks and drainage to achieve a suitable gradient for the 3m wide path.

The project budget is \$900,000, with 50 per cent funded by the Department of Transport and Main Road's Cycle Network Local Government Grants Program, and the remainder by Cook Shire Council.

For more information contact Council's Engineering Manager via email at mail@cook.qld.gov.au or phone on 4082 0500.