

# PROTECTING OUR FOSSICKING FUTURE

KEEPING TOURISM STRONG AND COMMUNITY IDENTITY ALIVE

Fossicking and recreational gold prospecting are part of Clermont's story. Visitors come here to explore the landscape, learn history and be part of something that feels genuine and grounded. Many return every year. They stay in our parks and accommodation, support local cafes and businesses and take part in community life. The activity brings people together and keeps our town vibrant.

This is more than tourism. It is part of who we are. It supports our local economy and strengthens our sense of place.

Recent changes under the *Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act 2014* have created uncertainty about access to some fossicking areas. While the intent was to clarify responsibilities, the result has been confusion for visitors and concern among local businesses and community groups. Some people are unsure whether they can fossick in the same areas they have used for generations. This uncertainty matters.

## ↓ WHY IT MATTERS?

Fossicking contributes to local jobs and helps sustain family businesses. It encourages visitors to stay longer and return year after year. It supports community groups, local events and small enterprises.

When visitors are unsure whether they can fossick or access land, they often cancel their trips. If this continues, it reduces visitor numbers and affects the wider community. This is not only about fossicking rights. It affects the strength and future of the town.

Maintaining reliable and easy access to known fossicking areas helps keep Clermont liveable, welcoming and economically stable.

## ↓ OUR POSITION

We support a practical approach that recognises both the value of mining and the value of fossicking tourism. Both can exist together when access is

communicated clearly and fairly. Decisions affecting community identity and economic wellbeing should be shaped with the people who live and work here.

Clermont should remain a place where visitors feel welcome and locals feel proud.

## ➔ WHAT WE'RE ADVOCATING FOR

We are calling on the Queensland Government to work with Clermont to provide:

1. **Clear and consistent access arrangements** for existing fossicking zones under the *Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act 2014*.
2. **Protection of known fossicking areas** so local families and visitors can continue to use them with confidence.
3. **Simple and reliable public information** about where fossicking is permitted, so planning a trip is easy.
4. **A balanced approach** that supports both the regional resource industry and the community-led tourism economy.

This is about clarity. It is about fairness. It is about safeguarding what makes Clermont unique.

## ↓ WORKING TOGETHER

Council, community volunteers, small businesses and industry are committed to finding a practical path forward. Clermont's identity has always been shaped by people who work hard and look after each other. With cooperation and clear communication, fossicking can continue to be part of our future.

Clermont is ready to work with the Queensland Government to confirm a long-term solution that keeps visitors coming, strengthens local business and protects the community identity that makes this place home.