

Mossman Mill Will Buy Line

The Minister for Public Works and Local Government (Mr. L. H. S. Roberts) announced on Monday that Cabinet had approved the preparation of a bill authorising the Douglas Shire Council to sell its tramway undertaking to Mossman Central Mill Company Limited.

Mr. Roberts stated that the tramway had been constructed some 60 years ago and, in the early days of the Mossman district, was used to convey passengers and goods from Mossman to Port Douglas which was the then only outlet for the district.

Subsequent to the opening of the Cook Highway in 1936, restricted to the haulage of the use of the tramway was sugar cane to Mossman Central Mill, and the transport of bagged sugar to the wharf at Port Douglas for shipment.

Consequent on the decision in 1958 to use road transport for the transport of sugar to Cairns, the tramway was now solely used for the haulage of cane to the mill.

In view of the remaining limited use of the tramway it was obvious that it should be operated by the Mossman Central Mill Company Ltd. which, itself, operated a tramway in the locality.

Mr. Roberts stated that on a number of occasions prior to 1958, the company had negotiated with the council for the purchase of the undertaking but such negotiations had proved abortive.

Following on a decision of Cabinet in June, 1958, representatives of the council and the company met in conference under the chairmanship of the Director of Northern Development (Mr. W. Hansen) and an agreement had now been signed by the parties covering the sale of the tramway by the council to the company.

The bill provided legislative authority for the sale of the tramway by the council.