



**RECTANGULAR STADIUM**  
**Subject Mentions and sample**  
**comments**

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## Overview

Total mentions - 3923

Total mentions for stadium - 2661

Total mentions opposing stadium - 1262

Business case	395	Barlow no longer suitable	78
Money better spent elsewhere	389	Not interested	73
Tourism	321	Good for the region	60
Not needed	287	Cairns vs Townsville	60
Improved audience experience	210	Improve existing facilities	57
Community infrastructure	174	Youth	49
Community	131	Economy	43
Sport events	129	Existing facilities are not enough	42
Local sport	127	Attract elite clubs	33
Lifestyle	125	Growth	33
Cost	123	Promote the region	29
Jobs	114	Training hub	15
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## EVENTS

**Sport events:** there were **1299 mentions** (33% of all mentions) that the stadium was needed to attract more high-calibre sporting events, predominantly rugby codes and then soccer, although many mentioned a multi-purpose stadium would be preferable.

*As a family we love sports. Particularly league, my son is so sporty I would love him to be able watch NRL and soccer games*

*There appears to be a need for visiting teams to come and play here*

*A region the size of Cairns should have a stadium capable of hosting major sporting matches.*

*Cairns has the infrastructure to hold major events but we don't have a proper stadium. We would benefit from having a world class stadium.*

*Need bigger facilities to attract large sporting events to the region. Can be used for other purposes eg concerts.*

*To encourage all forms of sport and to provide a venue for professional competition.*

*We need to bring more big tickets events here to Cairns.*

*Improve chances of larger Sport events visiting Cairns*

*A stadium of any shape will be an improvement. It will allow us to participate in national and international events*

*Would like to see more international, high standard and major games being brought to Cairns and help promote the city.*

*Any sporting venue that will attract more big events to Cairns is a good idea*

*Because Rugby League is possibly the most popular sport in Far North QLD yet we have the most horrific stadium. I attended this year's Cowboys game and left during half time to watch the second half at home. It was a joke!*

*I am not a lover of rugby, but Cairns in general is. We must attract national and international events to Cairns.*

**Other events:** **256 mentions** related to attracting events in general, with most relating to entertainment events such as concerts.

*Would be good for the introduction of larger games, modern facilities, bigger crowds and even large concerts and festivals too!*

*I support anything that attraction big sporting/entertainment to Cairns. I'm sick of having to fly south to be entertained*

*It would be good to get more live events in Cairns including music*

*We need more outdoor concerts of live music, bring back the music*

**Local sport: 127 mentions** related to the facility being good for local sporting teams

*To grow sport participation and spectators.*

*To attract more travellers to the area and for its provision to local residents.*

*We produce great athletes in the Cairns region and need to continue this.*

*To attract more residents to play sport and to enjoy watching sport*

*Better facilities for local sporting teams and the attraction of teams from other towns/states promotes Cairns .*

*Cairns is now big enough to support big events, and also big enough to start showcasing our own talent*

*This would be a major draw card for interstate and international visitors and a great facility for locals*

## **BETTER FACILITIES**

**Improved audience experience: 210 mentions** were expressly about the set-up of Barlow Park negatively impacting on the audience experience. This was predominantly related to the audience being removed from the action due to the athletics track, but people also mentioned having to sit on the ground, lack of toilets and parking.

*Barlow Park is great for athletics but horrible for watching League Union or Soccer. Supporters of these codes deserve better than sitting half a mile away from the action.*

*After going to a Northern Pride game at Barlow Park and this being our best general stadium I found it quite lacking. I was also surprised as how many times it has been extended or renovated yet found it lacking. Lacking seating, suitable seating and needs to be more accommodating for people with mobility issues. By suitable seating I think it in this day and age where more people are obese there needs to be seating available which is bench style seating or wider seats. I don't see a problem for people needing this to be charged extra but I do think it is something that needs to be accommodated*

*It is great for the community. Major sporting teams can compete with a proper field. Even though Barlow Park is a great stadium, when having a running track on the outside it takes away from the atmosphere of a game when so far away.*

*Because I hate sitting on the ground as I have arthritis, and many people got turned away from the Cowboys game at Barlow Park*

*I love sport, was a season ticket holder for the pride and heat, the last couple of seasons I haven't been, because of the running track, either get serious or get out*

*Barlow park is not only disadvantaged by running track, general visibility and comfort is poor.*

*As a follower of rugby league and union, I would go to Barlow park more often if I knew I could see the game and not get wet.*

*100% better viewing experience and I would pay more for a seat*

*Cairns needs a dedicated stadium for sports events that has maximum crowd interaction and then public will support and attend sporting events. Current stadium is useless with no vibe or atmosphere for patrons. Boring venues = poor attendance*

*Because I think it's a great pity that the southern game of AFL has better facilities than the QLD game of league. Barlow park is too small for proper games.*

*Because Rugby League is possibly the most popular sport in Far North QLD yet we have the most horrific stadium. I attended this year's Cowboys game and left during half time to watch the second half at home. It was a joke!*

**Community infrastructure: 174 mentions** were that Cairns needed/deserved this level of infrastructure would meet community expectations

*Our weather is perfect for these venues...cannot understand why they are not already in place.*

*We need more venues, to get people in jobs or more industries*

*Any civic facilities such as this are of great benefit to a city and its residents, for so many reasons.*

*Provide extra sporting facilities for the town but doesn't mean we should lose Barlow Park in the process as those facilities are still needed.*

*We need to plan for the future now. Past councils have made band aid improvements which are torn down only a few years later. We need to build permanent infrastructure for the future of Cairns. We need to have a dedicated sports area close to the city so that local business are supported.*

*I don't care what shape it is. Upgraded sports facilities are good for the community.*

*We need to have a variety of sporting arenas in Cairns*

*any community infrastructure which can increase revenue & larger scale events for the city would be a plus*

*We do not have one and it is a major mini economy generator*

**Barlow no longer suitable: 78 mentions** specifically stated that Barlow Bark was not a suitable venue for "rectangular" sports.

*Barlow Park not adequate for a city of this size, attract more higher profile sporting events*

*Cairns is in desperate need of a decent sporting facility. Barlow Park is not good enough.*

*It's definitely needed, Barlow park is outdated now*

*Barlow Park is inadequate. A proper stadium would see us getting crowds of 18K-20K for NRL matches. Also, Super Rugby and A League games will bring matches here. Between the 3 codes we could get up to 6 elite games per year, which will be wonderful for the economy*

*Barlow Park is very ordinary and I think more matches of various types would use it*

*Barlow park is a joke and we need to have something to work with sports of all types and music shows plus more.*

*Barlow park just doesn't cut it as a football stadium! Building a new one would bring more game*

*Barlow Park is not up to modern day standard*

*Because the one we have isn't up to scratch due to the athletics track. We'd hopeful get more national/international sport if we had one.*

**Improve existing facilities: 57 mentions** that the City's sporting needs could be meet by improving existing facilities, in particular moving the athletics track at Barlow and reconfiguring the facility.

*would rather see the extending of Barlow park then build a new stadium*

*I think just redo the grounds for the pride so than they have a better stadium ad it can be used for other things*

*Do we really need another sporting field in cairns? Perhaps upgrade existing run down ones*

*For the use it would get upgrade existing facilities and continue to spend money on other local infrastructure.*

*because we already have a good oval in Cazalys stadium that can host all sports, why not upgrade it and make it even better!*

*because we have Barlow park atm, why don't council use the money and other means to redevelop barlow park into a much better facility*

*Cost, poor use of current facilities, i would not be opposed to an upgrade of current facilities*

*Don't think it's necessary. Barlow Park can be upgraded. Demolish existing grandstand. Rebuild closer to track on steeper angle and higher. Leave hill on other side. Keep using portable grandstand as additional seating when there are big events.*

*Cairns has sufficient sporting facilities, that have also been recently upgraded. The Cairns Showgrounds should be upgraded. Thereby offering a venue for a more varied community interests.*

*The region has a number of sporting venues that are serviceable or may be renovated. I consider the spending limited public funds that benefit a minority at the expense of other necessary infrastructure projects and services to be irresponsible.*

*As far as I can tell, we don't fill the stadiums we have for sports games, so this will be a waste of time, money and resources. We should instead concentrate on increasing people to the current games, or fixing the current stadiums, before we invest more money into something unnecessary.*

**Existing facilities are not enough: 42 mentions** were that the City's existing facilities were no longer sufficient for the community need

*Because we haven't got one at all.*

*Existing facilities poor. Would encourage more events and bring money into the town.*

*We don't have one. Needs to be in a suitable location though for good access. As long as it doesn't negatively affect current town infrastructure*

*We are a backwater without the facility to host the most popular sports code around.*

*The current one is totally inadequate. I would attend a game if I new it would be well organised and a good experience.*

*We have calvalys and barlow park but neither are very good for soccer or rugby*

*To improve all types of sporting facilities and wellbeing of the community. Some major Sport events can be held in Cairns and which will attract diverse economic growth.*

*Cairns needs a quality, versatile venue to attract top class sporting and other events. Barlow park is too small. Cairns lags behind other cities without such a facility.*

*Cairns needs more sporting facilities to accommodate more activities and entertainment for the community.*

*We have calvalys and barlow park but neither are very good for soccer or rugby*

## ECONOMIC

**Economy:** there were **438 mentions** that hosting elite level sporting events would have a positive impact on the local economy.

*More sporting events for Cairns means stimulation to the Cairns and surrounding economies.*

*It'd be great for sports tourism and the economy. I can't see it having any negative impacts on the community.*

*Sporting events bring people and exposure to Cairns. Its an investment*

*More games for Cairns = more money for the region*

*To increase our standing as a sporting destination. Sports tourism. National teams playing*

*Cairns needs to step up. Bring more of the big games to Cairns. Good for businesses and the city as a whole.*

*Public entertainment and local tourism will be increasingly important in Australia; Cairns needs to be able to compete for all possible options.*

*These facilities attract major events which means more people will travel here and spend their money here*

*It will provide much needed spending in our region in terms of construction jobs and also ongoing potential to hold larger sporting events*

*Gives Cairns another opportunity to promote itself to the rest of Australia and bring \$\$\$ into the city.*

*Bring crowd pleasing games to Cairns equals income*

*sport is a great money spinner for cairns*

*This would be a winner all round. More sport, less obesity, more money into the area with more participants and families coming to the area for competitions.*

*A city of this size would benefit greatly in terms of business generated from both attracting elite level sports but also from greater attendance at current fixtures. Also, "Build it and they will come"*

*Cairns needs to upgrade its facilities to compete with other cities to host events that will bring a boost to the local economy*

*Sporting events bring revenue to our city - there is a flow on effect to our local business'. It also provides a venue for family outings. Sporting identities can provide children with strong role models.*

*It will attract high profile sporting events to Cairns which will be good for the local economy. These sporting events are televised which is great advertising for the region.*

*We need more sports events coming to town to keep us alive. And prosper*

**Tourism: 321 mentions** refer to an increase in visitors or tourists to the region as a result of sporting and other events

*Cairns offers very very little in the form of entertainment and it is disappointing we are a tourist town with new customers coming all the time. Give people some entertainment and they may stay longer than just enough time to see the reef and rainforest.*

*I believe that a 1st class sporting stadium would be good for the region and would attract larger clubs to play in Cairns, generating more money for sports tourism.*

*Will it allow concerts to be held in Cairns also? Cairns needs to be put on the map for more than just the Great Barrier Reef and the Rainforest. We need to be recognised as a city that can host international Sport events, we've already proven this with Cairns Hockey hosting the Masters Hockey Tournament and some international pre-Olympic games, we now need to increase this presence and market as a venue that can provide the needs of your event but also allow you to relax following it with trips to the Great Barrier Reef etc.*

*Because Cairns is a fantastic city and the more large scale facilities we have, the opportunity we have to promote our city and encourage people to come here. This is a tourist town. If visitors come for a rugby match, they will likely stay a couple more days and go and see the reef etc while they are here. It's a win win in my eyes. Look at where Melbourne is now with it's sporting arena.*

*Cairns needs a stable source of traveller pull outside the traditional tourist avenues*

*I'm not a sport spectator however I do understand the marketing opportunities for a stadium of that size and anything that helps to promote visitor numbers and entertainment for locals I am in favour of.*

*It could boost tourism by people coming up for games and wanting to come back for holidays.*

*by providing a rectangular stadium, more diverse sports events could be held in cairns. these would bring more visitors to town and subsequently income for council, businesses and clubs.*

*We are a sporting region, we deserve to have nice things. Plus larger events drive up tourism. We are hosting three rugby league world cup games, imagine what it could be like with a proper large stadium*

**Jobs:** the prospect of employment during the construction (and ongoing operation) of a stadium was **mentioned 114 times**

*It would create jobs. Anything that creates jobs up here is a good thing.*

*Create ongoing work for locals, first in building, then in maintaining and also in running the events. Huge publicity and opportunities for Cairns to promote to all-over.*

*This will increase jobs & revenue to our small town*

*Cairns needs it. For jobs, for growth, and Barlow parks facilities are sub-standard*

*The prospect of more footy being brought to Cairns would bring jobs and help our economy and just the atmosphere is awesome for families and friends to enjoy*

*Because it will create much need construction jobs in Cairns*

*Would add another draw card to wonderful Cairns, thus supporting jobs and growth.*

**Growth: 33 mentions** were that the stadium would support growth of the city

*I think we are getting big enough to have one*

*More fun and to increase the population*

*Cairns is a fast growth area and a beautiful place to live or visit and should have facilities to accommodate larger events.*

*We need growth, and sports is a great way to do this. We may be a tourist town but lets do something for us not just the tourists for a change!*

*it's a rapidly growing city, if we don't think ahead now we're going to get caught out*

*Having a more appropriate sporting facility will encourage the growth of Cairns*

*The Cairns population continues to grow, and even if we cannot support a new stadium at this time, we will require one soon. Strategic planning is required. Collective community backing of a sporting team raises a sense of belonging and pride in one's home town.*

**Promote the region: 29 mentions** recognised that attracting better sporting fixtures would help raise the profile of Cairns.

*More advertising for the region and increase economy in building, maintenance and events.*

*Sporting activities bring positive national and international attention to our city.*

*Great for putting Cairns on the map for sport*

*Good for local economy and domestic reputation.*

*Better facilities for local sporting teams and the attraction of teams from other towns/states promotes Cairns.*

*Barlow Park is embarrassing as a sport stadium. All the events are lost to Townsville which disadvantages Cairns through lost income and national/international exposure of Cairns via the broadcasting of these events.*

**Diverse economy: 9 mentions** specifically said a stadium would help diversify the Cairns economy.

*We need the option of a different type of tourist, the reef can't be our only drawcard, eggs....baskets...etc.*

*Diversify income coming into Cairns apart from tourism*

*Cairns needs to focus than just tourism so this is one way to diversify. There are also a lot of sports enthusiasts in Cairns and this goes towards meeting their needs and interests.*

## **COST**

**Business case: 395 mentions** related to the business case for the stadium. These were predominantly from people not supporting the proposal who commented that:

- there would be insufficient usage to justify the cost;
- the construction cost should be shared or solely funded by other levels of government; or
- a commercial interest (sporting club) should be responsible for the ongoing costs of the facility.

*The feasibility study carried out in 2012 showed that it was not financially viable. As a ratepayer I do not wish to subsidise this project.*

*Very very expensive to build/maintain and we don't have a team up here in a top league to use it regularly. It would be a financial pit of money*

*It is not commercially viable and would be a constant drain on ratepayers; there is no team to anchor it and not likely to be according to the major codes; there are no big corporations in Cairns any longer who could support a team based at the stadium; stadiums lose money across Qld; we can barely support the Taipans and would not be able to support a Cairns-based team at a new stadium*

*Because you have no suitable sports teams, no prospect of getting any sports teams and if you did, they would be pursuing the construction of a stadium themselves. Stop wasting your time and money considering something which is entirely inappropriate for the public sector.*

*Because we don't get enough big games to support it, just another waste of money. Why would you even try to compete with Townsville.*

*There are sufficient grounds now for the above mentioned sports. It would be another waste of money on something that won't get enough use, or be used for things it wasn't built for. Plus I'm sick of rate hikes to pay for all this stuff!*

*Let the national sporting bodies pay for it.*

*Sporting clubs are rich enough to pay for their own stadiums*

*Seriously?? Will it ever make money - do we have the population - what team(s) will it host - will it be fully utilised - will it be nothing more than a white elephant*

*It is very large outlay without a correspondingly large benefit. My support would increase in line with the level of State or Federal funding. Otherwise it is too big an imposition on ratepayers.*

**Money better spent elsewhere:** 389 mentions were about the money being better spent on other priorities.

*The funds would be better spent elsewhere. How about some more jobs. Or low cost rental housing.*

*We really don't have the population to support something as expensive as this. Money would be better off spent in supplying more parking.*

*Money can be better spent on infrastructure that can be used regularly by everybody and not just at a selective time by a selective few.*

*Doesn't interest me. Would rather see money spent on keeping cairns looking clean and tidy.*

*Enough spent on sports facilities. spend it on industry, farmers, dairies, for jobs, money put food on tables &*

*Sport at the cost of public health initiatives, adequate entertainment venues, even household collections - not good for the general community, just a select group who are already catered to*

*With limited funds available for the general population it would be more prudent to spend the monies on infrastructure or major projects to drive jobs and growth. A sporting stadium which would principally benefit a geographical minority is not as important, especially as there already is one, than projects such as Aquis or any other large scale development (outside of housing) or which would benefit the amenities available for those on the Northern Beaches which pales into comparison to the central and southern counterparts*

*There are a lot of other projects in Cairns that would be more beneficial to this town and has there been a study as to how much this stadium would be utilised. Maybe more swimming pools with better sun protection.*

*Spent money on important things. Look at Mackay Stadium. It's costing tax payers millions when sponsor pulled out*

*Other socio-environmental issues more important eg arts, protecting wildlife in the city.*

**Not needed: 287 mentions** (22% of mentions opposing a stadium) were that it was “simply not needed”.

*We have one called Barlow Park - it was built as multi-purpose - could become a white elephant if football not played there - need to go outside the square and see how it can be adapted to suit all.*

*Cairns already has football grounds*

*I don't think it's needed, we already have plenty of sporting ovals that could be used*

*Enough stadiums in Cairns*

*Unnecessary and unimportant not a priority*

*Don't we already have stadiums here? How many do we need?!*

*I do not believe we need it and would not like to see it become like the tennis stadium, which I understand is under utilized.*

**Cost: 123 mentions** raised questions about the cost; and 83 said it was a waste of money.

*Cairns has already wasted too much money on junk that never gets used*

*Too much investment in professional sports*

*Waste of taxpayers money, the majority, for a small number of people*

*cairns is more of an AFL town than a NRL or Soccer town so it would be a waste of rate payers money*

*Waste of my RATE PAYER DOLLARS, TRY FIXING THE ROAD CONGESTION WHITIN THE REGION*

*just another coliseum ...*

*Cairns is too small to justify the expense.*

*Big expense for small return.*

*Very very expensive to build/maintain and we don't have a team up here in a top league to use it regularly. It would be a financial pit of money*

*there is not enough public support of the prosed sports to warrant the cost.*

*too expensive to operate, local clubs will not be able to afford to use it unless the Council gives it away in kind which will ultimately come back on the rate payer.*

*Because we have a facility like that in Cairns already! Cazalys stadium could be converted into a rectangular stadium for ALOT cheaper than building a new stadium that will rarely get used!*

**Priority: 83 mentions** were that while a stadium would be beneficial it wasn't an immediate priority.

*There are better priorities than a bloody stadium*

*Cairns is not always about sport. There are many other infrastructure projects that should be of a major priority specifically in relation to the high growth potential of the city.*

*It would be underutilised. How would it be funded? Council should have higher priorities for its money.*

*Low priority but needed eventually.*

*Perhaps not soon, but later in the future when there was enough money to build one but it would improve the local economy by bringing more visitors and create a great local spirit.*

## **ELITE SPORTING CITY**

**Elite clubs: 33 mentions** specifically referred to an improved facility being needed to secure an elite-level franchise for the city.

*Football could become a major part of our city. An A League team would be awesome. Especially if Aquis goes ahead and they support the bid*

*I would hope a quality stadium with adequate seating and cover would attract more NRL games and also support the push for a Cairns based team*

*Increased sporting tourism for Cairns, and to enable a progression of young talent onto the national stage with an elite level local team*

*It would enable local through to high level league/union soccer to be played and enable Cairns to develop these sports further and in time have permanent state/national level teams be based in Cairns. It will also build on Cairns being a sporting city*

**Training hub:** there were **15 mentions** about a rectangular stadium making Cairns more attractive as a training venue for elite athletes.

*Good for tourism: not just the games, but it can attract high level teams to train here, too.*

*Cairns is ideally placed to be a leader in tropical sports training and game play at an elite level.*

*Will bring more diverse sports to Cairns and training facility*

*We could continue the cities push to be a winter sunshine training base/sporting city and also attract more prominent football teams of all codes - good for locals and great for the economy.*

*Anything that can bring more tourism to Cairns is good. After what the AFL is now also implementing in the NT with training camps why should Cairns get a look in.*

## **COMMUNITY**

**Community:** 131 mentions were about sport helping to build a sense of community.

*Despite lots of small community events occurring regularly, it often feels like there's "nothing to do" in Cairns. Large scale events draw large crowds, media coverage and a bigger sense of community for a broader range of citizens*

*Sporting events are good for the community at many levels eg. health & wellbeing, community spirit, employment, etc.*

*I believe it would bring livelihood to the Cairns community and unite them (what better way to bring people of all walks of life together than sports) all the while creating more jobs.*

*Better sporting facilities mean better community participation leading to a healthier community.*

*Sport is International and brings all nationalities together*

*Cairns is a "stand alone" major regional city, we need events to bring the community together entertainment and a change to bring a community spirit together.*

**Lifestyle:** 125 mentions were about sporting infrastructure encouraging a healthy lifestyle, or family togetherness.

*Anything that encourages people to get outdoors and enjoy sport should happen*

*Health is very important so anything that promotes health is important, plus It might bring top billing teams to the area*

*Sport is important to get people out of the house.*

*Sport is encouraged and it is how we can curb obesity and encourage tourism and create stronger business*

**Youth:** 49 mentions were about the positive influence sport has on youth.

*Sport brings community together and inspires youth, helping them to pursue gainful activities*

*Young people need positive ways to spend their time and energy*

*It would enhance sporting activities in the town , giving the youth a great venue to play in , keeping youth in sport is important for their development. Plus commercial benefits for the city as well.*

*Having to facilities to hold major sporting events opens up the opportunities for the youth in the region. we are a big sporting community already but most don't see the potential of what they can achieve.*

*We are a sporting nation and Cairns youth need opportunities to excel.*

*The increase in opportunity for sporting events has to take people/youth away from sitting in front of a computer device...good for a city to expand opportunity.*

*Kids in sport, stay out of court!*

## **OTHER COMMENTS**

**Not interested: 73 mentions**

**Good for the region: 60 mentions**

*One of the things that helps define a city is the standard of their sporting facilities*

*More sport can only be good for Cairns*

*to attract highly skilled specialists like doctors etc to Cairns, Cairns needs to spend more money on arts and cultural things not just AFL & rugby*

*Good for morale*

*Would be excellent for Cairns and the children of Cairns.*

*Good for moving forward, bigger picture*

**Cairns vs Townsville: 60 mentions** were about the Cairns/Townsville rivalry; “if Townsville has one, Cairns should too”:

*Upgrade the current venue. No need for a new one. Is the need based on keeping up with Townsville who are getting a new one????*

*We need more games here, stinky old Townsville has a footy team and we have not much. Council here needs to get off their hands!*

*If Townsville can spent over \$200 mil for stadium they already have than Cairns should build one we don't yet have.*

*We need more games here, stinky old Townsville has a footy team and we have not much. Council here needs to get off their hands!*

*We are better than Townsville yet they have 1 ?*

**Build it and they will come:** 11 mentions