



## **LIGHT RAIL**

### **Subject Mentions and sample comments**

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## OVERVIEW

Total mentions - 4414

Total mentions in support of light rail - 3437

Total mentions opposing light rail - 977

Light rail would ease traffic issues	1657	Unnecessary/not needed	67
Improved form of public transport	1042	Waste of money	164
Good for the environment	319	Population too small	344
Current public transport is poor	102	Expensive/too costly	344
Good future planning	156	Would cause too much disruption	16
Good for Cairns	32	Bad idea	26
Works well in other cities	47	Already have public transport	60
Support economic growth	31	Requires further study	2
Improved access	210	Not Council responsibility	8
Assist tourism	313	People won't use it	12
Use current infrastructure	168	Upgrade current public transport	33
Improved access northern beaches	182		
Improved access to the airport	188		
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## IN FAVOUR

### Alleviate traffic congestion and parking within the CBD:

there were **1647 mentions** that light rail in Cairns would provide an alternate transport option for people to use and therefore alleviate issues with traffic, including congestion and parking.

*Parking in the city is becoming difficult to find and early morning traffic congestion is also becoming an issue.*

*The layout of Cairns supports this mode of transport. Roads are becoming more and more congested.*

*Because the traffic on the south side is getting more and more busier every day you drive it in peak hour traffic*

*It would provide transport for the elderly, disabled and disadvantaged as well as tourists and it would clear up a lot of congestion on the roads and parking in the city.*

*Because it is ridiculous to continue expanding roads!! The congestion is already unmanageable. Light rail would allow for new nodes to be established with facilities to assist commuters ie: supermarket, post office; Childcare, parking. These spaces should also be bus stops. This would see bus routes expand into the suburbs and be more effective (bus routes are currently unnecessarily long). Light rail is essential. To ease traffic congestion and reduce greenhouse gas emissions*

*Ease traffic congestion. Provide better transport options for tourists*

*A well designed light rail system would ease traffic congestion, provide a more user friendly mode of transport and reduce the city's carbon emissions. Some cities such as Cairns appear to cater more for cars than people, with transport solutions usually concentrating on simply adding extra lanes or more roads to solve mobility problems. A well-designed light rail system would benefit many citizens who do not drive and tourists who are forced to use the current bus system, hire cars or taxis.*

*I feel it would help with traffic. People would not have to drive into Cairns every day.*

*Light rail will be very good because it is fast, clean and modern and will help with Cairns' congestion and make it easier to travel around the city*

*To ease traffic congestion and city parking, can only be successful if there is a dramatic increase feeder transport to the terminal points.*

*Reduce traffic congestion, more transport opportunities*

*It would provide a good safe option for getting into town especially as our traffic congestion worsens*

*Get some vehicles off the road, quicker, easier form of transportation, and bus service is lousy*

*If there's a need for it - or projected need for it - why not? Especially if it manages traffic on the roads and encourages more incidental exercise walking to and from public transport.*

**Improve access:** 210 mentions related to light rail improving access to the CBD.

*The public transport in Cairns is insufficient it would be useful for the elderly, parents with young children and the disabled*

*It would make it easier to travel to outer suburbs*

*I think it would be an effective form of transport for the city and surrounds. It would be fantastic to have it travel from Mirriwinni through to the Northern Beaches. It would enable more people to populate outside the city, including the elderly. It would also be a great form of family, tourist and local entertainment, especially if connected closely to Barlow Park, Cazaly's, the new Rectangular stadium, the Cairns Aquarium and the hospitals. At least then it would also work towards reducing traffic congestion. Of course, like everything, this would need to be well-looked after with all locals and visitors being able to access and use it safely and comfortably. Easier to get from the city to the beaches*

*To increase availability & accessibility of public transport to reduce cars on the road*

*I do not have my own transport and for me and others like me, also all our tourists, it would be a great advantage.*

*Connect people hubs without cars*

*Connecting outer areas of Cairns will be highly beneficial.*

*It will improve easy access to CBD, shops etc. Will be attractive for tourists.*

*It would be a great asset to Cairns for people that need transportation*

*Because it would make the CBD more accessible and sustainable*

*Improved access for those without vehicles*

*Ease of CBD access to fringe areas, parking spots, airport etc.*

*Easy access to the city without having to worry about parking*

*Transport is the first key to getting people to live here. More access means more people will live in suburbs supported by it.*

*Make it easier to get around Cairns in the wet season and also help with people trying to find a park*

*To enable, elderly, tourists & especially many city workers, to move around in the heat/lunchtime without the need to waste time going to car park and then finding a car park for lunch time errands, should be from city to Hospital, esplanade to McLeod St at least.*

*Easier access around the city plus a tourist attraction*

**Better links for the north and south:** There were **182** mentions related to light rail linking the northern beaches, and a further **276** mentions referring to light rail improving links between the south and north.

*Logical Gordonvale to Palm Cove transport to reduce road use, tourism*

*For residents travelling from the north and south regions of Cairns*

*Easier to get from the city to the beaches*

*Would be great to connect Cairns City to the northern beaches*

*Light rail servicing both the northern beaches and the southern suburbs would be excellent.*

*we need fast (reliable!) transport from north to south in Cairns. It is too far for an unreliable bus system. Lower income families should not have to struggle because they cannot afford a car*

*Living in the northern beaches it is evident that the infrastructure is not available to support the growth in outlying suburbs. Travelling 20km into the city at peak times can take in excess of an hour*

*Getting around town without a car would be easier. Would be great to have it go out the Beaches.*

*Light rail would greatly assist those in the northern suburbs with a safe journey to the city*

*Cairns is a sprawling city which is probably only going to get bigger. We need to establish a transport system for the future and I think that something that is not affected by traffic is absolutely essential (because traffic is only going to increase). We need to link the southside and the beaches into town so that Cairns remains a unified, functioning community.*

*Cairns is essentially a strip city stretching from the beaches in the north to the Southern suburbs. A well constructed light rail will link all these suburbs.*

*Again, depends on a feasibility study to see if people would use it. Cairns does run north-south so seems to fit a one rail, beaches to Gordonvale-type line. Is it possible to use existing rail lines? It would mean the need for parking areas at the stations for commuters. It would derive the most benefit if tourists could viably use it as well; if the stops are located close to tourist options, eg can they walk to the beach from a beach station?*

*Would help residents of Northern Beaches and southern suburbs commuting to city. I do not have a problem and probably would not be using it.*

*A great idea to move people around from Gordonvale to Palm Cove, maybe even Ellis Beach. If built properly would also be beneficial in flood times.*

*It makes sense to utilise the railway. It would be more jobs and so good for people that live out of Cairns to commute. It would be less stress on the already busy roads north and south of Cairns*

*A light rail corridor from the CBD to the Northern Beaches and south to White Rock would help reduce traffic congestion. It would be good to incorporate a bicycle path with a light rail route. It would also be good to connect the AIRPORT with any northern route.*

**Link to the airport:** There were **188** mentions related to light rail linking the airport.

*Between the city and the airport for a start, then maybe Aquis if it ever happens*

*I think it would get a lot of use between the airport and the city, would be a positive for tourism.*

*The city needs a looping light rail to the airport and city when large projects come on line they should be linked into this established loop down Lake St and back up McLeod St*

*I would support this if it went to the airport and both Northern and Southern corridors.*

*We only have one highway in and out of Cairns which gets very congested during peak periods. A link to the airport would be wonderful*

*I think the Department of Transport and Main Roads light rail plan which extends from Gordonvale to Palm Cove with feeder lines would be absolutely brilliant for Cairns given our ribbon development. It would encourage many people including myself to use public transport rather than my car as I would be able to walk to the station and catch a train direct to JCU and back, saving me a 32 km round trip each day. I think it would also encourage tourism particularly if there were stations near to the passenger terminal and at the airport*

*Might be a more convenient option for those who rely on public transport, whether that be travellers/visitors or locals. Light rail to the airport would be very handy but would affect coaches that transfer to AIRPORT.*

*Less congestion on roads. For the elderly. Transport to the airport.*

*As before, traffic is terrible and we need it to go to the AIRPORT!*

*It is an element of a progressive city as long as it covers infrastructure from north and south to the city and airport*

*Takes traffic congestion away and easier to get to airport and safer.*

*We are getting older and often drive to Cairns and the airport so it would be great to have a light rail we could use for this purpose.*

*It may help with tourism and there also may be less congestion on the roads. Could link up to the airport.*

*Would be good long term investment. Cairns needs a connection between city and airport.*

*Cairns has an layout that is ideal for light rail from Edmonton to Palm beach past the city and airport.*

*You could have stops all the way along Sheridan St from airport, Botanic Gardens stop, tennis centre/Tobruk stop and we could use it to go to work in the city.*

*Good public transport is a key ingredient of a liveable city and connection of central city to airport and uni would be great and if it was along the esplanade would also be a tourist attraction in itself.*

**Use current infrastructure:** 168 people mentioned that light rail could be constructed using the current cane rail infrastructure/corridor.

*Great idea as we could use the old cane railway system in most places....just so long as it doesn't create more places for attacks on innocent people*

*Light rail using the existing rail line or cane train line. The network exists and is underutilised. Save travel congestion.*

*By using existing sugar lines, without too much expenditure on new lines, would supply more transport.*

*It would be good if you could use existing rail lines with new railmotors*

*Good public transport system that could utilise existing cane tramway and rail lines*

*Booming population in southern suburbs require transport alternatives. Students currently living Edmonton and south miss training and work opportunities due to infrequent and unreliable public transport into city. Cane train infrastructure and corridors are there*

*It makes sense to utilise the railway. IT would be more jobs and so good for people that live out of Cairns to commute. It would be less stress on the already busy roads north and south of Cairns*

*Cane Train corridors already exist and can be made use of and light rail is so much quicker and cleaner than busses*

*We have the station and tracks like cane track. Add more trains drop off points and also include northern suburbs*

*Simply because there is already a rail line into Cairns & it should be able to be used to transport passengers to work etc relieve the stress on the road system.*

*Cheap eco friendly mode of transport. Infrastructure is already started for sugar trains in some areas*

*I have used the light rail in Sydney many times and find it excellent. I think the main rail line should be used more from towns south of Gordonvale with a rail motor service to Cairns. I think the cane rail line could also be made more use of.*

*I think if they can do it cost effectively using the existing cane lines and maybe adding in a few more it would make commuting easier for people who have to come into the city to work. It's also a pain in the ass to own a car when you don't need to or cannot really afford it.*

*There appears to be rail infrastructure and corridors throughout the city that could be utilised more. It might take pressure off parking in town. It would be an excellent piece of infrastructure as the city grows. It could take pressure off the north and south entrances to the city. Done well it could add a degree of charm and beauty to the city.*

*Public transport is a great idea, you should be able to use rail infrastructure that already exists. This should be achieved without extensive and expensive use of consultants.*



**Improved form of public transport: 1042** mentions suggested that light rail would improve public transport in Cairns.

*Because our public transport currently isn't great and I think the increased frequency and ease of use (jump on jump off) of light rail would be a great benefit for both locals and visitors.*

*Improve the speed, consistency, access and reliability of public transport*

*Public transport is vital and this is a novel approach that could work if done correctly.*

*Need to make public transport more time efficient, it currently takes approx 40 minutes for a bus city to Brinsmead 7 KM, better public transport would ease the congestion on major roads, without having to build more roads, also would enable children to be more self-reliant, instead of parents having to drive them everywhere.*

*Because visitors to our city expect to find clean, modern and efficient public transport. While current population/visitor numbers may not make light rail viable right now our growth will eventually get to the point where it will be viable. Therefore planning needs to occur now to make sure alignments are preserved for when it is viable, hopefully soon.*

*Safer than buses, can transport a number of people, can reduce amount of vehicles on the road. If it were available from Brinsmead I would consider it.*

*Cairns needs decent transport for locals and visitors - we need to keep up with the times.*

*Provides a safe easy form of public transport which suits both locals and tourism and reduces the need to drive everywhere*

*Improve the experience for locals and tourists, improve public transport and set Cairns up for sustainable growth*

*Such a big and wonderful step. Amazing public transport and will make this small town feel more like a city*

*I can see the benefits in the recreational use and the 'day out' concept. It would need strong bus linkages though to make it really viable as a daily commuter option*

*It is hard to say why, when I am not sure where the light rail would go, however the city has minimal public transport so something needs to happen*

*There is urgent need for improved public transport. We live in the city because one of us has no license and it is very difficult to get around in Cairns (other than walking in CBD)*

*I'd love to see a better public transport system in Cairns. It makes sense, with so many tourists, and more people using light rail = less cars on the road, which is always a good thing.*

*Cairns needs better public transport options be a better managed bus timeframe / service or the addition of other options such as light rail. I'm not sure if there is sufficient space for a light rail to be established. Perhaps a better managed bus service would be better eg more buses and buses continually serving the same route rather than changing routes throughout the day.*

**Current public transport system is poor:** there were **102** mentions referring to the current public transport system being poor quality.

*The public transport is poor and the taxis are expensive. Reasonable priced light rail covering big areas will allow more people using this service to go to work and school and less cars will be in the traffic, for the benefit of the environment.*

*Cairns needs better public transport especially to commute from the outer suburbs into the City – Sun Buses aren't always reliable and taxi's are way too expensive.*

*Bus service takes too long and costly to public. Brisbane services are exceptional*

*Public transport is very poor in Cairns and it would help reduce congestion from the beaches*

*Every "City" has trains and cairns as a city is very poor as our transport is very slack compared to every other city in Australia.*

*Efficient way to get around. The current bus service is extremely unreliable and I think this would provide an alternative option for public transport.*

*Something needs to be done about the public transport issues. The current system is unreliable, which has a huge impact on my family.*

*Our bus system is not enough and our roads are becoming too congested.*

*Public transportation in cairns (buses, taxis, train) is of bad quality regarding service and maintenance, expensive, always late or not show at all, its not safe, and the routes take too long to drive.*

*I think public transport in Cairns region does not currently attend the population's needs, so the light rail would probably add value to this issue.*

*Our current public transport system has a lot of room for improvement. I like the idea of a light rail as I have used them down south to get around very easily.*

*The current public transportation system is slow and terribly unreliable. We need an alternative transport system that is quicker and more reliable.*

*The buses are sometimes late and it's always packed. Taxis cost too much just to get to one suburb. I strongly agree with bringing light rail to cairns. You can build a station and the new stadium*

*Public transport in this city is atrocious. My partner is epileptic and can't drive, and she is essentially house-ridden and unable to find work because of the poor bus services and stupidly expensive taxis in Cairns. Light rail would provide more public transport options and force Sunbus to provide better service to more areas to compensate*

*The bus service in Cairns isn't very reliable however, I would definitely use a service like light rail as they tend to be more regular and you know the route. I expect that tourists, especially backpackers, would also use the service. It's a great idea!*

**Good future planning:** There were **156** mentions that referred to planning for light rail was a positive move in planning for the region's future.

*Public transport is not efficient now and we need to plan for the future*

*Something needs to be done about the ever increasing traffic problems, we need to look to the future. Make it easier for people to live further out of town.*

*Cairns is a sprawling city which is probably only going to get bigger. We need to establish a transport system for the future and I think that something that is not affected by traffic is absolutely essential (because traffic is only going to increase). We need to link the southside and the beaches into town so that Cairns remains a unified, functioning community.*

*Cairns is growing and we need a light rail system to accommodate that. Not to mention the fact it will help cut down on CO2 pollution in a big way. This is especially important.*

*Public transport is the way of the future; it is much more efficient in terms of energy usage, reduced greenhouse gas emission, reduces road congestion, parking needs and the need for road maintenance / upgrades.*

*A sustainable and liveable city of the future will be one that does not rely solely on motor vehicle but that provides for and supports public transport*

*To help the movement around the city and connection to other public transport. Could we see the corridor extend south and north as well. Let's fix the public transport in Cairns while we can access good planning for the future.*

*It is an element of a progressive city as long as it covers infrastructure from North and south to the city and airport.*

*Future-proofs transport in Cairns and modernises the city so it's more appealing to tourists*

*If feasibility and cost are not prohibitive, a light rail will bring Cairns into the 21st Century and get cars and buses off the major arteries to Cairns central.*

*It's future proofing Cairns and in 50-100 years it'll make the city amazing - unfortunately our elected officials rarely have such long term vision as they are usually worried about the next election*

*As the city grows it would make sense to have this important infrastructure in place, rather than redo at a higher cost in the future.*

*It is the future and if we wait until we have enough population to support the business case we will never build it - build it and with a suitable education program combined with increasing CBD car parking costs it will work.*

*Future planning - I understand a population of approx 300000 is required for this to be economically viable. Let's plan for that day now.*

**Environment: 319** mentions refer to light rail as being a better transport option for the environment.

*Less cars in the CBD, fewer carbon emissions. The council would also need to provide cheap or free long term parking at stations to encourage locals but it could reduce much of the traffic and parking issues within the CBD, special events would be easier to access as parking is often a turn off for me to head into town. Rail would also encourage people to walk to and from their station and destination, thus creating more active lifestyles. Rail in many other cities across the world is often cheaper and quicker than bus or taxi services, plus I have found it much easier to use with a pram. And once again less cars less fumes and pollution.*

*Hopefully help stop green house omission*

*Great for the environment & would encourage people to ditch their cars.*

*If it is carbon neutral more public transport is great*

*Saves the environment ultimately saves money for all jobs on offer also parking not so much a worry and people can engage in more walking to and from the pick-up point helping giving health benefits*

*It's good for the environment good for tourists and locals. Less people driving means safer roads*

*A sustainably powered light rail would reduce our ecological impact not only by reducing the number of busses, but give a quicker more-direct mode of public transport*

*Reduces impact on the environment and makes sense for urban living.*

*Help reduce congestion to northern beaches and asking western arterial. It would be great for tourist and should be a good environmental option*

*Efficient modern environmentally friendly transport*

*It is a more economical and environmentally friendly form of transport as opposed to private motor vehicles. It is more pleasant to commute via light rail than walk or bike ride long distances. It makes for good long term decision making for our city.*

*Although expensive it is a smart form of transport, will remove a lot of cars from the roads and reduce environmental impact.*

*Would be of both financial, environmentally beneficial and time efficient... all the way to Port Douglas ideally .. a huge plus for the region and a tourist draw card ,, and greatly benefit the northern beaches community who do battle with the bottlenecks to get to CBD daily .*

*As Cairns grows it needs sustainable infrastructure and this includes public transport. Less reliance on cars eases congestion and has positive environmental impacts.*

*Promotes Cairns as environmentally aware in the Wet Tropics. Promotes public transport and all the benefits as opposed to outmoded vehicle use and hidden costs of roads etc.*

**Works well in other cities:** 47 mentions of light rail being used well in other major cities.

*I have seen it be super effective in other cities*

*Have seen it on the Gold Coast. It's great.*

*When I have visited cities which have similar facility (ie. Brisbane Rail, Melbourne trams) they were a highlight in making transport easy and accessible in an unfamiliar area.*

*Again this speaks to liveability. Buses are inefficient in Cairns and throughout the suburbs. Light rail would open up the possibility of a less car-centric society here, and allow tourists easy access and movement throughout the city. I am from Melbourne and trams are an integrated part of everyday life for me there.*

*Coming from Melbourne- is the optimum method of public transport.*

*Works well on the Goldie. Cairns is nice and flat for it. Great for tourists. You could have stops all the way along Sheridan St from airport, botanic gardens stop, tennis centre/Tobruk stop and we could use it to go to work in the city*

*I've seen it work brilliantly in my sister's Inner West suburb of Sydney.....buses seem so irregular here ...it would be quiet with low emissions & predictable & reliable.*

*Many cities around the world have hop on hop off buses or a monorail but i guess Cairns is too small a rate base.*

*A fantastic idea! They'd be timely, no fumes, pleasant, comfortable and cool transport that would encourage locals (not just tourists) to use public transport like other major cities around the globe.*

*This would be great to see as it would help people being able to commute into Cairns and surrounding suburbs for work and other activities, just like in the Major Cities.*

*We are an international city. Other similar sized cities have infrastructure, why can't we. Look at Heidelberg in Germany*

*Buses are not reliable, trains work well in other cities why not here*

*Have used the light rail on Gold Coast, and seen the benefits, would allow northern beaches people to travel into city, not having to drive through all those roundabouts*

*Because every holidays I go to Melbourne to see my dad, and literally the only quick and easy way to get around is by train.*

*Light rail is a safe, green, efficient, quiet, clean form of public transport. It works brilliantly in other cities, would reduce road congestion and pollution and promote Cairns as a forward thinking, modern, green and progressive community. Let's do it!*

*I have used the light rail on the Gold Coast. It is a quick and cheap way to get around. I most definitely support light rail from Edmonton to Palm Cove .*

## **AGAINST**

**Unnecessary:** 67 mentions related to light rail not being needed in Cairns.

*Unnecessary the CBD is so small plus where would it go. Massive eye saw.*

*Just unnecessary. You could update the bus routes and use them to their full potential.*

*Totally unnecessary in such a small city. Cost of installation and maintenance would greatly outweigh any benefits that could be obtained by simply improving bus services.*

**Waste of money:** 389 mentions were about the money being better spent on other priorities.

*Waste of money for a city of our size, spend it on relieving congestion on current roads Other socio-environmental issues more important eg arts, protecting wildlife in the city.*

*Cairns residents won't use it, and council will just spend more money on something we won't use.*

*We have buses and there are not that many people using them. Will be a big waste of money.*

**Population too small:** 172 mentions stated that Cairns did not have a population size that warranted light rail.

*Not the population for light rail.*

*Lack of population to support the service*

*Huge expenditure for minimal passengers. We don't have the population or traffic problems to make it feasible.*

**Cost:** 149 mentions raised questions about the cost of building the light rail infrastructure.

*Will cost too much to benefit a few.*

*No need to spend money on this expensive project when there are higher priorities*

*Too expensive. Cairns is too spread out. Bus drivers around the place are often grumpy and unhelpful. How can you manage to positively train anyone else? Cairns central people get enough goodies their way, more is needed for Southside. Hardly any bus benches or shelters in our area - poor people sit in dirt, in the sun and in the rain. Look on Ravissa Drive and Bicentennial Road and Hardy Road.*

*Expensive bus fares, how much more would a light rail fare be? How do we get to it and wait for it?*

*It is way too expensive when extra bus services would do the same job far more cheaply*

*Much of the current bus service is under-patronised. Light rail is an expensive infrastructure item with limited potential end-users. Cost per user would be exponentially more than direct revenue + real environmental benefit (in \$)*

## **OTHER COMMENTS**

### **In favour**

Convenient/efficient: 64

Good for Cairns: 31

Would provide economic benefits: 25

Good idea: 12

Climate friendly: 11

### **Against**

Would cause disruption: 16

Already have public transport: 60

Upgrade current public transport: 33

Bad idea: 26

Not a Council responsibility: 8

People won't use it: 12

Requires further study: 2