



Cairns Community and Multicultural Centre

Fostering a vibrant and healthy community where everyone feels they belong.

The Cairns Community and Multicultural Centre will deliver social facilities and key support and outreach services for residents of the White Rock area and the diverse multicultural community that calls Cairns home.

The centre combines planning undertaken for the White Rock Neighbourhood Centre (2018) and the Cairns Multicultural Facilities Needs Assessment (2022), to create a single, multi-purpose hub.

Extensive consultation across both projects identified overlapping needs: improved youth engagement, health and wellbeing services (outreach and agency involvement), and social opportunities; with key physical infrastructure requirements of diverse meeting and gathering areas, commercial kitchen and a welcoming environment for people of all needs and backgrounds.

The White Rock community (population 4,917, 2021 Census) has limited access to social,

health and wellbeing services, with the nearest comparative facility 4km away at Hambledon House, Edmonton. Limited public transport options further restrict access to Hambledon House or more centralised services in Cairns.

While multicultural groups are frequent users of other Council, not-for-profit and commercial facilities, none of the existing assets offer large gathering areas, small private rooms for counselling and meetings, and a commercial kitchen (food is an integral part of cultural practices).

The Cairns Community and Multicultural Centre will address these overlapping requirements.

Cairns Regional Council is seeking matched funding to partner with Council for detailed design and costing of the centre, and collaboration to develop governance / management arrangements.

At a glance

\$200,000

Capital investment:
Matched funding of \$200,000 from the State Government in 2023/2024 to partner with Council on detailed design and costing for the Cairns Community and Multicultural Centre, progressing the project to investment ready status.

State Government commitment to collaborate with Council to investigate and agree governance arrangements for the Cairns Community and Multicultural Centre.

Electorate:
Mulgrave

Government Alignment:
State Infrastructure Strategy; Queensland Multicultural Policy and Action Plan 2022-24

Government Minister:
Leanne Linard, Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs

Vision

The Cairns Community and Multicultural Centre will be adaptable and flexible, welcoming and inclusive, safe and accessible, and include:

Commercial kitchen

Large multipurpose space (gatherings of 50 to 100 people)

Medium multipurpose space (gatherings of 5 to 20 people)

Small meeting rooms (counselling / one-on-one meetings)

Foyer for art and cultural displays

Outdoor gathering space.





Community benefits

- 1** White Rock is home to at least 37 nationalities (2021 Census), has a strong First Nations community (18.4%, 2021 Census), a low socio-economic profile with a higher-than-average proportion of single-parent families or singles living alone, and youth unemployment.
- 2** There are 38 active multicultural groups in the broader Cairns region which draws residents from 102 countries; 27% of the population was born overseas and the number of international arrivals has doubled over the past 15 years.
- 3** Consultation for the Tiffany Street Neighbourhood and Sporting Precinct indicated a need for drug and alcohol intervention, domestic violence and disability inclusion services, as well as meeting and gathering spaces to share culture.
- 4** Council and the multicultural community have held informal discussions for some time to develop a multicultural centre as a place for sharing and practicing culture, holding meetings, socialising and networking and running community programs. The Cairns Community and Multicultural Centre is the culmination of these discussions.

What we need

Matched funding of

\$200,000

from the State Government in 2023/2024 to partner with Council on detailed design and costing for the Cairns Community and Multicultural Centre, progressing the project to investment ready status.

State Government commitment to collaborate with Council to investigate and agree governance arrangements for the Cairns Community and Multicultural Centre.

This social gathering helps new arrivals to connect and retain their culture, through which they feel socially connected to their new home.

Cairns Multicultural Facility Needs Assessment.

Timeline

2018

White Rock Recreation Study completed

2018

White Rock Neighbourhood Centre masterplan completed

March-April 2022

Multicultural community consultation

August 2022

Needs assessment completed

October 2022

Council endorses Tiffany Street White Rock as site for new Cairns Community and Multicultural Centre

November 2022

car park completed (\$820K)