Outdoor dining is one of the great features of Cairns. The cafes and restaurants along the Esplanade have a prime location overlooking the parklands and offer a uniquely tropical outdoor dining experience. The Esplanade Dining Precinct is a project opportunity identified in the Cairns City Centre Master Plan which was developed through a comprehensive engagement process undertaken by Council in 2018.

This Esplanade Dining Precinct project will enhance the best features of the existing Esplanade outdoor dining area. It aims to create more space for dining and seating, improve views to the parklands and increase pedestrian connections. The project will deliver a more vibrant outdoor dining experience, contributing to the city’s liveability for locals and creating a major drawcard for visitors.

Council has progressed the project opportunity and now developed a concept design for the Esplanade Dining Precinct that incorporates the key design elements identified in the Master Plan.

COUNCIL IS NOW INVITING YOU TO HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE CONCEPT DESIGN FOR THE ESPLANADE DINING PRECINCT
CAIRNS CITY CENTRE MASTER PLAN

The Esplanade Dining Precinct is one of five project opportunities identified in the Cairns City Centre Master Plan. In 2018, Council sought public input in developing the Master Plan with over 5800 people engaged during the consultation process.

During this process Council heard that, when dining outdoors at the Esplanade, people greatly value the parkland and waterfront views, the relaxed, casual dining experience, and the lively and vibrant atmosphere. Traffic noise and fumes, narrow footpaths and a lack of space for outdoor dining were raised as the top matters to be addressed in relation to Esplanade dining.

The Cairns City Centre Master Plan identifies key design elements for the Esplanade Dining Precinct to address the feedback provided during the engagement process.

THE ESPLANADE DINING PRECINCT CONCEPT DESIGN

Council has progressed the project opportunity identified in the Cairns City Centre Master Plan and developed a concept design for the Esplanade Dining Precinct. The dining precinct extends along the Esplanade from Aplin Street to Shields Street and includes the adjoining section of Shields Street between the Esplanade and Abbott Street. The Esplanade Dining Precinct concept design visually represents the following key design elements from the Cairns City Centre Master Plan.

CONNECTION TO THE ESPLANADE PARKLANDS

The concept design maximises connections and views to the parkland and waterfront. A modified road alignment allows the dining area to be extended and brings the green space of the Esplanade Parklands closer to the outdoor dining venues.

By retaining one-way traffic the concept design ensures essential access to businesses and restaurants, and also allows for safe pedestrian movement and activity. To maximise views and reduce unpleasant traffic noise and fumes, the concept design proposes that parking is restricted to time-limited loading and drop-off bays and access for people with disabilities.
EXTENDED OUTDOOR DINING AREA
AND WIDER FOOTPATHS
The concept design proposes extended trading zones that provide more space for outdoor dining and wider footpaths for pedestrians. The footpath and trading zones feature a new consistent pavement to clearly define spaces for pedestrians and diners. The footpaths will be mobility-friendly improving safety for all precinct users.

DISTINCT TROPICAL CHARACTER
The concept design integrates lush, vibrant landscaping to create a distinct character throughout the dining precinct and a seamless visual connection to the adjacent Esplanade Parklands.

A series of new higher and wider awnings will be integrated along the dining precinct to provide shade and weather protection to the outdoor dining area. These awnings will allow for a wider, more accessible and safer pedestrian environment, with relaxed, flexible outdoor spaces that will cater for both everyday use and event spaces as required.

FLEXIBLE EVENT SPACE
The concept design includes vibrant and attractive lighting to improve the night-time experience and reinforce the precinct’s distinctly tropical character. The design of the road, footpaths and dining areas caters for the precinct to be readily transformed into a pedestrian only space for major public events.
The Esplanade Dining Precinct Concept Design has been developed based on feedback from extensive public consultation gathered as part of the Cairns City Centre Master Plan. Council is now seeking feedback from traders, business owners and the wider community on the Esplanade Dining Precinct Concept Design.

Council will consider all feedback, ideas and suggestions on the concept design. During the engagement period, Council will continue to undertake further technical investigations and testing to continue to refine the concept design. Following these steps, a detailed design of the Esplanade Dining Precinct will be prepared for further consideration.

For more information and provide your feedback visit: www.cairns.qld.gov.au/esplanadedining