

AN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE

MAY 2023



CAIRNS REGIONAL COUNCIL

WHY WE NEED IT & HOW IT WORKS



Cairns Regional Council acknowledges the First Peoples within our region who are the Traditional Custodians of this country.

Traditional Custodians within the Cairns region include the Djabugay; Yirriganydji; Bulawai, Gimuy Walubara Yidinji; Mandingalbay Yidinji; Gunggandji; Dulabed and Malanbara Yidinji; Wanyurr Majay; Mamu and NgadjonJii peoples.

We pay respect to their elders past, present and future and extend that respect to all other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians within our region.

CONTENTS

WHY DO WE NEED COUNCIL? 4

WHAT DO COUNCILS DO? 6

Looking after essential infrastructure	7
Roads, parks and public works	7
Water and sewerage	7
Flood control	7
Looking after the environment	8
Environmental protection	8
Land use	8
Waste disposal	8
Land and pest management	8
Building control	8
Looking after people	9
Community development	9
Recreation and cultural development	9
Public health and safety	9
Promoting economic growth	9

PAYING FOR WHAT COUNCILS DO 10

Rates	10
Utilities charges	10
Grants and subsidies	10
Administration fee	10
Loans	10

WHO WORKS FOR COUNCIL? 11

Chief Executive Officer	11
Other occupations	11

WHAT DO COUNCILLORS DO? 12

Electing your council	12
Voting	13
Who can stand for council?	13
How can I have my say?	13
How do I find out more?	13

ABOUT CAIRNS REGIONAL COUNCIL 14

Administration	14
Elected members: Mayor and Councillors	15
Committees	15
Council meetings	16
How a Council meeting is conducted	16

ABOUT CAIRNS AND ITS COUNCIL 18

A brief history	18
Geography	18
The early years	19
European settlement	19
Significant milestones for Cairns	20

CAIRNS IN FOCUS 22

People	22
Industry and Economy	22
Arts and Culture	22
Parks and Gardens	23
Sports and Active Living	23
Sustainability	23
Looking ahead	23
Sister Cities	23

HOW TO CONTACT CAIRNS REGIONAL COUNCIL 24

WHY DO WE NEED COUNCIL?

There are three tiers of government in Australia, with each having a specific set of functions and responsibilities. All levels of government put rules and systems in place to benefit the community as a whole.



FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

(also called the Australian Government or Commonwealth Government)

- Decides on matters that affect the whole country.
- Comprises the Prime Minister and a team of ministers, each of whom must be a member of the Australian Parliament (which comprises the House of Representatives and the Senate). The Australian Public Service carries out the decisions of the federal government.
- Examples of federal responsibilities include:
 - national laws
 - telecommunications
 - postal services
 - foreign affairs
 - immigration
 - taxation
 - welfare system (social security, pensions etc)
 - customs
 - defence and national security
 - trade and customs
 - seven offshore territories



STATE GOVERNMENT

- Each of Australia's six states and two mainland territories (Northern Territory and Australian Capital Territory) has its own locally-elected government.
- Decides on matters that affect each state or territory.
- The leader is the Premier (states), Chief Minister (territories).
- Examples of responsibilities include:
 - public hospitals
 - police, fire and ambulance services
 - main roads
 - conservation
 - education
 - railways



LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Local governments (also known as local councils) operate in the six states and the Northern Territory. (The Australian Capital Territory does not have its own local government.)
- Local government is controlled by the state or territory government above them.
- There are more than 530 separate local governments in Australia, and their areas may be known as regions, shires, cities, towns or municipalities.
- Each council plays an important role in improving the liveability of their communities by providing a range of important services and facilities.
- The leader is the Mayor (or Lord Mayor in capital cities).
- Examples of local government responsibilities in Queensland include:
 - community infrastructure – parks, playgrounds, gardens, sporting fields, footpaths, cycleways etc
 - arts and cultural services and facilities – libraries, civic events, community celebrations, performing and visual arts centres etc
 - building regulation and development controls
 - sewerage and wastewater treatment
 - water supply
 - waste collection, disposal and recycling
 - cemeteries
 - animal management
 - town planning and land use management
 - local roads, kerbing and drainage and
 - building approvals

The federal and state governments are established under the Australian Constitution of 1901. Councils are set up by state legislation. In Queensland, their powers come mainly from the Local Government Act 2009.



WHAT DO COUNCILS DO?

Cairns Regional Council provides community services and facilities, and it is also responsible for making and enforcing local laws. Traditionally, councils have provided services such as roads, water supply and sewerage, but more and more they are becoming involved in the social, economic and cultural development of their communities, and in improving local living environments.





LOOKING AFTER ESSENTIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

ROADS, PARKS AND PUBLIC WORKS

- building new roads, bridges and footpaths
- controlling traffic flow
- providing and maintaining car parks
- maintaining street lighting and traffic lights
- building and maintaining community/neighbourhood centres and other public facilities and
- caring for parks and gardens.

WATER AND SEWERAGE

Councils collect and treat sewage and trade waste from industries.

Councils care for the local water supply by:

- storing and treating water for drinking
- piping water to homes, businesses and factories and
- collecting and treating residential and industrial wastewater (sewage)
- removing stormwater through the drainage network.

FLOOD CONTROL

Councils reduce the risk of flood damage by:

- building drainage systems
- constructing levee banks and
- controlling development on flood plains.



LOOKING AFTER THE ENVIRONMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Councils are responsible for regulating many activities that affect the quality of the environment.

LAND USE

Councils control and regulate how land is used in their area. They decide:

- where commercial development takes place
- where housing developments should go
- what areas are protected as bushland and reserves, and
- how many buildings can be developed in certain areas.

WASTE DISPOSAL

Our communities generate large amounts of waste. Councils:

- arrange for household and industrial waste to be collected, sorted and recycled
- operate transfer stations (waste collection) and waste recycling facilities, and
- clean streets, footpaths, parks and other public areas.

LAND AND PEST MANAGEMENT

Councils play an active part in protecting, enhancing and restoring natural areas while maintaining the environment's biodiversity values. Councils:

- control declared pest animals and noxious weeds
- revegetate local sites
- undertake controlled burns to reduce the risk of wildfires, and
- encourage residents to plant suitable native trees in urban backyards.

BUILDING CONTROL

Most types of building and development activity are regulated by Council and State rules. Anyone who wants to do building work needs to obtain approval before starting construction. This includes new buildings, alterations, extensions, removals and demolition, carports and sheds, patios, swimming pools and spas. Rules also apply to protect the environment from sediment and soil erosion.





LOOKING AFTER PEOPLE

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Councils provide a wide range of services and facilities, including public libraries, community halls and neighbourhood centres, and activities for youth, seniors and multi-cultural communities. They also work in partnership with other levels of government through programs designed to enhance community wellbeing.

RECREATION AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Some councils support arts activities, festivals and other special events. Many councils provide:

- libraries and art galleries
- community events
- public spaces for community use
- entertainment centres
- parks, public gardens and playing fields
- swimming pools and tennis courts
- boating facilities and
- sports centres.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

Councils help keep their communities healthy by:

- preparing for and responding to natural disasters
- controlling mosquito breeding
- destroying rats and mice in public areas
- making sure public buildings are clean
- providing public toilets
- registering dogs and cats, and collecting stray animals, and
- ensuring buildings are safe and well built.

PROMOTING ECONOMIC GROWTH

Councils also encourage and attract businesses to establish, invest and diversify in their area, which in turn creates jobs for local people.



PAYING FOR WHAT COUNCILS DO

There are five main ways in which councils raise money to fund their facilities and services.



Rates: a form of general taxation by which most of Council's revenue is raised. Rates are levied against residential and commercial land values (these values are set by the Queensland government), to finance the general functions of council.



Utilities charges: usually consumer-based. In other words, they are charges paid for services received such as water, sewerage and rubbish collection.



Grants and subsidies: Councils receive money from state and federal governments. This may be via grants. On some occasions councils can decide how that money will be spent; on other occasions the grant is for a specific purpose such as a new building or piece of major public infrastructure. Councils also receive funding to help them meet some of the costs of providing infrastructure such as water supply and sewerage systems. Those subsidies usually represent a percentage of the cost of the project.



Fees: Some council services involve a fee, including dog registrations, swimming pool entry fees, building approvals, parking fines, and waste disposal charges, to defray the cost of administering and processing licences etc.



Loans: Like individuals and businesses, councils often have to borrow money for major projects.

WHO WORKS FOR COUNCIL?

Chief Executive Officer

Every council employs a Chief Executive Officer (in some councils, this role may be called a General Manager), who is the link between council and its employees. Their job is to:

- provide executive leadership to the organisation
- implement council policies and decisions
- manage council operations and
- keep councillors informed.

Other occupations

Councils are often the biggest employer in their respective communities. They comprise a large, multi-disciplinary workforce with many different roles involved in delivering a wide range of services and functions.

Occupations include:

- planners and engineers
- accountants and clerical officers
- road workers and gardeners
- mechanics, plumbers and electricians
- librarians and lifeguards
- animal control officers
- parking and security officers
- laboratory technicians and
- computer programmers, and
- surveyors.



WHAT DO COUNCILLORS DO?



Councillors are elected to represent the interests of everyone in the community. Their role is to make decisions relating to facilities and services in their local area. They make local laws to help provide a safe and orderly community.



HOW DO I FIND OUT MORE?

- Obtain a copy of Council's Corporate Plan or Annual Report.
- Attend a council meeting.
- Speak to your local Councillor.
- Visit the Council website (for Cairns, this is www.cairns.qld.gov.au).
- Check with your local library for books and publications.

Councillors have regular meetings at which they make decisions and discuss local issues. Meetings are usually held at the council chambers. The Mayor presides at council meetings and represents the council on formal occasions. Members of the public can attend all council meetings.

Electing your council

A council consists of a Mayor and Councillors. The people who live in each local government division choose who they want to be their representative on their council and they also vote for the Mayor. Local government elections in Queensland are held every four years (the next one is due in 2024).

Voting

As with state and federal elections, voting is compulsory at council elections. Any person on the electoral roll must vote.

Who can stand for council?

Anyone can stand for election as a Councillor if they:

- are an Australian citizen on the electoral roll
- are 18 years of age or older
- live in the local government area and
- are not disqualified for specific reasons such as bankruptcy.

How can I have my say?

Councils represent the interests of everyone in the community. It is important for councils to work together with their communities to decide what is needed locally. Councils must consult their communities on local laws, as well as on their corporate plan, the document which sets the directions for what each local council is planning to do.

Locals can have their say when their council asks for feedback. They can also attend council meetings, inspect public documents, and meet with their local Councillor.

ABOUT CAIRNS REGIONAL COUNCIL

Cairns Regional Council is established under the Local Government Act 2009. The elected council is the law-making body and consists of the Mayor and 9 other Councillors who each represent a division. The administration is headed by the Chief Executive Officer. Cairns Regional Council has more than 1,200 staff and an annual budget of more than \$390 million (2022/23).

ADMINISTRATION

The administration of Council is divided into the following departments. Each department is headed by an Executive Director who reports directly to the Chief Executive Officer:

PEOPLE & ORGANISATIONAL PERFORMANCE

- Human Resources
- Organisational Performance
- Wellbeing, Health and Safety
- Customer Service
- Governance
- Marketing and Communications

CAIRNS INFRASTRUCTURE & ASSETS

- Building and Facilities Management
- Works Maintenance and Construction
- Major Projects
- Infrastructure Planning
- Resource Recovery
- Water Utility Services

FINANCE & BUSINESS SERVICES

- Information and Technology Services
- Finance
- Procurement and Payables
- Revenue and Business Support

LIFESTYLE & COMMUNITY

- Cairns Libraries
- Parks and Open Spaces
- Community Resilience and Safety
- Creative Life Venues and Services
- Natural Assets

PLANNING, GROWTH & SUSTAINABILITY

- Planning and Growth Management
- Development Services
- Property and Compliance
- Sustainability and Climate Change

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & ADVOCACY

- Economic Development
- Advocacy
- Major and Economic Events

ELECTED MEMBERS: MAYOR & COUNCILLORS

The Councillors represent nine divisions, and each Councillor is elected by eligible voters in each division. The Mayoralty is decided on a majority popular vote across the entire local government area which has over 104,600 enrolled voters. Local government elections are held every 4 years across Queensland.

Council decisions are taken by a majority vote of all the elected councillors. Each councillor in the council chamber has an equal vote - even the Mayor has a single vote. That means a decision by a majority of votes at a local government meeting is considered a decision of local government. In the case of a tied vote, the Mayor, acting as chairperson, can exercise a casting vote.

Councillors are elected to work collectively in the best interests of the community as a whole. Their key role is to plan for the future of their local community and put in place the strategies and policies to achieve those plans. Councillors must make decisions for the benefit of the entire local government area, not just the interests of the particular division they represent.

The Mayor has the same responsibilities as other councillors, plus additional roles including presiding over meetings, and representing the local government at ceremonial and civic functions. The Mayor is the most visible and high profile councillor in the local government and the person viewed as responsible for the performance of the council.

You can read more about the current Mayor and Divisional Councillors on Council's website at www.cairns.qld.gov.au

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- The map displays the nine divisions of the Cairns Regional Council, each color-coded and outlined in yellow. The divisions are: Division 1 (light blue), Division 2 (medium blue), Division 3 (orange), Division 4 (purple), Division 5 (dark blue), Division 6 (pink), Division 7 (brown), Division 8 (olive green), and Division 9 (light pink). Various coastal and inland locations are labeled, including Ellis Beach, Palm Cove, Clifton Beach, Kewarra Beach, Trinity Beach, Yorkeys Knob, Smithfield, Holloways Beach, Machans Beach, Cairns, Redlynch, Edmonton, Gordonvale, Babinda, Mirriwinni, Russell Heads, and Bramston Beach. The map also shows the coastline and surrounding green areas.
- DIVISION 1
 - DIVISION 2
 - DIVISION 3
 - DIVISION 4
 - DIVISION 5
 - DIVISION 6
 - DIVISION 7
 - DIVISION 8
 - DIVISION 9

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council meetings are the most visible work of local governments. The Local Government Act 2009 lays down the basic requirements of Council meetings (including public access to meetings, councillor voting and the need to keep minutes of meetings) and Council's Standing Orders outline other meeting protocols and rules of conduct.

Council conducts Ordinary and Committee meetings each month. Meetings are attended by the Committee members (or all Councillors in the case of Ordinary meetings), the Chief Executive Officer (or representative), the Executive Directors and, where necessary, other Council officers. Matters discussed at Committee level do not become resolutions of Council until the recommendations of the Committee are adopted and carried at an Ordinary meeting.

Meetings are open to the public, and are live streamed and video-recorded (except during "closed" sessions). Agendas and minutes record the decisions and ensure that Council's processes are properly documented, transparent and accountable.

Members of the public cannot participate / have a say in the meeting unless invited by Council to do so. Cairns Regional Council has the discretion to invite public deputations where members of the public can put forward a case or discuss a particular matter.

Special meetings are called when Council needs to consider extra-ordinary business items, including the handing down of the annual budget.

How a Council meeting is conducted

The Mayor acts as the impartial chair at all Council meetings and presides over the conduct of the meeting. If the Mayor is not present, the Deputy Mayor takes this role. In the absence of both the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, the meeting may elect one of the Councillors present to act as chairperson.

At meetings, report items are discussed and debated. Councillors can ask questions about the recommendations that relate to each report before they make a decision to support or object to it. The Councillors then decide whether to adopt the report's

recommendations in full, amend some or all of the recommendations, or propose an alternative recommendation.

Voting at council meetings is open and decisions are decided by a majority of councillors present at the meeting. Each councillor present has one vote and, if the votes are equal or tied, the chairperson (usually the Mayor) also has a casting vote.

Decisions made at meetings are recorded in the form of "resolutions" which are recorded in the minutes. Resolutions take effect immediately once recorded and are binding until formally amended or repealed.

Council may decide to hold a "closed" session during a meeting to discuss certain confidential matters or topics that would be inappropriate to be considered in a public meeting. Closed session topics may include matters relating to staff, budgets, contracts and legal matters. Resolutions (decisions) cannot be made in a closed session.

COUNCIL EMBLEMS

Council has a very strong public identity and reputation that is visually presented through clear and consistent visual branding. Council's branding suite comprises the official logo, crest and floral emblem.



Logo: Council's logo was adopted in 2008, following the amalgamation of Cairns City Council and Douglas Shire Council (which subsequently de-amalgamated in 2014). The logo design features the leaf of the Queensland Fan Palm, *Licuala ramsayii*, which is endemic to tropical rainforests across the entire footprint of the Council area.

- The green upper leaf represents the mountain range and rainforest clad coastline
- The lower blue leaf elements represent the ocean, the reef and the community's connection with both elements of nature.
- The dynamic splash at the heart of the leaf design represents the festive spirit of the Cairns regional community.



Crest: The crest is the official symbol of the Council. It is used for ceremonial applications, such as the Council Chambers and official City documents such as international agreements and civic events. The crest's colours are gold, blue and green. The crest features:

- picks and shovels, symbolising the historical significance of mining to the region (left)
- stylised bales of commerce and industry (centre)
- sugar cane (right)
- foliage depicting the region's diverse range of flora
- waves for the city's close proximity to the Great Barrier Reef
- a sun burst for the tropics



Floral emblem: The Golden Penda (*Xanthostemon chrysanthus*) is the city's official floral emblem. It is one of the tropical north's most splendid flowering trees and bursts into yellow bloom several times a year.



A BRIEF HISTORY OF CAIRNS & COUNCIL

Geography

The Cairns Regional Council local government area encompasses 1687 km² of land on a narrow coastal strip between the Great Dividing Range and the Coral Sea. It extends from the Eubenangee Swamp (near Mirriwinni) in the south to the Macalister Range (near Ellis Beach) in the north. The region is part of Australia's Wet Tropics and is framed by the lush World Heritage listed Wet Tropics rainforest to the west and north and the Coral Sea and World Heritage listed Great Barrier Reef Marine Park to the east. These attributes make the region a world renowned tourist destination.

Cairns city is the principal centre of the region and is centrally located along the coastal strip with sub-regions to the north and south consisting predominantly good quality agricultural land and areas of high ecological significance. The region is an important gateway to the nearby Atherton Tablelands, Daintree and Wet Tropics rainforest, and the outback Savannah region beyond the Great Dividing Range. The Russell, Mulgrave and Barron Rivers are the main river systems within the region. The region also includes a number of offshore islands: Snapper, Fitzroy, Green and the Frankland Islands.



The lands that cover the Cairns region are the traditional home of the Bama – the Aboriginal rainforest people - who have rich and long histories. Cairns continues to be home to many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with different and distinct languages, histories and cultures. About 9 percent of the region’s population is Indigenous - one of the highest populations of First Peoples in Australia.

European settlement

Officially founded in 1876 and named after the State Governor of the day, Sir William Wellington Cairns, it wasn’t until 1903 that Cairns was formally declared a town with a registered population of 3,500. Initial white settlement in the region in the 1860s was driven by beche-de-mer (sea cucumber) fishing however it was the discovery of gold to the north (Palmer River field) and Atherton Tableland (Hodginkson River field) that saw the population begin to climb.

Throughout the 1870s and early 1880s European and Chinese settlers opened up the region to agriculture generating a large enough population base for the borough of Cairns to be declared a municipality and for the alderman to elect the first mayor, R.A. Kingsford, in 1885. The development of the Cairns to Herberton rail line in 1886, and subsequent expansion from Redlynch to Myola, is widely considered the catalyst for the city’s expansion as it made travel through the difficult terrain easier as well as attracting a large number of immigrants involved in the construction. These immigrants went on to settle in the region and were responsible for establishing the sugarcane industry, predominantly in the low lands, and extensive fruit orchards on the cooler tableland.



SIGNIFICANT HISTORICAL

- 1876** – decision made to create a community on the banks of Trinity Bay
- 1879** – Cairns Divisional Board formed
- 1902** – Cairns Divisional Board becomes Cairns Municipal Council
- 1903** – Cairns proclaimed a town
- 1906** – local Harbour Board founded
- 1909** – The Cairns Post newspaper opened
- 1911** – the town's first water supply opened
- 1912** – the brick and timber Cairns District Hospital started accepting patients
- 1913** – the first Mulgrave Shire Council Chambers is built at 51 The Esplanade (now TTNQ visitors centre)
- 1923 (12 October)** – Cairns proclaimed a city and Cairns Municipal Council becomes Cairns City Council
- 1925** – public electricity supply turned on
- 1925** – Cairns High School and Technical College opens to students
- 1927** – Cyclone Willis causes widespread destruction
- 1930** – the first Cairns City Council Chambers is built in Abbott Street (now the city library)
- 1935** – the South American cane toad was introduced
- 1935** – Barron Falls Hydro Electricity scheme begins providing power for a major industrial expansion. The Barron Gorge Hydroelectric Station came on line in 1963
- 1936** – 4CA becomes the City's first radio station



- 1939-1945** – Cairns was used during World War Two as a base for Australian and Allied, especially American, troops destined for the Pacific arena. The fall of Singapore heralded a mass evacuation of the north with more than 7000 people leaving the region; many never returned
- 1947 (September)** – the corvette HMAS Warrnambool collided with a sea mine killing 3 crew and injuring 86 others. 2000 mines were cleared from shipping lanes over the next 2 years.
- 1954 (March)** – Queen Elizabeth 2 visited Cairns
- 1956** – strong winds from Cyclone Agnes damage vegetation and property
- 1956** – the Olympic torch passed through on its way to the Melbourne Games
- 1958** – sewerage of the City began
- 1962** – the Green Island Jetty was opened in an event that has since become the annual Cairns Festival

MILESTONES FOR CAIRNS

1964 – a bulk sugar terminal was opened on the Cairns waterfront

1966 (July) – the ABC becomes the first local television station

1970 – Cairns City Council was the first municipality to have a Burroughs mainframe computer. It was the size of a domestic freezer and had a memory of 200 words

1974 – Prime Minister Gough Whitlam officially opened the much-awaited Cairns Civic Centre

1975 – Local identity Emrys “Rusty” Rees formalised the “hippie” market; it continues to operate as a predominantly fruit and vegetable market

1979 – residents could borrow books from the newly constructed Cairns Public Library

1981-83 – the City’s first high-rise buildings, apartments and a hotel complex, dominated the skyline

1987 – Tjapukai Dance Theatre opened in Kuranda bringing attention to Indigenous tourism. The Tjapukai Aboriginal Cultural Park, at the Cairns suburb of Smithfield) opened in July 1996

1988 – the Wet Tropics was included on the UNESCO World Heritage list

1992 – the Court House and Police complex in Sheridan Street was opened

1994 – construction began on the SkyRail rainforest cableway

1995 – Mulgrave Shire and Cairns City Council amalgamated

1995 – the first public internet café in Cairns opened

1995 – James Cook University opened its Smithfield campus

1996 – work began on the Cairns Convention Centre; it has since won many prestigious awards for its excellence in hosting events

1996 – the Cairns Railway Station was demolished to make way for Cairns Central Shopping Centre which incorporated a new station

2000 – Olympic Torch visits on its way to the Sydney Games. Vision of the region was beamed around the world

2003 – the Cairns Lagoon, a 4800sqm saltwater swimming pool, was built as part of the redevelopment of the Cairns Esplanade

2008 – Queensland Government amalgamates Cairns City Council and Douglas Shire Council, creating the new Cairns Regional Council

2014 – Douglas Shire Council de-amalgamates from Cairns Regional Council

2016 – Munro Martin Parklands re-opens following major redevelopment

2018 – Cairns Performing Arts Centre officially opens, replacing the 1974-built Cairns Civic Theatre

2021 – Esplanade Dining Precinct redevelopment completed



IN FOCUS



People

Over 169,000 people reside in Cairns (2021 ERP) and this is one of Australia's most vibrant multicultural cities. People from more than 109 nations choose to call Cairns home, with around 800 immigrants taking on Australian citizenship each year.

Industry & economy

Cairns is tropical north Queensland's major commercial, industrial, educational, retail and entertainment centre. It provides a diverse range of high quality professional and business services both locally and internationally to our rapidly expanding Asia Pacific market. As the international gateway to two of the world's great natural wonders – the Great Barrier Reef and the world's oldest tropical rainforest – Cairns is renowned world-wide as a premier tourism destination. The \$3 billion tourism industry is fundamental to the Cairns economy. Other significant industry sectors are agriculture, marine and aviation maintenance, construction, education and health care.

Arts & culture

The Cairns region offers a wonderfully diverse range of cultural and recreation opportunities for residents and visitors. There are many opportunities to embrace our unique tropical culture: from art exhibitions, museums and galleries, theatre, concerts and live performances by local and visiting talent, as well as major cultural drawcards such as the annual Cairns Festival and Chinese New Year celebrations.

CAIRNS IS A SISTER CITY TO 7 INTERNATIONAL CITIES.

Our Sister Cities relationships aim to foster long-term goodwill, cultural and social links and economic connections with other countries. Our Sister Cities are:



**Minami,
Japan**
SINCE 1969



**Sidney,
Canada**
SINCE 1984



**Lae,
Papua New
Guinea**
SINCE 1984



**Scottsdale
USA**
SINCE 1987

Parks & gardens

Our environment and climate is perfect for outdoor activities and adventure. With more than 450kms of cycleways, extensive tropical botanic gardens and parklands, pristine beaches and a wealth of open space, there's something to appeal to everyone.

Sports & active living

Cairns is home to a number of world-class sporting facilities that host national and international events including Australian Pro Tour tennis matches, mountain bike championships, Ironman triathlons, AFL, international swimming meets, A-League soccer games and cricket matches. The Cairns region's environment and climate is ideal for outdoor activities and adventure. With more than 400 sports and recreational clubs and facilities across the region, there's something to appeal to everyone – from netball, basketball, BMX, gymnastics, rugby league. AFL, soccer, baseball, tennis, cricket, vigoro, polocrosse, hockey, and lawn bowls, to arts, ceramics and weaving.

Sustainability

Sustainability is about balancing environmental, social and economic considerations to reduce our impact on the planet and its inhabitants. As the level of governance closest to the people, Council's contribution to sustainability includes:

- leading by example in the delivery of regional services and infrastructure;
- balanced decision making around land use planning and development control;
- and strong community engagement on local and regional issues.

As a Reef Guardian Council, Cairns Regional Council is committed to driving improvements in wastewater quality, sustainable land use planning, waste management, recycling and energy performance



**Riga,
Latvia**
SINCE 1988



**Zhanjiang,
China**
SINCE 2004



**Oyama,
Japan**
SINCE 2006

LOOKING AHEAD

Cairns Regional Council's vision is
Shaping the future

Our values are:



TRUST
Honouring the
trust of our
residents, each
other and staff



RESPONSIBILITY
Transparency and
responsibility to
our community



CAIRNS-NESS
Safeguarding
what makes
Cairns, Cairns

Council's Corporate Plan 2021-2026 provides a blueprint for Council to achieve a sustainable future for our region.

It also provides the basis from which specific Council strategies, plans and policies are developed. Each year the Annual Report provides a scorecard of our achievements against the Corporate Plan.



HOW TO CONTACT CAIRNS REGIONAL COUNCIL



Call our Customer Service team
on 1300 69 22 47

Business hours: Monday-Friday,
8:30am-4:30pm, except public holidays,
Emergencies: 24/7



Email: council@cairns.qld.gov.au
Web: www.cairns.qld.gov.au
My Cairns app



Post: PO Box 359 Cairns Qld 4870



COUNCIL CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTRES

Cairns: Spence Street Administration Centre
119-145 Spence Street, Cairns
1300 69 22 47
Open: Monday to Friday* 8:30am – 4:30pm

Babinda Library Council Customer Service Desk
24 Munro Street, Babinda
Phone (07) 4067 8400
Open: Monday to Friday* 9am – 3pm (closed
12.30pm – 1.30pm for lunch)

**Closed on public holidays.
Note: EFTPOS only. No cash or cheque payments accepted.*



MY CAIRNS
DOWNLOAD IT FREE



For the latest information about Cairns Regional Council, please visit www.cairns.qld.gov.au.
The information in this booklet is accurate as at May 2023.