

CAIRNS ESPLANADE USAGE POLICY

Intent: To ensure the effective management of activities within the Cairns Esplanade Reserve.
Scope This Policy applies to the Cairns Esplanade Reserve extending from Smith Street in the North and Spence Street to the South as depicted in the attached map.

PRINCIPLES

Usage of the Cairns Esplanade Reserve will be in accordance with the following key principles:

1. The primary purpose of the reserve is to serve the community as a place for informal gatherings and general recreation.
2. Approved periodic uses such as programs, events, activities or third-party hire should not significantly diminish the primary purpose.
3. Periodic uses must align with the expectations of the public and enhance the destination appeal of the reserve for locals and visitors to the region.
4. Council operations should be able to occur in a safe, secure and efficient manner.
5. Adverse impacts to the surrounding environment, businesses and residents are mitigated.

PROVISIONS

Areas within the Cairns Esplanade Reserve may be used or hired on a short term or periodic basis by Council, individuals, groups or businesses for the purpose of carrying out community, sport, cultural or environmental activities in accordance with the following provisions:

Acceptable Activities According to Location

All activities must comply with the key principles.

External proposals must comply with Cairns Plan and will be subject to an application and approval process as required by Council’s Local Laws.

A non-exhaustive listing of acceptable activities for each designated location at the Cairns Esplanade Reserve is listed below.

Precinct/Location	Acceptable Activities
Southern Precinct: Fogarty Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council initiatives or external proposals such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Movies, live streaming, community events/celebrations, kiosk/roving food, markets, art and cultural exhibitions, amusement rides • Commercial music or performance events (single and multi-day) as approved by Council resolution
Central Precinct: Eastern Events Lawn Western Events Lawn Sister Cities Parkland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council initiatives or external proposals such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Movies, live streaming, community events/celebrations, markets, temporary/changing art and cultural exhibitions, educational activities, exercise classes/fitness activities, amusement rides
Dining Precinct:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programmes, events and activities conducted by Council • External proposals as approved by Council resolution
Northern Precinct: Northern Activities Zone Coconut Grove McKenzie St Parkland Northern Events Lawn Muddies Events Lawn Fun Ship Parkland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council initiatives or external proposals such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Movies, live streaming, adventure activities, exercise classes, fitness activities, educational activities, temporary/changing art and cultural exhibitions, kiosk/roving food, water sports/water-based activities, amusement rides, markets

Operating Hours

The Cairns Esplanade Reserve is generally accessible by the public 24 hours a day, 7 days per week with the following exceptions:

- The Cairns Esplanade Lagoon opening hours are 6.00am to 9.00pm Thursday – Tuesday and public holidays, and 12noon to 9.00pm Wednesdays.
- Muddy’s Regional Playground opening hours are 9.00am to 7.00pm, Monday to Sunday including public holidays.
- For security, cleaning and maintenance.
- Public toilets and park improvements, as signed.

Events and activities are permitted between 6.00am and 10.00pm (excluding bump in and bump out), unless otherwise approved by Council.

Duration

General activities requiring exclusive hire for less than 6 months must be in accordance with the key principles detailed in this policy.

Exclusive hire for longer than 6 months and less than 12 months will be as approved by Council resolution.

Occupation for periods longer than 12 months must be assessed under Council’s Tenure Policy.

Infrastructure

Any infrastructure associated with approved activities is to be temporary in nature and able to be removed from site at the cessation of the activity. All structures, where applicable, must obtain relevant building approval prior to commencement of use.

Fees and Charges

Fees and charges associated with events and activities at the Cairns Esplanade are per the adopted Council Fees and Charges Schedule.

Relevant Policies and Considerations

This policy should be read in conjunction with other Council policies relating to public open space and its use, including but not limited to the Esplanade Land Management Plan, Public Open Space General Policy, Tenure Arrangements and Disposal of Council Property General Policy, Arts and Cultural Facilities General Policy, Commercial Use of Public Open Space Best Practice Management Policy, Buskers Policy, Markets Policy and the Speaker’s Corner General Policy.

If there is an inconsistency in Council policy relating to management of the Cairns Esplanade Reserve, this Policy shall take precedence.

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This policy is to remain in force until otherwise determined by Council.

Director responsible for Review:

Lifestyle and Community

ORIGINALLY ADOPTED: 25/08/2021

CURRENT ADOPTION: 25/06/2025

DUE FOR REVISION: 25/08/2029

REVOKED/SUPERSEDED:



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Ken Gouldthorp
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Attachment 1: Cairns Esplanade Reserve Map

