

Cairns

Climate Change Strategy 2030

Implementation Snapshot 2022-2025

The Cairns Climate Change Strategy 2030 was developed with extensive community engagement and endorsed in March 2022. It outlines Council's vision for 2030 - to be a leader in mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change.

This Implementation Snapshot outlines the key initiatives that Council, in collaboration with its partners, has undertaken between 2022 and 2025, across the focus areas below.

Our commitment to transparency

Council is committed to reporting on its environmental and sustainability performance to the community, and voluntarily produces a State of Environment Report (SoE). The next SoE is scheduled for release in 2026/27. The SoE report outlines Council's performance across areas of urban water management, waste and recycling, natural resource management and council operations. The SoE will be available once Council's improved energy and emissions monitoring platform is fully implemented.



Actions

2022-2025



7 complete



32 continuous



39 in progress



29 not commenced

107 total

Collaborations and supporters



- Australian Government
- Queensland Government
- Reef Guardian Councils Program
- Coastal Councils Adaptation Taskforce
- Far North Queensland Organisation of Councils
- Universities
- Chambers of Commerce (Queensland and Cairns)
- Land & Sea Ranger Groups
- Smart Green Economy Working Group
- Youth Council & local schools
- Community & landcare groups



Built environment

37,000 smart water meters

installed as part of the Water Demand Management Strategy

Local Disaster Management Plan

underway, with community-led disaster plans facilitated at beach suburbs affected by TC Jasper

Managing climate hazards

through planning for future growth - Towards 2050 Growth Strategy and Cairns City Precincts Urban Regeneration Project

Improved flood modelling

and Flood Resilience Design Guide for households

Urban heat

research and advocacy

Concept design from the City Precincts Urban Regeneration Project, prioritising blue-green networks and resilient, tropical neighbourhoods.



Status



2 complete



2 continuous



13 in progress



7 not commenced

Natural environment

\$183,250

in Natural Area Management Grants, restoring riparian areas, plus \$200,000 annually to the Cairns River Improvement Trust

2,966

volunteer hours in 2024/25, improving Cairns' open spaces through the Green Space Our Place Program

76,000+

 trees raised in our nursery for revegetation

Saltwater Creek Catchment Management Plan

balancing resilience, cultural and natural values

Conservation Partnerships

and Clean Creeks program with Indigenous Land and Sea Rangers

- removing 10ha of weeds and 9.4T of rubbish

\$2M grant received

for coastal revegetation and sand nourishment of beaches impacted by TC Jasper

Green Space Our Place volunteer



Status



1 complete



5 continuous



4 in progress



6 not commenced

Community

\$100,000

Climate Action & Sustainability Grants given to community, including for solar PV and community gardens

8,000 attendees

estimated at the annual Cairns Ecofiesta, building skills and connecting community to foster resilience

Social Resilience Strategy

in progress

\$93,000

for Nature-based Learning Grants and the Gifted Global Green program for students to progress environmental initiatives

Annual Trash to Treasure Day

celebrating waste reuse and landfill reduction

Cairns Ecofiesta workshop on household solar, batteries and electric vehicles



Status



11 continuous



3 in progress



2 not commenced

Industry

Supporting local suppliers

\$463M

spent locally in 2024/25

Helping businesses get ready

for low carbon purchasing through preparing emissions reduction plans and managing electricity

Smart Green Economy

working group

promoting investment opportunities in our region

Council's Energy Advantage Business Forum, funded by the Queensland Government



Status



2 complete



4 continuous



6 in progress



7 not commenced

Energy

First local government in QLD

to sign an electricity supply agreement with Clean Co, enabling a transition to renewable energy in future. Saving over \$1.1M p.a. (based on first year)

Over 3MW of solar panels

on our facilities, saving over \$1M since 2021

LED upgrades

60% of streetlights and 90% of traffic lights complete

New energy and emissions monitoring system

underway

Electric landscaping tools in use

Ground mount solar PV system at Northern Wastewater Treatment Plant



Status



1 complete



5 continuous



7 in progress



4 not commenced

Transport

1,821 people supported

with cycling confidence and bicycle upcycling (Cycling for All program)

30 hybrid vehicles and 3 electric vehicles

in the Council fleet - with staff training for servicing

Over \$11M

invested in neighbourhood pathways and active travel routes

Cairns Transport Study

Shared Implementation Plan - update underway

EV Showcase

at Cairns Ecofiesta, with education for homes and businesses

Two battery electric vehicles funded by the Australian Government



Status



1 complete



5 continuous



6 in progress



3 not commenced