

CAIRNS 2050 SHARED VISION – PROGRESS UPDATE

Nick Masasso | 58/6/3-01 | #7080021

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council notes the progress update on the Cairns 2050 Shared Vision implementation.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Council adopted the Cairns 2050 Shared Vision in late 2018 following extensive stakeholder engagement and consultation. The vision has an aspirational long-term goal to establish Cairns as the world's most liveable and enterprising regional city.

Implementation of the vision is a collaborative effort with multiple stakeholders involved including all three levels of Government. Whilst the vision has a long-term horizon (to 2050), significant progress has already been made in implementing the various projects and initiatives that underpin it.

This report highlights the progress made and is recommended for noting by Council.

BACKGROUND:

On 28 November 2018, Council endorsed the [Cairns 2050 Shared Vision](#) (the Shared Vision). The purpose of the Shared Vision was to clearly articulate the future economic and liveability opportunities for Cairns, the projects and enablers required to realise those opportunities, and the commitments and collaboration needed to deliver them.

The Shared Vision also provided a basis for a proposed City Deal for Cairns. A City Deal proposal based on the Shared Vision was prepared and formally submitted to the Federal Government in 2019. However, at the date of this report, there has been no further progress towards securing a deal¹.

The Shared Vision was developed through a consultative process that involved workshops and engagement with over 50 key stakeholders including iterative draft reviews of the vision document. The Shared Vision was endorsed by key stakeholders, Member for Leichhardt the Hon Warren Entsch MP and Member for Cairns Mr Michael Healy MP.

At the core of the Shared Vision is an aspiration to continually improve the quality of life and liveability of the Cairns community, both today and for the generations that follow.

¹ City Deals are a Federally led implementation tool for all levels of government to work together to plan and deliver transformative outcomes for Australian cities. The Federal Government is considering options to move from Regional and City Deal approaches into a genuine partnerships model.

The Shared Vision recognises there are eight core and interrelated pillars that support this aspiration as set out in the diagram below.

Figure 1: Pillars that contribute to quality of life and liveability



Guided by the liveability framework identified at Figure 1, 41 discrete projects and enablers were identified, which would contribute to the realisation of the Shared Vision and improve the quality of life of the Cairns community. Progressing the projects and enablers identified in the Shared Vision has required a collaborative effort with a range of different stakeholders/proponents including all three levels of Government.

Since its adoption, the Shared Vision has informed Council's own strategic objectives as well as its advocacy activities. This report provides an update on the progress made towards the Shared Vision and is for noting by Council.

COMMENT:

Attachment 1 sets out a summary of the progress made in relation to each of the 41 projects and enablers identified in the Shared Vision. Whilst the Shared Vision has a long-term horizon (to 2050), significant progress has already been made in relation to a number of the initiatives with highlights including:

- Cairns Water Security – Stage 1 project – proceeding and \$215 million in State and Federal funding committed.
- Council's new Materials Recycling Facility completed and now fully operational with significant improvements to landfill diversion rates achieved.
- Cairns Convention Centre – refurbishment completed and expansion now nearing completion.
- James Cook University's (JCU) Ideas Lab completed and now fully operational
- JCU's proposed Cairns Tropical Enterprise Centre and the Queensland Government's Cairns Health Innovation Centre are being collaboratively

progressed as part of the Far North Queensland Health and Innovation Precinct located in north Cairns adjacent to existing Cairns Hospital facilities.

- \$50 million in Federal funding secured to support the establishment of a new CQUniversity campus in the Cairns city centre.
- Cairns Gallery Precinct project progressed with the heritage refurbishment and upgrade of the Courthouse gallery completed and the refurbishment of the Mulgrave Shire Offices and design of the 'new gallery' both underway.
- Completion and release of the Ports North 30-Year Two-Port (Cairns and Mourilyan) Masterplan.
- \$155 million expansion of the HMAS Cairns naval base currently underway and due for completion December 2024.
- Awarding of the \$70 million Regional Maintenance Provider contract to NORSTA Maritime to deliver the Cairns Regional Maintenance Centre – otherwise known as RMC Northeast.
- Completion of the \$127 million Cairns Shipping Development project which facilitates significant growth in cruise ship visitation through the Port of Cairns.
- Funding commitments of \$300 million (\$150 million each from both the Queensland and Federal Governments) towards the proposed Cairns Marine Precinct common user facility project.
- Significant road projects progressed including the Smithfield Bypass (completed); Bruce Highway upgrades (Kate to Aumuller Streets – completed, Edmonton to Gordonvale duplication – in progress, and Foster Road intersection upgrade – planning underway); Cairns Western Arterial Road upgrades (detailed design completed); and Cairns Ring Road (preliminary works in progress with planning for the remainder underway).
- Cairns South Health Facility established and Cairns Hospital emergency department upgrade and new mental health facility projects under construction.
- Queensland Government \$250 million commitment towards expansion of the Cairns Hospital to provide additional bed (141 beds) capacity with delivery to occur over the period to 2026.
- Fast tracked completion of Council's \$28 million Esplanade Dining Precinct project.
- Establishment of the cyclone and related flood damage reinsurance pool to improve insurance affordability in cyclone-prone areas (including Cairns).

The Shared Vision will continue to be an important and relevant reference point for Council's strategies and advocacy activities.

OPTIONS:

Option 1 (recommended):

That Council notes the progress update on the Cairns 2050 Shared Vision implementation.

Option 2:

That Council **does not** note the progress update on the Cairns 2050 Shared Vision implementation at this time and requests further information from Council Officers before reconsidering this matter.

CONSIDERATIONS:

Risk Management:

As time passes, there is a risk that changing circumstances may impact the Shared Vision's relevance, priorities and projects. Whilst an update of the Shared Vision is not considered necessary in the short to medium term, this situation will continue to be monitored going forward.

Corporate and Operational Plans:

The Shared Vision is a collaborative vision for the community of Cairns with multiple stakeholders (including Council) involved in both its development and the implementation of the various projects and initiatives that underpin it. Council's Corporate and Operational Plans specifically focus on the strategies and actions Council will implement to support a sustainable future for the Cairns community. There is strong alignment between the Shared Vision and Council's Corporate and Operational Plans.

Council Finance and the Local Economy:

A significant proportion of the projects and enablers included in the Shared Vision contribute to economic prosperity in the Cairns region. Many of these projects and enablers have been progressed or completed since the vision's endorsement.

Council has a role in the implementation of a number of the projects and initiatives included in the Shared Vision. Many of these projects and initiatives have potential capital and operating cost implications for Council. These costs are considered and where appropriate, provided for in Council's capital and operating budgets on an ongoing basis.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: Cairns 2050 Shared Vision: Progress Update November 2022



Nick Masasso
Director – Economic Development & Advocacy

Attachment 1: Cairns 2050 Shared Vision: Progress Update November 2022

STRATEGIC THEME: NATURAL ASSETS		
Project/enabler	Status	Comments
Great Barrier Reef and Wet Tropics – Management/ Funding		Whilst significant funding continues to be invested in the preservation and effective management of these iconic natural assets by all levels of Government, the comprehensive review and simplification of management structures called for in the Shared Vision has not been progressed.
Water Security and Quality		Cairns Regional Council's Cairns Water Security Stage 1 Project, which accesses new water capacity via a run of river supply in the Mulgrave River and which will also apply an enhanced treatment process to Cairns' existing Behana Creek water source, is progressing with an anticipated completion date of mid-2026. The Queensland and Australian Governments have each committed \$107.5 million to support successful project delivery. Planning for the longer-term urban water need of Cairns continues on an ongoing basis.
Waste Precinct and Regional Waste Strategy Solutions		With support from the Queensland Government, Council constructed a new Materials Recycling Facility in Cairns with the aim of increasing the recycling recovery rate from 59% to 85%. The \$14.3 million facility has been operational since November 2020. Utilising funding provided by the Queensland Government, the Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils (FNQROC) recently commissioned an independent consultant to prepare a Regional Resource Recovery Plan. The plan aims to provide a strategic framework for action and collaboration across 11 councils on the management of municipal waste. Concurrently with this project, Cairns Regional Council has also engaged an independent consultant to prepare an independent business case on Council's Resource Recovery 2040 project. The project will look at innovative solutions to Cairns' waste and resource recovery requirements including opportunities for development of new business and industry opportunities in the circular economy sector.
World Heritage Gateway Centre		This initiative proposed the establishment of a centrally located facility where residents and visitors could engage and learn more about the Great Barrier Reef and Wet Tropics Rainforest. At the date of this update, no progress has been made on this initiative.
Citizens of the Great Barrier Reef - Support		Since the endorsement of the Shared Vision, the operations of Citizens of the Great Barrier Reef have continued to expand with additional funding secured from Government, philanthropic and corporate partners. A core focus has been the expansion of the Great Reef Census project which brings together the reef community to capture large-scale reconnaissance data from across the Great Barrier Reef. Using advanced technology and a combination of citizens/expert scientific analysis to better understand how the Reef is changing each year, the Great Reef Census supports the effective management and preservation of this iconic natural asset.

Key (status):



Progressing
or completed



Limited
progress or
at risk



No progress

Attachment 1: Cairns 2050 Shared Vision: Progress Update November 2022

STRATEGIC THEME: TOURISM		
Project/enabler	Status	Comments
Cairns Convention Centre Expansion		Since 2020, there have been significant capital improvements undertaken at the Cairns Convention Centre including essential maintenance and refurbishment work (now complete) and expansion works to deliver: an undercover, tropically planted forecourt; an expanded main entry lobby; a 410-seat plenary lecture space; three 110 seat meeting rooms; exhibition space for up to 30 display booths; a 500-seat banquet room with a large adjoining pre-function space; and an external terrace. The expansion will significantly enhance the ability of the centre to attract and host events (including concurrently) and is now nearing completion.
Global Tourism Hub/CITYport Local Area Plan		In July 2020, the Queensland Government announced that the proposed Global Tourism Hub project would not be proceeding due to a lack of interest from potential investors. The Ports North <i>Port of Cairns and Port of Mourilyan 30-Year Two-Port Master Plan</i> (released in September 2022) identifies options for the further development of Cityport land within a broader Tourism and Commercial Precinct. This includes land previously earmarked for the Global Tourism Hub project.
Wangetti Trail		The Queensland Government is delivering the \$47.1 million Wangetti Trail in Tropical North Queensland. The 94km walking and mountain biking trail will stretch from Palm Cove to Port Douglas and will showcase the stunning coastal and hinterland scenery of the World Heritage-listed Wet Tropics and the Great Barrier Reef. To deliver the project \$39.1 million of State funds have been allocated to the construction of the trail complemented by the Australian Government's investment of \$8 million into the project from the National Tourism Icons Program. Douglas Shire Council and Cairns Regional Council are also key stakeholders supporting project delivery. Whilst there have been some delays in relation to the project, it is targeted to be progressively opened from 2023 (subject to approvals).
Tourism Funding		Significant funding has been committed by all three levels of Government to support tourism industry development and destination marketing in TNQ both during, and in response to, the COVID-19 pandemic. Cairns Regional Council has also continued to champion an opt-in visitor levy model aimed at providing a sustainable increase in tourism funding secured through a visitor levy on short stay overnight accommodation and administered by local councils. The proposed model requires a change in Queensland Government legislation to provide Queensland councils with the ability to implement the levy if they consider it appropriate for their local community. Whilst the proposal was recommended by the Queensland Government appointed Tourism Industry Reference Panel and was also overwhelmingly supported and endorsed by local governments at the recent annual LGAQ conference in Cairns (85% of votes cast in favour), the Queensland Government has indicated it will not be proceeding with the proposal at this time. Advocacy on this item remains ongoing.

Key (status):



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STRATEGIC THEME: EDUCATION, KNOWLEDGE AND INNOVATION		
Project/enabler	Status	Comments
James Cook University (JCU) Cairns Enterprise Bundle: Cairns Tropical Enterprise Centre; Ideas Lab; and Tropical Sports Conditioning Centre.		The \$30 million JCU Ideas Lab was officially opened in December 2020 on JCU's Nguma-bada campus in Cairns. The JCU Ideas Lab aims to transform the innovation ecosystem in Far North Queensland by enabling regional digital transformation, translating JCU's teaching and research expertise into innovations that generate jobs and foster economic growth for Cairns and the broader region. The ultimate aim is to create products and processes with real commercial application that can drive economic growth and diversity for northern Australia. JCU's Cairns Tropical Enterprise Centre (CTEC) will form part of the broader Far North Queensland Health and Innovation Precinct (FNQHIP) being developed collaboratively by JCU and the Queensland Government in north Cairns adjacent to existing Cairns Hospital facilities. JCU's CTEC project has secured \$60 million in federal funding and is expected to comprise a four level, circa 3500m² Class 5 and 9b education facility² located within the FNQHIP. Practical completion is expected by June 2024.
CQU City Campus and Impact Plan		CQU's proposal to build a \$50 million new campus within the Cairns city centre received bi-partisan support in the lead up to the 2022 federal election, with the \$50 million commitment reconfirmed by federal Labor in the October 2022 Budget. The project will enable CQU to provide an expanded tertiary course offering and deliver significant economic and social benefits to the Far North Queensland community during both the project construction and operational phases.
Study Cairns Initiatives		International Education was one the industry sectors most severely impacted during the COVID-19 pandemic. Travel restrictions severely reduced student numbers and also adversely impacted Study Cairns' ability to effectively market overseas. With continued support from the Queensland Government and Cairns Regional Council, Study Cairns was able to continue its operations including pivoting its strategic focus to the support of international students 'stranded' in the region during the pandemic through its highly successful Cairns Cares campaign. With international markets now progressively reopening, there will be an increased emphasis on international marketing initiatives going forward.
Innovation Precinct		A dedicated Innovation Precinct has not been established. However, Cairns Regional Council will continue to consider how and where such a precinct may be able to be located/encouraged. Locations adjacent to either the FNQHIP or the proposed new CQU City Campus, represent obvious options worthy of consideration.

² Under the National Construction Code, Class 5 refers to office buildings for professional and/or commercial purposes, class 9b is for public buildings where people assemble.

Key (status):



Progressing
or completed



Limited
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No progress

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STRATEGIC THEME: AGRICULTURE		
Project/enabler	Status	Comments
Nullinga Dam		In August 2019, the Queensland Government announced it would not be proceeding with the proposed Nullinga Dam project as a result of the project's business case concluding that the cost of water would be five to six time more than any prospective water users could pay. The Queensland Government has since been pursuing other water supply options including undertaking the Tablelands Regional Water Assessment process which aims to identify future water security options to support agricultural development in the Far North Queensland Tablelands region.
Agricultural Export Development		In May 2020, Advance Cairns released the <i>Export 2030 – Delivering Fresh Food Fast</i> report which analysed the opportunity to double high value food exports from Far North Queensland (FNQ). The report identified three overarching priority enablers as key levers the FNQ region should progress to drive the export opportunity: 1. Secure airline agreements that provide increased passenger numbers to enhance both FNQ freight capacity and tourism out of Cairns International Airport. 2. Drive increased utilisation of existing and future Cairns International Airport export facilities infrastructure through enhanced awareness and collaboration. 3. Ensure key enabling infrastructure is secured, with priority given to water and improving connectivity that will underpin increased production potential in the region. Whilst international aviation was adversely impacted during COVID-19, support through a variety of mechanisms including the Australian Government's International Freight Assistance Mechanism (IFAM) helped maintain international aviation freight capacity through Cairns and other airports. With international aviation now 're-normalising' opportunities continue to be explored by the Cairns Airport, TIQ and others to secure widebody aircraft out of Cairns to support both passenger and freight movements. Air Freight Handling Services is building a new dedicated Retail Trade Distribution Centre at the Cairns Airport with the facility expected to be operational by the end of the year. The Cairns facility will target fresh export produce including fish and crustaceans (live and frozen), avocados, mangoes, melons, citrus and blueberries, with capacity for future expansion. The facility is being delivered with funding support from the Queensland Government.
Mitchell River Catchment Development		Development aimed at harnessing underutilised water capacity in the Mitchell River catchment to support agricultural expansion has not progressed. However, a number of other projects aimed at providing increased water capacity to support agricultural development in FNQ have been progressing including the Lakeland Irrigation Scheme project. That project proposes a 205,000 ML dam being built on the Palmer River which would increase the Lakeland agricultural area to 8,000 hectares (more than triple the current area). The final stages of the independent business case are currently underway.

Key (status):



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No progress

Attachment 1: Cairns 2050 Shared Vision: Progress Update November 2022

STRATEGIC THEME: ARTS & CULTURE		
Project/enabler	Status	Comments
Cairns Gallery Precinct		The Cairns Gallery Precinct project will transform and connect three heritage listed buildings in the Cairns City Centre (the Cairns Art Gallery, Court House and former Mulgrave Shire Council offices) and establish a new world class gallery building to create a dynamic and unique gallery precinct with benefits for both the local community and domestic and international visitors. Refurbishment of the Court House is now complete with the facility's gallery operations officially opening in December 2020. Refurbishment of the Mulgrave Shire Offices and design of the 'New Gallery' are also underway utilising funding provided by the Australian Government through the Regional Recovery Partnerships Program. The funding is in addition to funding previously provided by the Australian Government towards the Court House refurbishment.
National Indigenous Heritage Centre		The proposal provided for the establishment of a National Indigenous Heritage Centre (of art, history, research, dance, language, education, storytelling and more) in Cairns. A project proponent has not been identified and the project has not progressed. It is noted that the Cairns Gallery Precinct project is expected to have a strong emphasis on the display and celebration of Indigenous art and culture.
Cairns Indigenous Art Fair (security/expansion)		Cairns Regional Council has entered into a four-year (1 July 22 to 30 June 26) resource and performance agreement with the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair (CIAF) Limited. The agreement provides for more than \$700,000 in Council funding and in-kind support to assist with the development and delivery of the highly acclaimed annual event that celebrates, and provides an ethical marketplace for, contemporary and traditional Indigenous art. The Queensland Government is also a significant funding partner for the event given its focus on elevating First Nations arts as a key priority under its <i>Creative Together 2020–2030: A 10-year Roadmap for arts, culture and creativity in Queensland</i>. Whilst COVID-19 necessitated a digital/virtual delivery model being utilised in 2020 and 2021, CIAF returned to its traditional delivery model in 2022 with the event taking place at the newly refurbished Cairns Convention Centre in early July, with opportunity to further expand the event going forward.

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Attachment 1: Cairns 2050 Shared Vision: Progress Update November 2022

STRATEGIC THEME: CONNECTIVITY AND ACCESSIBILITY		
Project/enabler	Status	Comments
Cairns Seaport Master Planning		Ports North's 30-Year Two-Port (Cairns and Mourilyan) Masterplan was released in September 2022. The Masterplan outlines detailed plans for land use, infrastructure and operational decisions at the Cairns and Mourilyan Ports over the next 30 years. For Cairns Port, the Masterplan identifies four precincts - Tourism and commercial; Cargo; Marine, defence and cargo; and Port related industries and services. It also considers a range of potential development options for each precinct.
HMAS Cairns Expansion		As part of its Navy Capability Infrastructure Sub-Program, the Federal Government is investing \$155 million in the upgrade and expansion of the HMAS Cairns Base to support the new Arafura Class Offshore Patrol Vessels, four of which will be homeported in Cairns. The expansion is expected to be completed in December 2024. The upgrade includes: • new and extended wharf facilities; • new office accommodation to support the Arafura Class Offshore Patrol Vessels sea operations, and support the vessels and their crews when the vessels are docked; • a new explosive ordnance storage facility; and • upgrades/extensions to existing engineering services infrastructure including electrical supply and distribution, roads and carparking, and stormwater and sewerage. Complementing this increased naval base investment, in early 2022 the Federal Government awarded a five-year \$70 million Regional Maintenance Provider contract to NORSTA Maritime to deliver the Cairns Regional Maintenance Centre – otherwise known as RMC Northeast. Under the contract, NORSTA Maritime will build a regional sovereign sustainment capability by developing and maintaining supply chains and nurturing existing (and establishing new) regional capability required by Defence.
Cairns Shipping Development Project		The \$127 million Cairns Shipping Development Project (completed in May 2020) has widened and deepened the existing Trinity Inlet shipping channel and also upgraded a series of wharves within the Port of Cairns. The project facilitates cruise ship growth for vessels up to 300 metres, with a forecast demand of up to 150 cruise ships through the Port of Cairns by 2031. It is expected to generate significant economic benefits including more than 2,700 direct and indirect ongoing jobs by 2031. Whilst cruise ship operations around the world were significantly curtailed in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, 2022 has seen a resurgence in cruise ship visitation to Cairns including ships that would have otherwise been unable to dock in Cairns without the Cairns Shipping Development Project being completed. This included the concurrent docking of two Vista-class cruise ships (the 294 metre Queen Elizabeth and the 285 metre Noordam) in mid November 2022.

Key (status):



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No progress

Attachment 1: Cairns 2050 Shared Vision: Progress Update November 2022

STRATEGIC THEME: CONNECTIVITY AND ACCESSIBILITY		
Project/enabler	Status	Comments
Super Yacht Industry Development		Following extensive industry advocacy, the Special Recreational Vessels (SRV) Act passed Federal parliament in December 2019. This means that, amongst other things, superyachts operating under SRV temporary licences enjoy the shield against importation under section 112 of the Coastal Trading (CT) Act. The assumption is that importation and its associated implications (such as duty and GST) would not apply to superyachts, provided they are operating under a licence. These changes significantly improve the attractiveness of Cairns (and other Australian ports) as a superyacht destination for both maintenance and charter operations.
Cairns Marine Maintenance Precinct		In early 2022, the Queensland Government released a summary document providing a high-level overview of the Cairns Marine Precinct (CMP) Detailed Business Case undertaken by PwC. The CMP project proposes the development of a maritime common user facility (CUF) to: enhance the infrastructure capacity and capabilities at the CMP; optimise the use of waterfront land; and capitalise on emerging defence and marine industry opportunities. The CUF includes a 5,000 tonne shiplift, two blast and paint facilities, additional wet berth capacity and three hardstand areas for vessels up to 120 metres in length. The project has since secured funding commitments of \$150 million from both the Federal and Queensland Governments (\$300 million) to support delivery.
Cairns Aviation Route Development		The Shared Vision proposed a funding pool to facilitate expansion of international aviation connections via the Cairns Airport to support tourism, international education and export freight (in particular high value agricultural exports). However, flight capacity and domestic and international passenger numbers through the Cairns Airport were severely curtailed in 2020 and 2021 due to national and international travel restrictions resulting from COVID-19. Whilst domestic capacity and passenger numbers have rebounded strongly in 2022, international passenger numbers are yet to reach pre-COVID levels. With international travel now 're-normalising', opportunities exist to further develop the route network serviced through Cairns Airport. Cairns Airport's Statement of Intent (2040 Vision) indicates that total passenger numbers through the airport are expected to reach 10 million by 2040 with immediate international aviation priorities being markets in Europe, Singapore, Indonesia, Japan, Papua New Guinea and New Zealand. Medium to longer term priorities include Europe, North Asia, South-East Asia and North America more broadly.

Key (status):



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No progress

Attachment 1: Cairns 2050 Shared Vision: Progress Update November 2022

STRATEGIC THEME: CONNECTIVITY AND ACCESSIBILITY		
Project/enabler	Status	Comments
Cairns Metro Concept		The proposed Cairns Metro concept would provide for a direct and high frequency public transport link between the Cairns Airport and the Cairns City Centre including the Cairns Convention Centre. Cairns is a regional city with unique potential for such a service given the region's high visitor population and the fact the Cairns International Airport is the seventh busiest airport in Australia with over five million passenger movements each year (pre COVID-19). To date, Cairns Regional Council has been unsuccessful in securing funding to enable a market needs assessment and business case for the project to be completed and accordingly, it has not progressed.
Transport Strategy		The Shared Vision proposed the development of a long-term transport strategy for the city with greater emphasis on alternative transport modes such as bus, rail, walking and cycling to be considered as part of this strategy, as well as emerging transport technologies such as autonomous and electric vehicles. In 2022, Advance Cairns renewed calls for such a plan as part of its Strategic Integrated Urban Development and Transport Plan advocacy priority. To date, no funding has been secured to enable this transport strategy/plan to be progressed. However, as part of delivering it's <i>Towards 2050 Growth Strategy</i> , Council is working with the State to develop a Cairns Urban Integrated Transport Network Strategy to complement urban planning.
Cairns Road Network Projects		A significant number of the road network projects identified in the Shared Vision have progressed with funding support from both the Queensland and Federal Governments. These include: • \$123.7 million Bruce Highway, Cairns Southern Access Corridor (Stage 4), Kate Street to Aumuller Street upgrade (widen to six lanes) – completed July 2021. • \$164 million Smithfield Bypass between McGregor Road roundabout and the intersection of Cairns Western Arterial Road and the Captain Cook Highway – completed November 2021. • \$481 million Bruce Highway Cairns Southern Access Corridor (Stage 3) Edmonton to Gordonvale (highway duplication and upgrade) – in progress with scheduled completion mid-2023. • \$225 million Bruce Highway, Cairns Southern Access Corridor (Stage 5) Foster Road intersection upgrade – planning underway. • \$359 million Cairns Ring Road (Cairns CBD to Smithfield) project – Airport to James Street section currently being progressed with planning underway for the remainder. • \$300 million Cairns Western Arterial Road, Redlynch Connector Road to Captain Cook Highway duplication – detailed design completed with staged construction expected to commence shortly. Capacity, safety and reliability improvements on the Cairns to Atherton Tablelands road corridor (currently serviced by the Kuranda Range Road) remains an advocacy priority. The Federal Government has committed \$210 million for safety upgrades on the Kuranda Range Road in its October 2022 Budget.

Key (status):



Progressing
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No progress

Attachment 1: Cairns 2050 Shared Vision: Progress Update November 2022

STRATEGIC THEME: COMMUNITY WELLBEING		
Project/enabler	Status	Comments
Cairns Hospital and Health Services		A number of significant projects identified in the Shared Vision have progressed including: • \$25 million Cairns South Health Facility situated at Walker Road Edmonton which provides renal dialysis and community health services for South Cairns – opened October 2020. • New three storey \$70 Mental Health Unit at Cairns Hospital - construction commenced with completion scheduled for late 2023. • Expansion of the Cairns Hospital Emergency Department (\$26.4M) – in progress scheduled for completion late 2023. • Cairns youth residential drug rehabilitation and treatment service (\$51 million in federal funding secured) – site acquired with construction expected to occur across 2023 and 2024. In June 2022, the Queensland Government also committed \$250 million in funding towards the Cairns Hospital Expansion Project aimed at delivering additional bed capacity (141 beds) at the Cairns Hospital with 45 of these additional beds to be delivered in 2023 with the remainder (96) by the first half of 2026. The Queensland Government is also working collaboratively with JCU to develop the proposed Far North Queensland Health and Innovation Precinct (FNQHIP) in north Cairns adjacent to existing Cairns Hospital facilities. The FNQHIP is to include the proposed Cairns Health Innovation Centre (CHIC) which is an important step in the Cairns Hospital achieving University Hospital status.
Cairns City Centre Master Plan		Cairns Regional Council was preparing a new City Centre Master Plan at the time the Shared Vision was endorsed. The Master Plan was subsequently finalised and adopted by Council in April 2019. A number of the significant project opportunities identified in the Master Plan have since been progressed/completed including: • \$10.5 million Florence Street Link enhancement and upgrade project – completed late 2020. • \$28 million Esplanade Dining Precinct – fast tracked during the COVID-19 pandemic and opened in mid-2021. • The Cairns Gallery Precinct project has also progressed with the refurbished Court House Gallery opened in December 2020 and the refurbishment of the Mulgrave Shire Offices and design of the new gallery building are both underway. A series of smaller streetscape upgrades within the Cairns city centre have also been completed.

Key (status):



Progressing
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No progress

Attachment 1: Cairns 2050 Shared Vision: Progress Update November 2022

STRATEGIC THEME: COMMUNITY WELLBEING		
Project/enabler	Status	Comments
Cannon Park/Cairns Showgrounds		The Shared Vision identified the potential for further development of both the Cannon Park and Cairns Showgrounds sites to deliver higher use outcomes and maximise utilisation. Whilst significant development has not occurred on either site, in September 2022, Cairns Regional Council did endorse the Major Events Precinct Vision and Development Opportunities Report. The precinct encompasses the Cairns Showgrounds site and contemplates six development opportunities across the whole precinct footprint: 1. Cairns Showgrounds Infrastructure Development. 2. Sporting Asset (Barlow Park). 3. High Performance Hub. 4. Open and Inviting. 5. Flexible Nodes. 6. Streetscape and Public Domain Interaction.
Rectangular Stadium		The Major Events Precinct Vision and Development Opportunities Report endorsed by Cairns Regional Council in September 2022 identified the continued development of Barlow Park as the region's premier sporting asset. As part of its 2022 Budget, the Queensland Government committed \$4 million in funding towards the \$10 million upgrade of broadcast lighting and audio-visual facilities at Barlow Park. The facility has also been earmarked to host Olympic football (soccer) as part of the 2032 Olympic Games. The Queensland Government has flagged upwards of \$40 million to support venue upgrades at the facility in the lead up to the 2032 Olympics. A full independent business case for the proposed sporting asset is also expected to be commissioned by Cairns Regional Council in the coming months.

Key (status):



Progressing
or completed



Limited
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No progress

Attachment 1: Cairns 2050 Shared Vision: Progress Update November 2022

STRATEGIC THEME: ENABLING POLICY AND INFRASTRUCTURE		
Project/enabler	Status	Comments
Cairns City Deal		A City Deal proposal document based on the Shared Vision was prepared and formally submitted to the Federal Government in 2019. At the date of this report, there has been no further progress towards securing a deal.
Industrial Land Development		Declared in November 2018 and varied in February 2020, the 1159-hectare Cairns South SDA provides land for regionally significant industrial development over two separate areas. The northern part of the Cairns South SDA is located east of the Bruce Highway between Edmonton and Gordonvale at Wrights Creek and will enable the development of industries that require large blocks of land, extended operating hours and separation from sensitive land uses. Being adjacent to the Bruce Highway and North Coast Line, this part of the SDA offers a key opportunity to support anticipated trends and growths in the rail freight sector, including increased volumes of freight and longer trains. The southern part of the SDA is located adjacent to the Mulgrave Mill in Gordonvale and will support future diversification plans for the Mulgrave Mill, including industrial development opportunities that value-add to the sugar refining process. The Cairns South SDA Development Scheme was approved in March 2020. While industrial land development has not yet commenced on the site, a number of parties have expressed interest in the precinct.
Energy Security (inc Uniform Tariff Policy)		The Shared Vision identified the key role renewable energy generation would play in supporting the region's energy security with the mix of renewable energy sources essential. A number of renewable energy projects in broader the region have since progressed, facilitated in part through significant transmission network upgrades undertaken by the Queensland Government in the Northern Renewable Energy Zone which encompasses the Far North Queensland region. These projects include: Ratch Australia Corporation's 181 MW Mt Emerald wind farm (commenced energy generation in late 2018); Neoen's Kaban Green Power Hub project located on the Atherton Tablelands with a 157MW wind farm (project grid connected and expected to be fully operational from 2023) and approval for a 100MW battery; Genex's 250MW Kidston Pumped Storage Hydro Project (scheduled for completion in 2024); and Ark Energy's proposed 602MW Chalumbin Wind Farm located south-west of Ravenshoe (planning and assessment phase currently in progress). Social licence and potential biodiversity impacts are critical considerations that need to be taken into account through the assessment and approval phase of renewable energy project development. The Queensland Government's Uniform Tariff Policy (UTP) aims to ensure residential and small to medium business customers in rural and regional Queensland pay similar prices to customers in the Southeast Queensland. To deliver the UTP the Queensland Government pays a subsidy called the Community Service Obligation (CSO) to Ergon Energy, at a cost of around \$500 million for 2021-22. The Queensland Competition Authority (QCA) estimates the UTP reduces bills for small customers in regional Queensland by approximately 10-50%. The regulated electricity prices that apply to regional Queensland are set by QCA in accordance with the Queensland Government's UTP, which means most regional customers pay less for electricity than it costs to supply them. This policy remains in place with no material changes.

Key (status):



Progressing
or completed



Limited
progress or
at risk



No progress

Attachment 1: Cairns 2050 Shared Vision: Progress Update November 2022

STRATEGIC THEME: ENABLING POLICY AND INFRASTRUCTURE		
Project/enabler	Status	Comments
Population and Migration Strategy		Whilst a specific population and migration strategy has not been progressed, Cairns Regional Council has embarked on a long-term planning project: <i>Towards 2050 Shaping Cairns</i> which will help to shape a resilient and sustainable future for Cairns. The project will help identify suitable land for housing that meets the needs of a growing population and also identify ways to support new business and employment opportunities across all sectors of the economy. The project is underway and is scheduled to be completed in 2024. The project also provides a foundation and necessary data inputs for Council's new planning scheme.
Housing Supply and Affordability – Policy and Review		Whilst there have been a number of initiatives implemented by all three tiers of government aimed at addressing housing supply and affordability, the problem remains and has in fact worsened following the COVID-19 pandemic. Rental vacancy rates (0.7% in Oct 22, Source: SQM research) remain extremely tight and well below what is generally considered a healthy level (between 2.5% and 3.5%). Significant increases in property prices and rentals for both houses and units in the city have also adversely impacted affordability and increased levels of mortgage and rental stress are being experienced. All three levels of government have identified housing supply and affordability as a priority going forward.
Trade and Investment Resourcing and Support		TIQ has recently increased its Far North Queensland resources with the addition of another Trade and Investment Officer based in the Cairns office. Cairns Regional Council is also commissioning independent strategic advice to inform Council's future approach to investment attraction which includes: analysis of priority opportunities for investment (having regard to market trends and the region's competitive advantages; the resources required to attract/secure these opportunities; and how Council can work effectively with TIQ, Advance Cairns and others to ensure a complementary and coordinated approach to investment attraction occurs. The consultancy is expected to be completed in early 2023.
Addressing the High Costs of Insurance		High costs of insurance for both residents and business has been a long-term impediment to growth and prosperity in Cairns and northern Australia generally. In response to this issue, the Federal Government passed the <i>Treasury Laws Amendment (Cyclone and Flood Damage Reinsurance Pool) Bill 2022</i> in March 2022. The Bill establishes a cyclone and related flood damage reinsurance pool to improve insurance affordability in cyclone-prone areas (including Cairns). Backed by a \$10 billion Government guarantee, the scheme aims to deliver reduced insurance premiums for eligible household, strata and small business insurance policies. The scheme is in the early phases of implementation and will be monitored to ensure it delivers the savings in premiums expected.

Key (status):



Progressing
or completed



Limited
progress or
at risk



No progress

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STRATEGIC THEME: ENABLING POLICY AND INFRASTRUCTURE		
Project/enabler	Status	Comments
Land Tenure and Lease Reform		In relation to addressing the prohibitive costs associated with determining Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUA), limited progress has been made. However, on 16 August 2022, the Queensland Government, First Nations people, and non-Indigenous Queenslanders participated in the signing of the Queensland's Path to Treaty Commitment. The Commitment signifies a collective pledge to be courageous and curious, to be open to hearing the truth of our state's history, and to collaborate in readiness for negotiating treaties. The Commitment also includes the establishment of two new structures within State legislation – a First Nations Treaty Institute and a Truth Telling and Healing Inquiry.

Key (status):



Progressing
or completed



Limited
progress or
at risk



No progress