THE NEW CAIRNS INVESTMENT PROSPECTUS

S Wiaczek | 1/8/3 | #6179365

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. Endorses the new Cairns Investment Prospectus; and

2. Delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with the Local Government Act 2009 to finalise any and all matters relating to the above including future changes to the Cairns Investment Prospectus where such changes are of a minor or administrative nature.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The new Cairns Investment Prospectus (the Prospectus) provides an overview of the Cairns economy, capturing information relevant to prospective investors. The previous iteration of the Prospectus was released in October 2017. Changes in the local economy since that time and the need to ensure the document remains current and relevant have necessitated this update.

Cairns has been successful in attracting significant investment in recent years with Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) reaching $167.25 million from 2016-2018. In supporting continued attraction of inward investment, the intention is that the Prospectus will help inform discussions with prospective investors by providing an overview of Cairns’ economy and general investment offer. The Prospectus emphasises the diversity and strength of the Cairns economy, the competitive advantages of Cairns as an investment destination and the pipeline of recent and current projects that demonstrate a record of accomplishment of significant investment.

This report provides an overview of the development process undertaken in writing the Prospectus and seeks Council endorsement of the new document ahead of printing and distribution.

The distribution of the Prospectus through our national and international networks will assist in raising the profile of Cairns as an investment destination with the aim of leveraging further inward investment to support economic development and jobs growth.
BACKGROUND:
The previous iteration of the Prospectus was prepared by Deloitte Access Economics and released in October 2017. There have been significant changes in the Cairns economy and investment pipeline since the prospectus was first published, highlighting the need to develop a revised version.

COMMENT:
Development of the new Prospectus aligns with Council’s relevant strategic documents, including Council’s Corporate Plan and Economic Development Strategy. Updating the prospectus is also a specific action included in Council’s 2019/20 Operational Plan.

Cairns has enjoyed increased levels of FDI in recent years, with $167.25 million invested in the 2016-2018 period. This new document will assist Council Officers and other stakeholders in promoting Cairns as an investment destination both domestically and internationally with the aim of continuing to support inbound investment.

The document provides a balanced snapshot of Cairns and the aspects of the region’s economy that make it a compelling proposition to investors.

The Prospectus highlights the diversity of the local economy and also the variety of investment opportunities available. Additionally, the scale of recent projects and those currently in the pipeline, demonstrates a track record of investment.

The new Prospectus includes the following information:
- Economic summary and competitive advantages
- Sector strengths
- Recent investments and current investment pipeline
- Access to skills
- Who is already here (listing a selection of leading businesses with a presence in Cairns)
- Industry groups
- Infrastructure and connectivity
- Opportunities
- Commercial property prices
- Council support
- Aspects of Cairns’ lifestyle

The target audience for this document is broad, offering information across Cairns’ major sectors and covering aspects of consideration for potential private sector investment. It aims to provide potential investors, both domestic and international, with a high-level overview of Cairns and the reasons why it should be considered as a destination for investment.

A draft copy of the new Prospectus was circulated to Councillors, Council’s Executive Team and representatives of Council’s Planning and Environment department for review and comment. Development of the new Prospectus also involved consultation with key external stakeholders. Feedback received through this consultation has been reflected in the attached document where appropriate.
In terms of distribution, national and international networks will be leveraged in circulating the document to assist in raising the profile of Cairns as an investment destination across all sectors. This will be accomplished in partnership with key stakeholders. Additional options for utilising this document will be explored by the Economic Development team.

Council’s Economic Development Team is regularly approached by potential investors seeking information on the Cairns economy and investment potential. The new Prospectus will assist Council Officers in supporting these enquiries.

**OPTIONS:**

Option 1 (recommended):

That Council:

1. Endorses the new Cairns Investment Prospectus; and
2. Delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009* to finalise any and all matters relating to the above including future changes to the Cairns Investment Prospectus where such changes are of a minor or administrative nature.

Option 2:

That Council does not endorse the new Cairns Investment Prospectus at this time and seeks further information from Council Officers before reconsidering this matter.

**CONSIDERATIONS:**

Risk Management:

Consultation with key stakeholders has taken place to ensure the information contained within the document is accurate and balanced.

Sources of information have been cited where appropriate.

Council Finance and the Local Economy:

The document has been developed internally by the Council’s Economic Development Team with graphic design work outsourced. Adequate provision was made in Council’s 2019/2020 Economic Development operating expenditure budget for the development of the new Prospectus.

With regard to the local economy, the Prospectus will support efforts to raise the profile of Cairns as a location for private sector investment nationally and internationally. Increased investment supports economic growth and employment.
Corporate and Operational Plans:

The Cairns Investment Prospectus supports Council’s relevant strategic documents as follows:

Corporate Plan 2017-2022
- Economy:
  - Support a strong and diverse economy
  - Continue to grow a strong Tourism economy and recognise its value to the region
  - Grow and sustain employment and education opportunities

Operational Plan 2019/20
- Key action number 7: Update Cairns Investment Prospectus

- Key action number 2: Undertake and actively participate in activities that will attract trade and investment

CONSULTATION:

External parties consulted in the preparation of the new Cairns Investment Prospectus included:

- QLD Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure, and Planning
- QLD Department of Innovation, Tourism Industry Development and the Commonwealth Games
- Trade and Investment QLD
- CQUniversity
- James Cook University
- Ports North
- Cairns Airport
- Advance Cairns

ATTACHMENTS:

Cairns Investment Prospectus #6192324

Sam Wiaczek
Economic Development Officer

Nick Masasso
Executive Project Officer
Welcome to Cairns

Cairns is situated between two of the world’s greatest natural treasures, the World Heritage listed Wet Tropics and Great Barrier Reef, and is renowned worldwide as a premier tourist destination. But the city offers much more; it is also an investment opportunity and an ideal place to live, visit, and do business. The Asia-Pacific is emerging as a geopolitical centre and the primary region of global economic growth. Cairns’ close proximity, with direct access to major cities in the region, creates exciting opportunities for tourism development, investment, trade and business.

Due to a stable economic environment and strong growth forecasts, combined with competitive property markets and flexible planning regime, investors are drawn to our safe long-term investment climate. Private sector projects are leading the way in driving growth and investor confidence, including Crystalbrook Collection’s $370m set of luxury hotels, Riley, Bailey and Flynn, and Aspial Corporation’s proposed Nova City development.

Cairns Regional Council is a proactive and pro-business local government that is investing heavily in public infrastructure to underpin future commercial development. We welcome private investment in strategic industries and work closely with investors to explore potential projects and strategic partnerships to capitalise on our city’s significant opportunities.

I invite you to contact us to discuss the many investment opportunities on offer in Cairns, and I look forward to welcoming you to our city soon.

Cr Bob Manning
Mayor of Cairns

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Why Cairns

Cairns is a vibrant and progressive location to invest and live, with world-famous natural assets, a rich cultural history, and a foundation of strong business sectors. With $1.1 billion committed, and a further $11.1 billion planned, for projects in the region across tourism, education, energy, ports, roads, health, public safety, and community spaces, Cairns is set to continue its transition into an innovative, global and prosperous cosmopolitan centre with outstanding access to Australia, Asia and the world.

At a Glance

**GRP**
Cairns
$8.83 billion
Far North Queensland
$15.21 billion
Source: NIEIR 2018

**Population**
165,525 (2018)
Source: NIEIR 2018

**Unemployment Rate**
4.7% (March 2019)
Source: Department of Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business

**Employed Residents**
13,973
Source: ABS 2018

**Annual Visitors**
Domestic 2.1 million
Spending $2.4 billion
International 863,000
Spending $1.1 billion
Source: TTNQ

**Population growth**
165,525 (2018)
154,232 (2012)
145,962 (2009)
131,843 (2006)
Source: ABS Regional Population Growth

**Direct connections to regions**
with a total of 88.61 million people
US$5 trillion in GDP
Source: AECOM 2018

**Population growth**
165,525 (2018)
154,232 (2012)
145,962 (2009)
131,843 (2006)
Source: ABS Regional Population Growth

**Multicultural**
33,612 residents born overseas
14,100 Indigenous Australians
Large ancestries represented in Cairns: English, Scottish, Irish, German, Italian, Chinese, Japanese, Filipino, Dutch.
Source: 2016 Census

**Short commute times**

**Regional capital of Far North Queensland**

**Proximity and connectivity to Asia and beyond**

**Direct connections to**
regions with a total of 88.61 million people
US$5 trillion in GDP
Source: AECOM 2018

**Two world-class universities**

**Positive investment pipeline**

**Enviiable quality of life**

**Strategic location supporting**
the Australian Government’s Northern Australia Agenda

**Well positioned to benefit from global growth trends in food production and tourism**

**Unique environment, natural assets, and abundant water**

**Economic Growth Comparison**
Source: County data World Bank, Cairns data National Institute of Economic and Industry Research (NIEIR) 2018

#1 Busiest regional airport in Australia

#1 Superyacht destination in Australia

Connection to agricultural “food bowl” in Far North Queensland

More than 5,400 direct international flights annually
Source: AECOM 2018
The Cairns region is an ideal place to do business across all sectors, with lower operating costs than Australian capital cities, access to skilled employees, excellent connectivity, and a supportive local government.

Tourism
Cairns welcomes almost 3 million visitors each year with a unique natural and cultural offer. Visitors can experience the world’s largest living structure (the Great Barrier Reef), hike through the world’s oldest rainforest (the Wet Tropics Rainforest), immerse themselves in the outback, and enjoy the richness of Indigenous culture.

- Number employed: 13,376
- GRP: $1.12 billion
- Turnover: $2.21 billion
- Average spend per night: $266 (domestic) $187 (international)

Aviation
An emerging sector for the region due to its strategic location and excellent infrastructure. There are internationally recognised names such as Hawker Pacific, owned by Switzerland’s Jet Aviation, who are an official Bombardier service centre and have the largest avionics workshop in the southern hemisphere, and UK owned Cobham Aviation Services. There are also Australian owned companies such as Skytek, an official Viking service centre, and Hevilift, a leading fixed and rotary wing service provider.

- Code 4 Category 1 curfew free runway capable of supporting up to Code E aircraft
- MRO heavy aircraft maintenance facilities
- Cairns Airport have commenced Master Planning of the General Aviation precinct, due to be released in 2019

Marine Services
Cairns has a significant marine precinct, including the seaport, 3 shipyards, Marlin Marina, HMAS Cairns naval base and supporting industry, all within a concentrated footprint, providing unparalleled logistical advantages close to Cairns city centre. It is also the most visited port in Australia for superyachts.

- BSE have installed the world’s largest travel lift (1,120t capacity)
- The marine precinct has the capacity to service vessels up to 105m and 3000t
- Preferred regional maintenance location for the USA military

Vocational and Higher Education
With two world-class universities, an excellent vocational education offer, and a range of ELICOS providers, Cairns is becoming a destination of choice for international students from countries such as South Korea, Japan, Brazil, and Italy.

- Number employed: 2,926
- GRP: $180.74 million
- Turnover: $269.57 million

Health and Life Sciences
Health and Life Sciences is a major sector for Cairns, supported by its education institutions. Study areas include medical and molecular sciences, tropical health, dentistry, psychology, gerontology, human movement, and sport science.

- Number employed: 12,546
- GRP: $897.15 million
- Turnover: $1.16 billion

construction and property
The local construction industry has strengthened in recent years. This is set to continue into the future with significant public and private infrastructure projects, and support from established advanced engineering and manufacturing capabilities.

- Number employed: 8,191
- GRP: $594.55 million
- Turnover: $1.97 billion
- Total value of building approvals 2017-18: $791.9 million
- Number of businesses: 2,504
- Source: NIEIR 2018

Energy
There are a number of large scale renewable energy projects underway in the wider region of Far North Queensland, including Genex’s 150MW windfarm, two solar PV (50MW and 270MW), and 250MW pumped hydro storage in an exhausted gold mine at Kidston.

- Number employed: 776
- GRP: $323.20 million
- Turnover: $1.01 billion
- Source: NIEIR 2018

Food and Agribusiness
Agriculture, fisheries and forestry contributes approximately $1 billion dollars to the broader regional economy each year.

- Number employed in FNQ: 10,595
- FNQ GRP: $1.347 billion
- FNQ Turnover: $3.44 billion
- Source: NIEIR 2018
- Seafood exported internationally from Cairns in 2017-2018: Over $58 million

REGIONALLY SIGNIFICANT SECTORS

Australasian waters are home to an array of biodiversity and local species that support a number of regionally significant sectors. Cairns is a gateway to the Asia Pacific region with close proximity to major global hubs including China, Malaysia, Japan and Papua New Guinea. Cairns Aviation Skills Centre and CQUniversity Aviation Campus are both located at Cairns Airport, delivering vocational and Bachelor Qualifications.

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Recent Investments


- Cairns’ new $56m aquarium opened in 2017.

- $127m project to dredge Trinity Inlet allowing for increased freight and visitor volume.

- Cairns’ new $71m Performing Arts Centre opened in 2018.

- CQUniversity have spent $7m on establishing an airport campus to deliver higher education opportunities for the Aviation sector.

- James Cook University’s $28m Australian Institute of Tropical Health Medicine in 2018.

- Rio Tinto’s Amrun $1.9b bauxite mine near Weipa opened in 2019.

- $10m Manufacturing Hub in Cairns to support growth of regional manufacturers opened in 2019.

- Hawker Pacific’s $4.5m expansion in 2018.

- Cairns Airport’s $55m domestic terminal upgrade to be completed in 2020.

- Austal Australia’s new sustainment facility and Cairns office was opened in Cairns in 2017.

- BSE Maritime Solutions’ installation of the world’s largest travel lift in 2019, with capability to lift 1,120 tonnes.

- Cairns Food Incubator, supporting emerging businesses in the food processing and manufacturing sectors to experiment, trial, and commercialise new food products, opened in 2019.

- Munro Martin Parklands’ $11m upgrade was completed in 2016.

- Marine Precinct’s first stage includes a $24m investment – upgrading wharves, hardstands, slipway extension, and service improvements, due to finish in 2020.

- Spinal Life Healthy Living Centre, a $17m purpose-built rehabilitation centre for residents and holidaymakers with spinal injuries. Currently under construction in 2019.

- Cairns Convention Centre’s $176m upgrade and expansion.

- CQUniversity’s 2019 Cairns Community Impact Plan includes:
  - Queensland’s first comprehensive University High School ($35 million).
  - Stage 2 and 3 CQUniversity Asia Pacific Aviation Hub ($45 million).
  - Permanent new CQUniversity Cairns CBD campus ($50 million).

- James Cook University’s $60m Cairns Tropical Enterprise Centre.

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Access to Skills

Cairns’ key industry strengths are based on access to a high-performing talent pool with over 62% of the workforce qualified to Certificate level and above. Higher Education in Cairns includes leading facilities at James Cook University, CQUniversity, and a vocational education offer including TAFE Queensland, the Great Barrier Reef International Marine College and Cairns Aviation Skills Centre, all producing graduates with skills to suit a wide range of fields.

- James Cook University
- TAFE Queensland
- Great Barrier Reef International Marine College
- Cairns Aviation Skills Centre
- CQUniversity

"James Cook University has plans to invest over $100 million in the Cairns region into the future as we increase our capacity, including investment in infrastructure and digital capacity. The university is proactively developing strategic partnerships with key stakeholders across government, business and industry to develop a higher education footprint that will enable sustainable growth and development into the future."

David Craig, Director Cairns Campus, James Cook University

A selection of some of the organisations already here

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Industry Groups

Tourism Tropical North Queensland is a not for profit organisation and the official Regional Tourism Organisation for the Cairns and Great Barrier Reef region.

Advance Cairns is the peak independent non-government advocacy and economic development organisation for Tropical North Queensland.

Cairns Chamber of Commerce represents local businesses to increase exposure, leverage networking opportunities, access information and services. The Chamber also works collaboratively with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland.

Tradelinked Cairns-PNG-Pacific is a regionally focused network established to facilitate the engagement of likeminded businesses trading between Cairns and its near international neighbours.

The Super Yacht Group Great Barrier Reef supports the regional Super Yacht service and support industry and the Great Barrier Reef as a destination through membership and local authority funding.

Study Cairns is the peak body for international education and training in Cairns.

Cairns Business Women’s Club is a member-based group who network, educate, celebrate success to all women in business, whether in private enterprise, public sector, or community services.

Enterprise North is an incorporated association established by its members to deliver economic advocacy and to act in an enabling role.

Dive Queensland is a non-profit, membership-based, incorporated association committed to the promotion and development of the diving industry in Queensland and the advancement of diving, tourism and tourism infrastructure.

FNQ Food Incubator is a group of food experts and innovators collaborating to support Far North Queensland food businesses in a central manufacturing hub for inspiration, collaboration, and support.
Cairns has excellent air, rail, marine, road, and digital infrastructure with further investment on its way. Key facilities, including air and sea ports, are all located within minutes of the city centre.

**Air**
- Cairns Airport is Australia’s busiest regional airport, providing air links to a range of domestic and international locations. It welcomes over 5 million passengers each year.
- Cairns Airport is located just 7km from the city centre.
- Passenger movements y/e 30 June 2019: 686,000 (international) and 4.2m (domestic).
- 7th busiest airport in Australia.

**Marine**
- Cairns is home to one of Northern Australia’s busiest ports with a world-class Cruise Liner Terminal, a busy marina hosting Cairns’ ‘reef fleet’, and three major slipways with the capacity to service vessels up to 105m and 3000t. There is also a purpose-built lay-down facility to hold heavy duty project cargo (such as for Mt Emerald Wind Farm). It hosts international maritime agencies, and has 20 hectares available for industrial and cargo storage and consolidation.
- Following a major redevelopment in 2009 HMAS Cairns has 900 Navy and civilian personnel and is the homeport for nine Naval vessels with a responsibility extending from Rockhampton to Thursday Island.
- Ports North has commenced Master Planning for the ports of Cairns and Mournilyan Harbour (to the south) which will be released in the first half of 2020.
- BSE Maritime Solutions have installed the world’s largest travel lift with capacity to lift 1,120 tonnes.

**Road**
- Cairns is connected to the rest of Australia by major arterial roads including the Bruce and Kennedy Highways. There has been half a billion dollars of investment announced for the region in recent state and federal budgets.
- $360m extension of the National Land Transport Network to Cairns Airport and Smithfield.
- $633 Bruce Highway upgrade stages 3 and 4.
- $152m Smithfield Bypass (expected completion in 2020).
- Cape York Region package to seal sections of the Peninsula Developmental Road, significantly opening freight and tourism access to the area.
- Kennedy Developmental Highway upgrade between Hugheenden and Mt Garnet (expected completion 2020).

**Rail**
- Cairns is connected to the rest of Australia by an extensive rail network, servicing both freight and passenger needs.
- Weekly passenger services between Cairns and Brisbane.

**Infrastructure and Connectivity**

**Trinity Wharf Cairns:** The Queensland Government and Ports North are in the process of securing a Global Tourism Hub, branded as Trinity Wharf Cairns. It will bring a dynamic new tourism opportunity to the region, supporting major events and regenerating key locations.

The preferred site for the GTH development is within the Cityport Precinct at Wharf Street, Cairns, comprising of a total area of approximately 4.4 hectares. A request for detailed proposals was issued in early 2019 with preferred proponents to be announced in early 2020.

**Cairns Gallery Precinct:** This $40m project aims to connect three regionally significant buildings; the existing Cairns Art Gallery, the Old Courthouse, and the former Mulgrave Shire Council offices. This initiative will play a key role in the emergence of Cairns as the Arts and Cultural Capital of Northern Australia, providing a vibrant and expansive arts precinct showcasing international and domestic touring exhibitions as well as contemporary local and Indigenous art.

**Convention Centre Upgrade:** The $176m expansion and upgrade for the Cairns Convention Centre includes the refurbishment of the existing centre plus the addition of the new exhibition space and meeting rooms.

**Cairns Marine Precinct & Shipping Development:** This $127m project will widen and deepen the existing Trinity Inlet shipping channel. This will facilitate cruise ship growth for vessels up to 300m, with a forecast demand of up to 150 cruise ships through the Port of Cairns by 2031. With the increased capacity for visiting vessels, there are opportunities across the tourism and marine sectors to capitalise on this regionally significant investment with property and leasing opportunities available in areas adjacent to the Cairns CBD as well as port-related development at industrial locations.

**Defence (HMAS Cairns):** The presence of HMAS Cairns provides opportunity for businesses of all sizes to sell and contract to the Australian Department of Defence. There is also further opportunity to recruit skilled personnel on their departure from the service.

**Cairns South State Development Area:** is a provision of 856 hectares for regionally significant industrial development. This site is suitable for requirements of large blocks of land with extended operating hours, with excellent access to the Bruce Highway and North Coast rail line.

**Public Sector Waste Management:** Options are being explored for potential partnerships with organisations specialising in closed loop management of organics. The Planning Phase begins in 2020 with implementation for 2026.

**Edmonton Business Park:** The site includes space for over 100,000sqm of gross floor space with the ability to accommodate investors across a broad range of sectors, including Knowledge and Research, Technology, Logistics, Exporters, Retail, Light Industrial, Hospital and Health.

**Cairns Airport Commercial Aviation Precinct:** Cairns Airport Precinct of Aviation Excellence has 105 acres of land available for development, providing an opportunity to establish a presence within an emerging global Aviation, Aerospace, and Advanced Manufacturing cluster, with excellent access to Australia and the Asia Pacific region.

**Start-ups:** Cairns is an ideal place to build your business with excellent connectivity, unprecedented investment, a supportive local authority and affordable commercial space. There is also additional cross-sector support through organisations such as the Manufacturing Hub, FNO Food Incubator and co-working space offered through private organisations.

**Carbon Offsetting:** There are opportunities to invest in carbon offsetting initiatives in the Babinda area through Jaragun Natural Resource Management, resulting in reinstatement of endangered rainforest.
What can we do for you?

Cairns Regional Council’s Economic Development team is ready to answer your queries and to make the process of setting up your enterprise in Cairns as effortless as possible.

We can assist you by:

- Access to local intelligence
- Undertaking property searches
- Hosting visits to the area and to potential premises
- Providing development application support, including
  - Pre-lodgement advice
  - A dedicated project team allocation and fast-tracking of applications
- Support identification of and access to government funding schemes
- Support access to other state and national departments
- Providing networking opportunities and connecting with the community

Once established in Cairns, we can also offer you further tailored support.

View Cairns’ economic profile at economy.id.com.au/cairns

“The Geographically Cairns is well situated with high levels of aviation activity in our state and also with our neighbours in the Pacific and into Asia. The majority of our work is captured from outside of Cairns, often with the customer having onsite representatives for the duration of the maintenance event, Cairns is an attractive and safe option for these representatives which adds to our value proposition.”

Jason Burzacott, Vice President MRO Services Australia, Hawker Pacific

Living in Cairns

The Cairns region is situated between two World Heritage sites, the Wet Tropics and the Great Barrier Reef. It has a vibrant city centre and idyllic communities such as Palm Cove and Edge Hill, where residents enjoy a unique lifestyle with short commute times and an abundance of activities. There is a long term shared vision for Cairns’ liveability, led by Cairns Regional Council through consultation with stakeholders, to support the continued prosperity and wellbeing of Cairns residents.

Housing

Cairns’ attractive environment offers every kind of home, from urban apartments to Queenslander houses, terraces, and modern new builds.

Average/median house prices:

- $399,461 Cairns House Median
- $1,597,206 Sydney House Median
- $214,266 Cairns Unit Median
- $895,438 Sydney Unit Median

Source: Hometrack 2018

Recreation

- The area offers activities for everyone, from active pursuits of scuba diving, mountain biking, and parachuting, through to gentler endeavours such as walking trails, cycling, beaches, snorkelling, swimming, and enjoying the shopping opportunities in the city centre. You can also ride the Skyrail or Heritage Scenic Railway to Kuranda to visit the Kuranda Markets and take in the view of Barron Falls.
- For families there is the Cairns Aquarium, Muddy’s Playground, Nature Play, Cattana Wetlands, numerous parks and public spaces, and the stunningly located swimming lagoon on the Cairns Esplanade.
- Cairns is home to high-profile events such as IRONMAN Asia-Pacific Championship Cairns, the Great Barrier Reef Masters Games, and the Targa Great Barrier Reef Tour.
- Cairns also has its very own professional basketball team, the CQUniversity Cairns Taipans, who compete in the National Basketball League.

Culture

- There is an outstanding cultural aspect to life in Cairns with the Cairns Performing Arts Centre, Cairns Convention Centre, Munro Martin Parklands, and the Tanks Arts Centre all hosting a range of international and domestic music, exhibitions, and performances. There are numerous events throughout the year which promote a strong sense of community.
- There is also the Tjapukai Cultural Park, sharing the culture and traditions of the local Djabugay people, in addition to numerous galleries displaying the rich artistic heritage of our local Indigenous communities. Cairns also celebrates and embraces Indigenous culture in the annual Cairns Indigenous Art Fair.
- Cairns is a multicultural and open city with amenities to accommodate different faiths and lifestyles.

“CQU Cairns has maintained 20-30% annual growth since establishing the Campus at the end of 2015 (with an) aspiration to increase course offerings to promote further growth.”

Jodie Duignan-George, Associate Vice Chancellor, Cairns and Far North Region, CQUniversity

Education

- The Cairns region is well served by a wide selection of childcare, preparatory, primary and secondary schools.
- It has leading tertiary education institutions in James Cook University and CQUniversity.
- There is also a comprehensive vocational education offering through TAFE North Queensland, the Great Barrier Reef International Marine College, and the Cairns Aviation Skills Centre.

Commercial Property Rent Price Comparison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cairns</td>
<td>$350 - $450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brisbane</td>
<td>$473-$679</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sydney</td>
<td>$778-$1,153</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Heron Todd White June 2019 Commercial Property

Source: Colliers CBD Office RFR H2 2019

(indicative per square metre per annum)