

Towards 2050

Shaping Cairns

from the beaches to the boulders

Our Roadmap



Why we need Towards 2050 Shaping Cairns

CAIRNS IS GROWING

Cairns is a popular place to live and work, thanks to our special and unique character – our Cairns-ness.

In the past 30 years, our population has nearly doubled. Our population is predicted to reach 265,000 by 2050, that's about 100,000 more people than currently live here today.

1992

89,900 residents



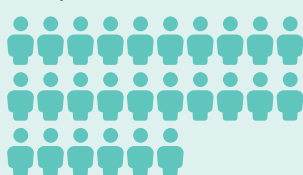
2020

165,000 residents



2050

265,000 residents



We need to plan for this growth now, to make sure that everyone can live here and enjoy what we love about Cairns today.

Growth brings challenges and opportunities

People will always fall in love with Cairns and want to live here. We have an enviable lifestyle, and we offer visitors an enticing destination.

We need to make sure that our predicted growth doesn't threaten the lifestyle and environment we all enjoy today.

Growth can deliver benefits including more and better jobs, diverse housing options, public spaces, roads and public transport, entertainment, health and education services.

We need to look to the future and plan for the next phase of growth. We need to consider what is important to our current and future residents.

Thoughtful planning now will help us to shape our growth in a positive way. It will help us protect and embrace many of the things that make Cairns special: our unique environment, economy, community and culture.

How planning processes influence growth

Land use and development in Cairns is controlled by various planning frameworks and guidelines at state, regional and local levels.

State legislation and policy address matters of state-wide interest and provide guiding principles for Council plan-making and development assessment systems. The FNQ Regional Plan recognises matters that are important and specific to our particular region.

Council is ultimately responsible for planning our local community through the planning scheme, which guides the kind of development that can happen in our neighbourhoods and streets.

Towards 2050 will lay the foundation for a new planning scheme that will determine where and how growth occurs over time. Importantly, it will provide a coordinated approach to cater for future growth in a sustainable way.





What it will do

Towards 2050 will help to shape a prosperous, resilient and sustainable future for Cairns. It will recognise the past and explore emerging and future trends. It will use best practice planning and growth management processes to help us respond to our unique environment, needs and challenges.



Providing land for a diverse range of housing

Identify suitable land for housing that meets the need of the growing population. Support housing choices and diversity that meets the different lifestyle, income, generational and cultural needs of our diverse community. Drive innovative housing design that responds to our unique environment and climate.



Protecting and enhancing our natural environment and scenic amenity

Identify ways to make sure that our unique and diverse natural areas and important landscapes are protected and enhanced.



Supporting employment opportunities and a thriving economy

Identify ways to support new business and employment opportunities across all sectors of the economy. This will include identifying the current and future needs of business and industry for land, and where this land and these jobs should be located.



Improving resilience to natural hazards and climate change

Understand and plan for how we can respond to natural hazards and climate challenges. Better understanding will help us to build more resilient neighbourhoods that help to keep our community safe.



Supporting character and culture

Understand and celebrate Cairns' unique identity. Recognise the diversity of our community and acknowledge First Peoples culture and connection to country. Identify and protect our character and heritage.



Planning efficient, safe and sustainable infrastructure

Make sure growth is located in the right places and that we have reliable and efficient water, sewerage, roads, active transport and public transport networks that are sustainable and accessible for everyone.



Creating great neighbourhoods

Plan to improve our neighbourhoods and develop great local places that meet our needs. This will be achieved through well-located and accessible community and recreation facilities that support our lifestyle.





When it will be prepared

Towards 2050 Shaping Cairns will be delivered by the end of 2024.
It will be delivered across four phases, with community engagement at the centre of every step we take.

PHASE 1	Commit and get ready (Oct - Dec 2022)	Understand what makes Cairns special. Explore the community's hopes for the future. Vision and Growth Strategy Framework
PHASE 2	Identify and assess (Oct 2022 - Oct 2023)	Technical Studies Technical Directions Paper
PHASE 3	Shape the strategy (Nov 2023 - Sept 2024)	Draft Growth Strategy Options Towards 2050 Shaping Cairns Growth Strategy
PHASE 4	Finalise strategy (End 2024)	Finalise Towards 2050 Shaping Cairns Growth Strategy

How you can get involved

Towards 2050 will be a community-led plan – shaped by the people of Cairns. We need to work together to make sure that Cairns in 2050 is the best that it can be.

That's why the project will involve many ways for you to participate and help shape the future of Cairns - including online and in person at various times and neighbourhoods across the region.

We want to know what you love about Cairns now and what you want Cairns to be in 2050. This will help us understand how you want us to grow and what values we need to protect.

As part of this conversation, we want to raise awareness about the growth and change happening in Cairns, the challenges and opportunities it will bring and how you can help can shape this growth in a positive way.

Cairns Regional Council acknowledges and pays our respects to the Traditional Custodians of our region, the Djabugay; Yirrganydji; Buluwai, Gimuy Walubara Yidinji; Mandingalbay Yidinji; Gunggandji; Dulabed and Malanbara Yidinji; Bundabarra and Wadjanbarra Yidinji; Wanyurr Majay; Mamu and Ngadjonjii peoples. We extend this respect to all elders past, present and future, and other First Peoples within our region.

Have your say

and help
shape the
future of
Cairns



haveyoursay.cairns.qld.gov.au