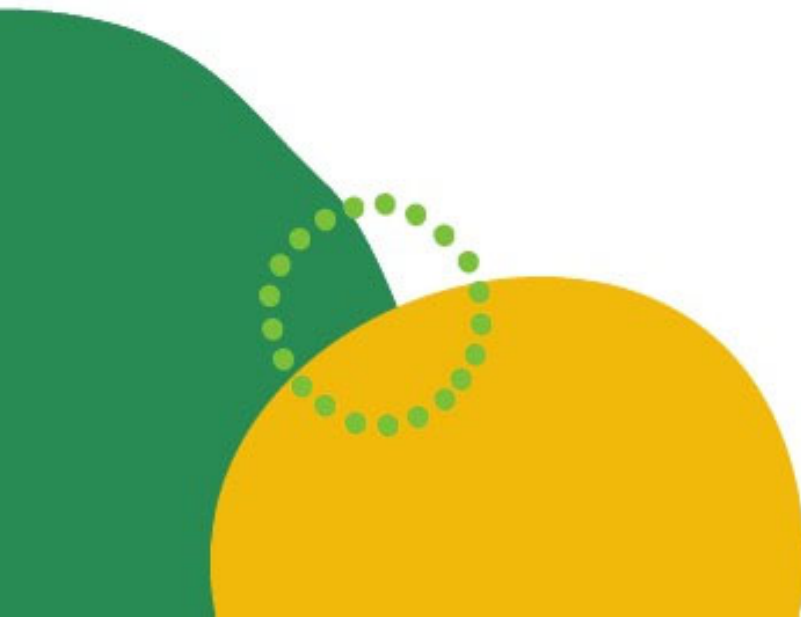


Engagement report:

Phase 2

Cairns Regional Council Towards 2050: Shaping Cairns
Growth Strategy



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Executive summary

Cairns Regional Council (Council) is developing the Towards 2050: Shaping Cairns Growth Strategy. In August 2022, Council engaged the Towards 2050 Collective to support the development of the strategy. The strategy will be delivered over 4 phases and is expected to be completed in mid 2025.

The Cairns Local Government Area (LGA) currently has a population of 172,272 which is predicted to increase to 241,000 residents by the year 2050. Towards 2050: Shaping Cairns will provide a strategy to sustainably manage this growth.

In January 2023, Council launched Phase 2 of the community and stakeholder engagement process of Towards 2050: Shaping Cairns. Phase 2 of the engagement process concluded on 31 August 2023. This report documents Phase 2 of the community and stakeholder engagement process implemented to inform the development of Towards 2050: Shaping Cairns.

Feedback captured through Phase 2 of the engagement process has generally reinforced the findings of Phase 1 and provided more in-depth information from different community members and stakeholders. It has also informed the Growth Strategy Framework and the ongoing work to develop the Towards 2050: Shaping Cairns Growth Strategy.

The Phase 2 engagement approach was underpinned by 3 key principles:

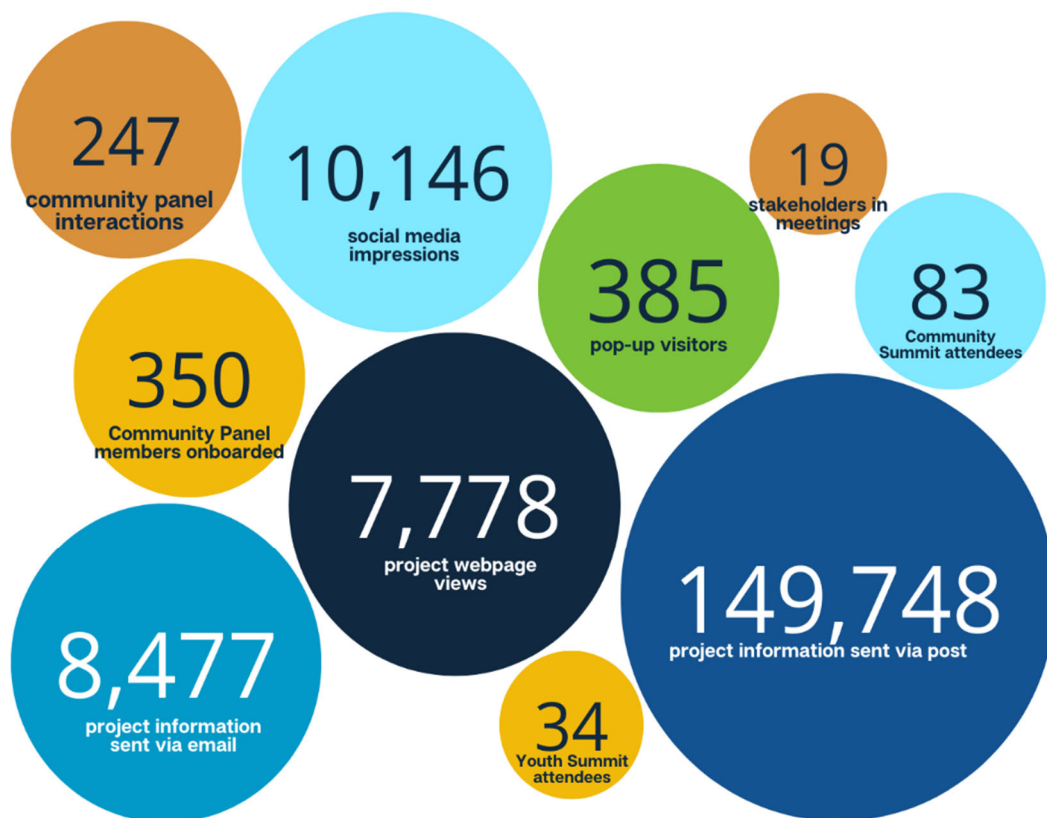
- Raising awareness about projected population growth in Cairns and the need to plan for population growth through the Towards 2050: Shaping Cairns project.
- Communicating the outcomes of Phase 1 of the engagement process, including confirming the definition of ‘Cairns-ness’ and what people said their hopes are for 2050 as developed from feedback received during Phase 1 of the project.
- Gather input to help shape the outcomes of the project.

During Phase 2 of the engagement process the project team captured over 156,626 engagement connections and interactions. This included engagement activities designed to gather feedback and engagement activities that raised awareness about the project. These included:

- updates to the project Have Your Say webpage
- media articles
- project flyer delivered with the rates notice
- social media posts
- invitations to the Towards 2050 Summits
- pop-up stalls at community markets and events
- stakeholder meetings and presentations
- Towards 2050 Youth Summit
- Towards 2050 Community Summit
- establishing the 350-member Towards Community Panel
- identifying key organisations as part of Stakeholder Panel.



Summary of engagement touchpoints



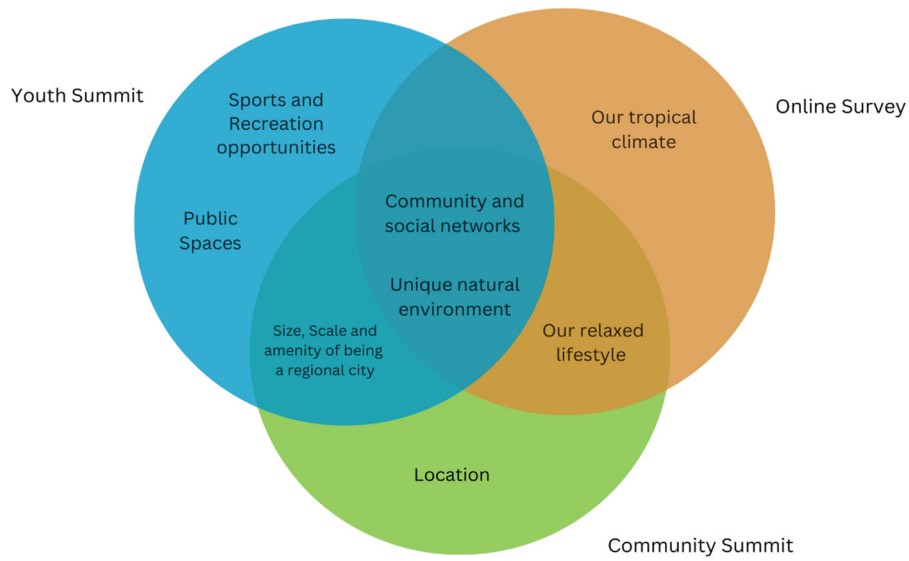
ES Figure 1: Phase 2 engagement rates

Rates for each engagement activity are described in ES Figure 1. These activities contributed to raising awareness about projected population growth in Cairns and the need to plan for this growth.

The Towards 2050 Summits gathered the highest rate of feedback during Phase 2. At the Summits, the project team gathered feedback relating to what Summit participants love about Cairns now and their hopes for Cairns in 2050. When analysing the feedback to these questions, there was a strong similarity in responses received in the Phase 1 online survey. The top 5 themes of feedback received through the Summits and the online survey are illustrated in ES Figure 2, ES Figure 3 and ES Figure 4.

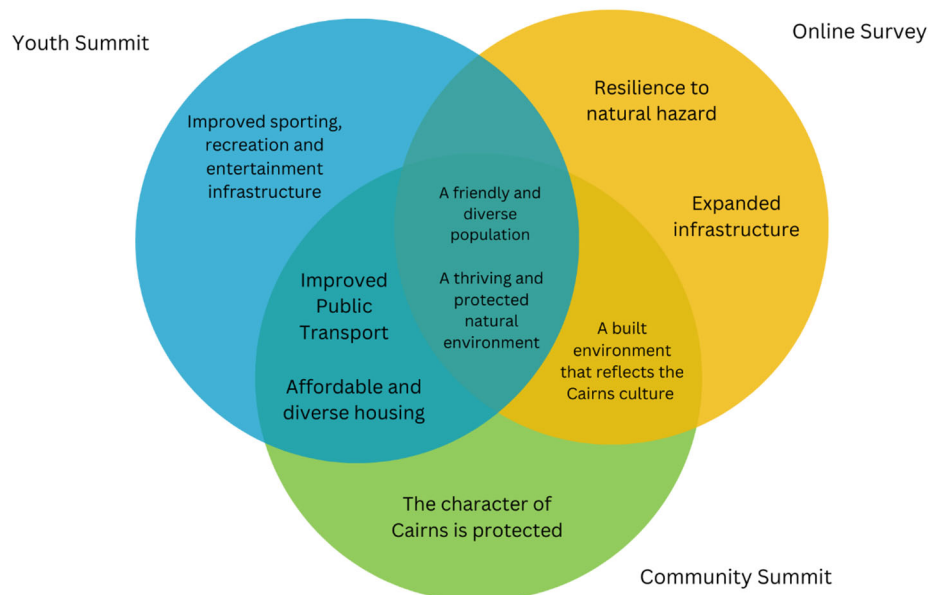


What do you love about living in Cairns?



ES Figure 2: Youth Summit, Community Summit and Online survey: What do you love about Cairns?

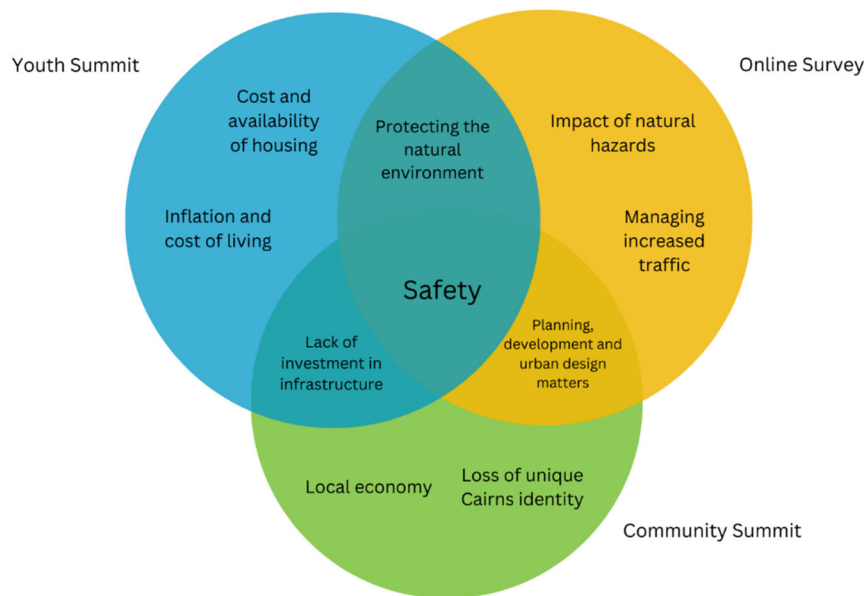
What are your hopes for Cairns in 2050?



ES Figure 3: Youth Summit, Community Summit and Online survey: What are your hopes for Cairns in 2050?

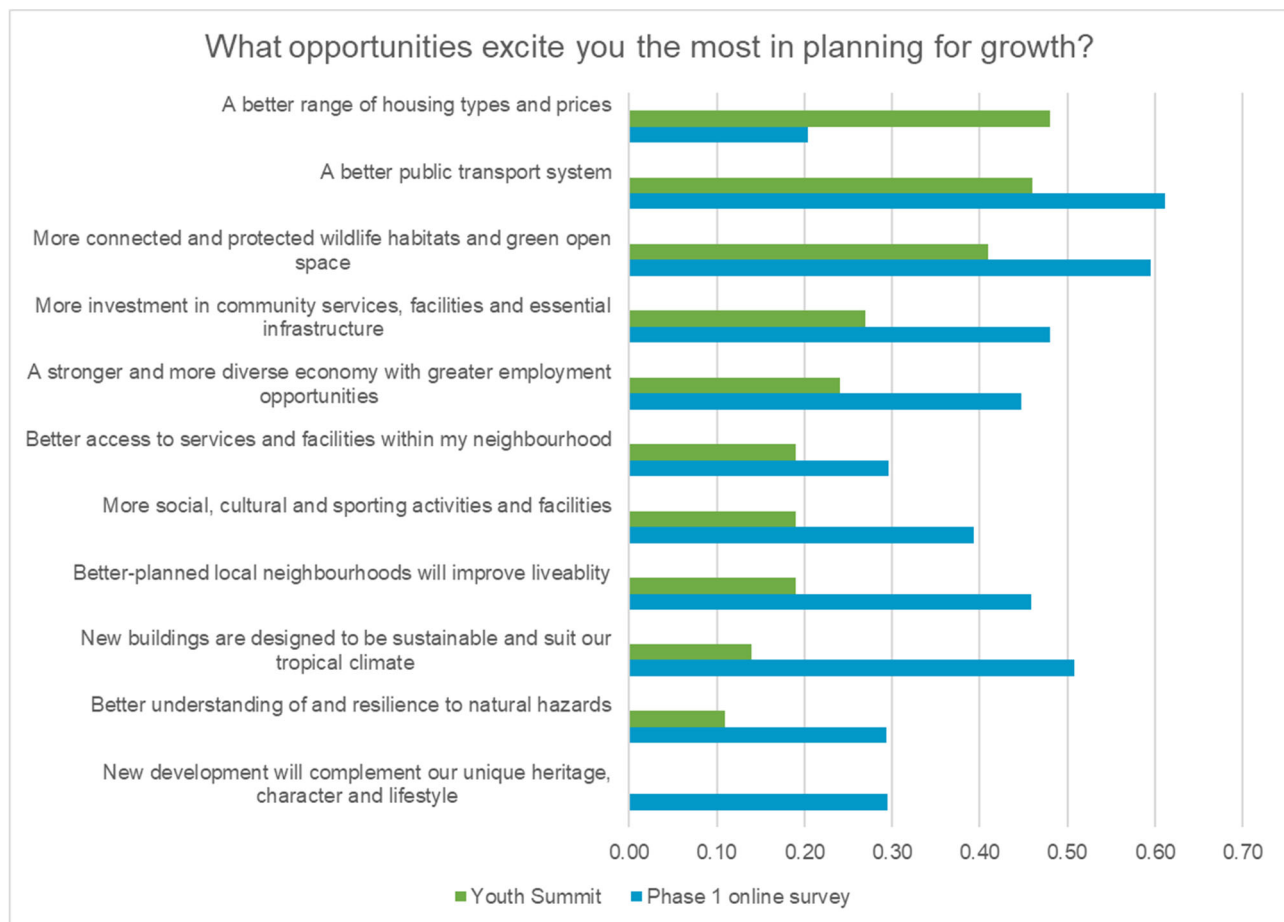


What are your concerns for Cairns in 2050?



ES Figure 4: Youth Summit, Community Summit and Online survey: What are your concerns for Cairns in 2050?

While a large portion of feedback received from the Youth Summit was consistent with findings from Phase 1, there was a key difference in relation to the perception of opportunities that growth can bring. During the Youth Summit, the project team asked participants to respond to a question from the Phase 1 online



ES Figure 5: Youth Summit and Online survey: What opportunities excite you the most in planning for growth?



survey about opportunities that can come from growth. ES Figure 5 shows the response from Youth Summit participants compared to the Phase 1 online survey.

ES Figure 5 demonstrates responses as a percentage to compare rates of responses between the feedback channels. It should be noted that the Phase 1 online survey had 1,054 participants, while the Youth Summit had 34.

Youth Summit participants ranked 'A better range of housing types and prices' as their top priority, followed by 'A better public transport system' and 'More connected and protected wildlife habitats and green open space'. Housing was marked as the lowest priority by Phase 1 online survey respondents. The second and third priorities are common between the Youth Summit participants and Phase 1 online survey respondents.

Another key insight was provided by the Community Summit participants discussing and contributing to a list of planning statements. The project team brought 14 draft principles into the Summit. These principles related to:

- design to reflect the tropical climate
- green spaces
- natural hazard resilience
- housing
- natural environment and biodiversity
- community networks
- First Peoples culture
- heritage and traditional places
- active and public transport
- local economy
- farmland
- infrastructure

Before we prioritised the draft principles, Community Summit participants added a number of principles that they thought were missing. These principles related to:

- waste management
- accessibility
- energy security
- integrating innovative design and planning for future technology
- local industry
- recognition of the aging population
- water as centric to design
- prioritising locally grown produce
- geo-positioning
- art in communities
- community wellbeing
- safety
- stabilising population rates
- road design
- community engagement in the growth strategy
- reef and rainforest village design
- consideration of urban footprint
- sense of community
- achieving net zero emissions
- balancing impacts

This gave the project team a list of 38 principles that were prioritised by Community Summit participants.

The top 15 principles that came out of the Summit, as prioritised by the participants, follow. Text in blue indicates planning principles developed by the Towards 2050 project team. Text in **green** indicates that the planning principle, or part of it, was further developed by Community Summit participants.

1. A wide range of housing types, sizes and tenures are provided at a range of affordability to meet the diverse and changing needs of our community.
2. Our unique natural habitat areas and biodiversity corridors are connected, protected and **maintain traditional owner knowledge.**



3. Cairns has a strong diverse economy that retains and attracts businesses and workers, and offers a wide range of jobs.
4. Consolidate urban growth with higher density, well-located apartments supported by public transport, and recreational and social facilities and **limit urban sprawl.**
5. Reliable and efficient infrastructure (water, sewerage, roads and digital connection) that are sustainable and accessible for everyone.
6. Cairns is well connected and easy to move around with efficient public transport and suburbs that are connected by cycleways and pedestrian paths to reduce reliance on private vehicle travel.
7. Planning should minimise the risk from natural hazards and improve resilience to the impacts of climate change. **The project should attempt to stop climate change and reverse the impacts.**
8. Buildings should be designed to be sustainable and suit the tropical climate.
9. Our neighbourhoods and urban areas should have welcoming and accessible green spaces that engage the senses, facilitate social interactions and foster wellbeing.
10. Our neighbourhoods provide easy access (walk, cycle or public transport) to employment, shopping, education, recreational and social needs.
11. Our neighbourhoods are accessible for people with mobility challenges.
12. Our coastline, scenic landscapes, significant views and mountain ranges are protected.
13. **Cairns will work to minimise and appropriately manage waste.**
14. The diversity of our community and First Peoples culture and connection to country is recognised in the planning framework.
15. High value rural land is protected from urban development and retained for rural uses **and supports a community who prioritises locally grown food.**

This feedback has informed the guiding principles defined in the Growth Strategy Framework, being:

- housing that meets our changing needs
- supporting a thriving economy
- protecting our natural environment
- delivering sustainable infrastructure
- improving our resilience to natural hazards and climate change
- creating great tropical neighbourhoods
- recognising and respecting our diverse cultures and heritage.

These principles will continue to be developed as the project progresses and will provide direction in developing more detailed land use strategies for future growth in Cairns.



1. Introduction

Cairns Regional Council (Council) is developing the Towards 2050: Shaping Cairns Growth Strategy. In August 2022, Council engaged the Towards 2050 Collective to support the development of the growth strategy. Developed across four phases, this strategy will be delivered by the mid-2025.

The Cairns Local Government Area (LGA) currently has a population of 172,272, which is predicted to increase to 265,000 residents by the year 2050. Towards 2050: Shaping Cairns will provide a strategy to sustainably manage this growth.

Towards 2050: Shaping Cairns 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 Council respond to the unique environment, needs and challenges of Cairns. It will explore how Council can:

- provide land for a diverse range of housing
- protect and enhance the natural environment and scenic amenity
- support employment opportunities within a thriving economy
- improve resilience to natural hazards and climate change
- support character and culture
- plan efficient, safe and sustainable infrastructure
- create great neighbourhoods.

In October 2022, Council launched the conversation with the community to help shape the future of Cairns. This conversation, or community engagement, will continue to be at the centre of every step that is taken as the project team develop Towards 2050: Shaping Cairns.

Between October and December 2022, Phase 1 engagement was delivered. It focussed on defining what is important about Cairns now and what needs to be protected into the future.

During the Phase 1 engagement process we aimed to understand:

- what people love about Cairns now
- what people think makes Cairns special or unique, or our Cairns-ness
- what people think about Cairns in 2050.

Our conversations explored:

- what people love about their home suburb
- what people love about Cairns as a region
- what people think is special about Cairns
- what people's hopes and concerns are for Cairns in 2050
- what people think are potential opportunities and challenges that might come as Cairns grows.

The project team recorded over 13,500 engagement interactions during Phase 1 of the community and stakeholder engagement process.

In January 2023, the project team launched Phase 2 of the community and stakeholder engagement process. Phase 2 of the engagement process concluded on end of August 2023.



This report documents Phase 2 of the community and stakeholder engagement process. It describes:

- the community and stakeholder engagement process
- the community and stakeholder engagement activities, feedback rates and reach
- the detailed community and stakeholder engagement findings
- conclusions based on the detailed engagement findings, and recommendations for future engagement phases.

Feedback captured through Phase 2 of the engagement process has generally reinforced the findings of Phase 1 of the engagement process and provided more in-depth information from different community members and stakeholders. It has also helped to inform the Growth Strategy Framework and the ongoing work to develop the Towards 2050: Shaping Cairns Growth Strategy.

2. Community and stakeholder engagement process

This section of the report describes the community and stakeholder engagement approach delivered during Phase 2 of the Towards 2050: Shaping Cairns project.

2.1 Engagement purpose

Community and stakeholder engagement for Towards 2050: Shaping Cairns will aim to capture the interest and imagination of the people of Cairns who will be encouraged to:

- get involved with the project
- understand the opportunities and challenges that growth could bring to Cairns
- share their aspirations and ideas about how to manage the growth challenge and protect what defines Cairns
- help to shape the future of the Cairns region.

2.2 Engagement approach

The Towards 2050: Shaping Cairns Phase 2 engagement approach included the delivery of a blend of traditional in-person and contemporary online engagement activities. This blend of activities were designed to maximise the capture of input from community members and stakeholders. It allowed broad engagement across the Council area while also capturing responses at the neighbourhood level.

The Phase 2 engagement approach was underpinned by 3 key principles:

- Raising awareness about projected population growth in Cairns and the need to plan for population growth through the Towards 2050: Shaping Cairns project.
- Communicating the outcomes of Phase 1 of the engagement process, including confirming the definition of 'Cairns-ness' and what people said their hopes are for 2050. This was developed from feedback received during Phase 1 of the project.
- Gather input to help shape the outcomes of the project.

These principles guided the engagement activities delivered during Phase 2 of the project. Engagement activities are described in section 3 of this report.



2.3 Identified stakeholders

Given the purpose of the engagement and the need to span the whole LGA, there are many stakeholder groups with a potential interest in the project. These stakeholders include:

- Residents
- Traditional Custodians and First Peoples
- Local community groups
- Business owners and operators
- Council employees
- Councillors, and State and Federal elected representatives
- Neighbouring councils
- State and Federal government agencies
- Visitors

3. Engagement activities, feedback rates and reach

This section of the report outlines the engagement activities used as part of Phase 2 of the community and stakeholder engagement process. It also outlines feedback rates and reach of these activities.

3.1 Have Your Say webpage

The project Have Your Say webpage was updated throughout Phase 2 of the engagement process. The webpage was promoted as a single 'point of truth' for the project and was used as a quick and efficient method to share information and gather feedback. These updates included:

- a snapshot of the feedback received during Phase 1 of the engagement process
- a registration page for the Towards 2050 Community Summit
- a snapshot of feedback received during the Towards 2050 Summits
- a downloadable version of the Phase 1 engagement summary report and full Phase 1 engagement report
- a private webpage for the Towards 2050 Community Panel members.

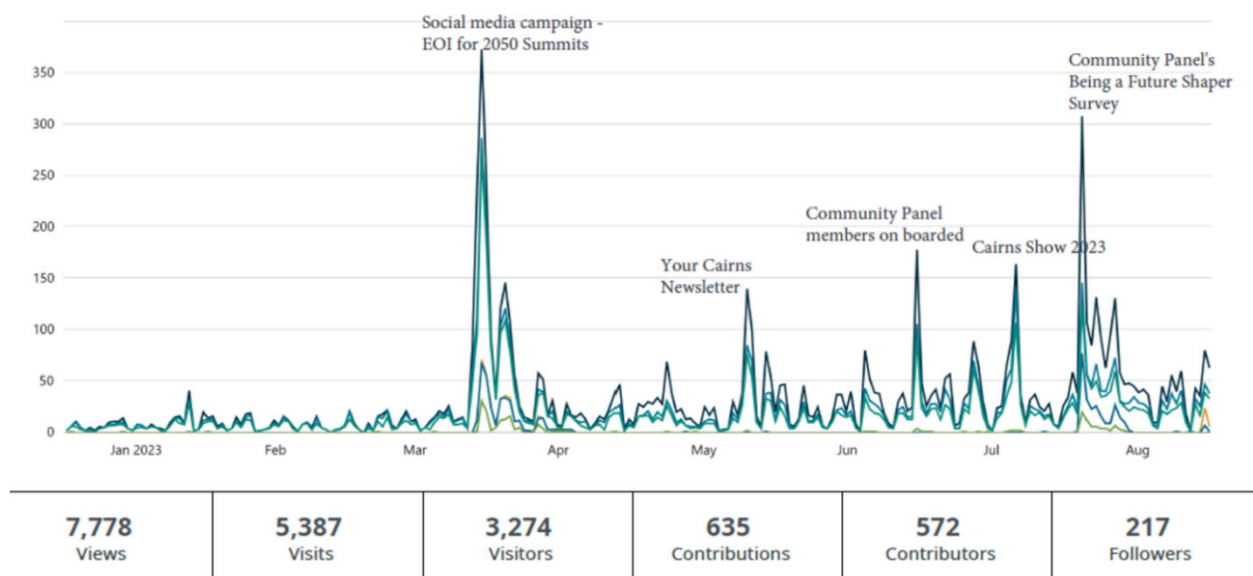


Figure 1: Project Have Your Say webpage statistics



During Phase 2 of the engagement process, the project Have Your Say page was viewed 5,810 times by 2,674 visitors. Figure 1 illustrates how these views occurred over Phase 2, with key engagement activities that led community members and stakeholders to the webpage marked in blue.

During Phase 2 of the engagement process:

- the project roadmap summary document was downloaded 356 times.
- the summary of Phase 1 engagement document was downloaded 93 times
- the Phase 1 engagement report was downloaded 88 times.
- the project roadmap was downloaded 54 times.

3.2 Project promotion activities

During Phase 2 of the engagement process the project team reached over 168,489 individuals or households through engagement activities that raised awareness about the Towards 2050: Shaping Cairns project. This project promotion material included a 'call to action' to register for the Towards 2050 Summit, register for the Towards 2050 Community Panel or register for the project Have Your Say webpage.

3.2.1 Media and newsletters

The Towards 2050 Community Summit was advertised in the March 2023 issue of Council's *Living in Cairns* e-newsletter. The *Living in Cairns* e-newsletter is sent to approximately 8,000 email addresses to share news and provide information about projects and events. The article included a short introduction about the project, described the Summit and explained how to register interest to attend.

Council then issued a media release on 4 April and placed a notice in the Cairns Local News newspaper on 7 April 2023 inviting residents to nominate for the Towards 2050 Community Summit.

The project was further promoted in two full-colour pages of the 6-page May 2023 *Your Cairns* Divisional newsletter that is delivered as a printed publication to every residential household address in the Cairns LGA. This publication included a project update and an invitation to apply for the Towards 2050 Community Panel.

Media coverage and advertisements are provided in Appendix A.

3.2.2 Rates notice

In January 2023, a flyer to register interest for the Towards 2050 Community Panel was included in Council's half-yearly rates notice (Figure 2). The flyer included a short introduction about the Community Panel and a link to register interest. The rates notice was sent to all 76,748 residential, rural and commercial ratepayers in the Cairns LGA.





Figure 2: Project advertisement

3.2.3 Social Media

Social media posts were used to encourage Cairns community members to get involved in the project or to continue their previous involvement. The project was promoted through 9 posts on Council's Facebook and LinkedIn pages between January 2023 and July 2023. The majority of the posts were organic and one post was paid. The paid post provided a link to the registration page for the Towards 2050 Community Summit and generated significant traffic to the webpage. Figure 1 illustrates a significant increase in visitors and contributions corresponding with the sponsored post.

3.2.4 Direct invitations to Towards 2050 Summits

The project team sent an invitation letter and nomination form to 20 secondary schools in the Cairns LGA. The letter invited each secondary school to nominate up to 3 students from Year 8, 9 or 10 to attend the Towards 2050 Youth Summit.

The invitation to the Towards 2050 Community Summit was added to the project webpage on Council's website from Tuesday 4 April to Tuesday 18 April 2023. During this period, the webpage received 590 views. A total of 353 community nominations were received. Successful nominees were randomly selected based on demographic criteria to represent the diverse community of Cairns.

The project team also sent an invitation to the Towards 2050 Community Summit via email to the Stakeholder Panel and First Peoples Advisory Committee. These groups are described further in section 3.3.

3.2.5 Pop up events

The project team held 2 pop-up events during Phase 2 of the engagement process. These pop-ups were designed to raise awareness of the project among the Cairns community and increase registrations for the project Have Your Say webpage.

The first pop-up was held at the Children's Festival on Sunday 21 May 2023 at Tanks Arts Centre and was part of the Creation Station. The focus of the event was to encourage children and young people to draw



wild ideas for city planning. They were also able to colour-in city elements like buildings, houses and public spaces (Figure 3).

The second pop-up was held at the Cairns Show on Wednesday 19, Thursday 20 and Friday 21 July 2023 and was part of the larger Council booth. The pop-up was designed to increase registrations for the Have Your Say webpage, with a gift for every person who registered. The project team members at the Cairns Show noted that many visitors had already registered for the project webpage or taken part in engagement activities.

Towards 2050: Shaping Cairns was also advertised at Council's stall at the Council-run Ecofiesta community event held on Sunday 4 June 2023 at Munro Martin Parklands.



Figure 3: Children's Festival

3.3 Activities to gather feedback

During Phase 2 of the engagement process, the project team captured over 2,900 engagement interactions with Cairns community members and stakeholders. This section describes when each engagement activity was held, the purpose of the activity and a brief summary of the activity. Feedback received during these activities will be described in section 4 of this report.

3.3.1 Stakeholder meetings and presentations

During Phase 2 of the engagement process, the project team met with the following stakeholders in group or individual meetings:

- First Peoples Advisory Committee (FPAC)

FPAC is a group of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who live, work or study in the Cairns Regional Council area. FPAC provides comment, feedback and direction on issues that relate to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their communities. The group also works to enhance opportunities for participation and collaboration between local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and Council.

- Woree State High School

The project team visited Woree State High School on Friday 26 May 2023 for a presentation and workshop session with 60 Year 8 students. This visit introduced the project to the students and gathered feedback about their vision for 2050. Feedback received is discussed in section 4.5.

3.3.2 Towards 2050 Summits

The project team delivered 2 Summits over 2 days: the Towards 2050 Youth Summit and the Towards 2050 Community Summit. The purpose of these events was to share and gather feedback on all aims for Phase 2 of the engagement process.

The Towards 2050 Youth Summit was held on Friday 5 May 2023 at the Crystalbrook Riley in Cairns. The summit was attended by 34 students, aged between 13 and 15. Participants sat at 10 tables, with approximately 6 participants and 1 facilitator per table (Figure 4).



Figure 4: Towards 2050 Youth Summit



The Towards 2050 Community Summit was held on the following day, Saturday 6 May 2023, and was attended by 83 community members. Participants sat at 17 tables, with approximately 6 participants per table and 1 project team facilitator per 2 tables (Figure 5).

The Youth and Community summits used a range of activities to explore the same concept of what ‘the future of Cairns’ looked like. This involved:

- looking back on the change in Cairns over the past 30 years
- thinking about the Cairns of today
- thinking about what Cairns will be like in 30 years
- understanding the outcomes of the Phase 1 engagement
- understanding the outcomes of the Youth Summit (Community Summit only)
- discussing urban growth and what needs to be considered as Council plans for this growth
- designing a future neighbourhood (Youth Summit only)
- prioritising a list of planning principles (Community Summit only).

Both Summits concluded by:

- discussing the barriers to growth and introducing the concept of Yes In My Backyard, or YIMBY
- thinking about what they could personally champion as Cairns heads Towards 2050.



Figure 5: Towards 2050 Community Summit

A detailed description of the Towards 2050 Summits is provided in section 4.

3.3.3 Community Panel

In early 2023, the project team began the process of establishing a Community Panel for the project. The Community Panel is made up of 350 community members who were independently selected to reflect the diversity of the Cairns community. This created a ‘mini-Cairns public’.

The purpose of the Community Panel is to bring people together to discuss important issues relating to the project and to gather input to help shape the outcomes of the technical studies, as they are progressed.

The Community Panel will be asked to participate in the engagement process and provide a snapshot of views from people of all walks of life: representing the diverse backgrounds, demographics and interests of the region.

An invitation to join the Community Panel was sent to every household in the Council area through the *Your Cairns* divisional newsletter in May 2023. Council contracted an independent non-profit organisation who specialises in recruiting and selecting people to take part in these kinds of panels. This was to make sure that the selection process was unbiased and resulted in a panel that is as representative of the Cairns



community as possible. This type of selection approach encourages different members of the community to be involved.

A total of 766 Cairns residents registered their interest in being part of the Panel, and 350 community members were independently selected. After the panel was selected, Council made phone calls to all panel members to discuss how the panel would operate, introduce the online hub and provide a short summary of the project to date. The first activity completed by the Community Panel members were the Being a Future Shaper survey, which resulted in 247 completed submissions. Being a Future Shaper survey was undertaken as part of the Studio THI's Urban Change Readiness project.

3.3.4 Stakeholder Panel

The Stakeholder Panel is a group of representatives from the following organisations:

- Access Community Housing Company
- Advance Cairns
- AgForce QLD
- Anglicare North Queensland
- Australian Institute of Architects (AIA)
- Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA)
- Australian Youth Climate Coalition
- Building Designers Association of QLD (BDAQ)
- Cairns Airport
- Cairns Alliance of Social Services
- Cairns and Far North Environment Centre (CAFNEC)
- Cairns and Region Multicultural Association (CARMA)
- Cairns Bicycle User Group (CBUG)
- Cairns Chamber of Commerce
- Cairns Historical Society
- Cairns Housing and Homelessness Network
- Cairns Young Chamber of Commerce
- Centacare FNQ
- Central Queensland University
- Deadly Inspiring Youth Doing Good (DIYDG)
- Environmental Defenders Office NQ (EDO)
- FNQ Growers
- FNQ Regional Organisation of Councils (FNQROC)
- Housing Institute of Australia (HIA)
- Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia
- James Cook University
- Master Builders
- Mission Australia
- Mission Australia
- Parks and Leisure Australia
- Planning Institute of Australia (PIA)
- Ports North
- Queensland Cane Growers Association
- Regional Development Australia Tropical North
- REIQ
- Saint Vincent De Paul
- Salvation Army
- Shelter Housing Action Cairns (SHAC)
- TAFE Queensland North
- Terrain NRM
- Tourism Tropical North Queensland
- Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA)
- Youth Empowered Towards Independence (Yeti)
- Youth link

The Stakeholder Panel was formed to provide sector-specific input into the development of Towards 2050: Shaping Cairns by sharing information between groups and the project team. The Stakeholder Panel is also a channel for sharing information and generating an understanding about the project amongst the audiences of the wider groups, through their representation on the Panel.

The Stakeholder Panel will be informed about project milestones as the project progresses and will be invited to provide feedback at key milestones.



4. Detailed engagement findings

This section of the report summarises community and stakeholder feedback captured during Phase 2 of the engagement process. The analysis outlined in this section of the report covers:

- description and thematic analysis of data captured during Meeting 1 of the Stakeholder Panel
- description and thematic analysis of feedback provided during the Towards 2050 Youth and Community Summits
- description and thematic analysis of summarised feedback captured at Woree State High School
- comparative analysis to determine common themes from the engagement events.

4.1 Stakeholder Panel Meeting 1

The first meeting of the Stakeholder Panel was held on Wednesday 8 March 2023 between 5:30pm and 7:00pm (Figure 6). The overarching purpose of the meeting was to introduce the project team and explain the role of the Stakeholder Panel. The meeting also provided an opportunity to share information about the project to date, including the reach of the Phase 1 engagement, capture the collective wisdom of the participants in relation to key questions explored in Phase 1 of the engagement process, and provide information about next steps including the next opportunity to get involved.

Meeting 1 was attended by representatives of the following organisations and groups:

- Cairns Airport
- Mission Australia
- Ports North
- Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA)
- Cairns Bicycle User Group (BUG)
- Cairns Chamber of Commerce
- Advance Cairns
- Environmental Defenders Office (EDO) North Queensland
- Centacare Far North Queensland
- Shelter Housing Action Cairns (SHAC)
- Deadly Inspiring Youth Doing Good (DIYDG).

Meeting 1 was structured to include:

- an introduction to the Stakeholder Panel and discussing the purpose of the Panel
- an introduction to Towards 2050: Shaping Cairns and the project team
- a workshop activity to understand what the Stakeholder Group Panel love about Cairns now and their hopes and concerns for the future
- a short question and answer session.



During Meeting 1, the project team gathered over 200 individual pieces of feedback in response to 3 questions.

What do you love about living in Cairns?

Participants were asked to use Mentimeter (an interactive audience polling tool) to capture their individual reflections on what they love about Cairns in the form of a word cloud. There was an option to submit 3 options with a 50-word character limit. Responses received from Mentimeter are provided in Figure 7.



Figure 7: Mentimeter results 'What do you love about living in Cairns?'

After capturing individual sentiments, each small table discussed the same question with the following questions as prompts:

- When you think about Cairns, what makes it special for you?
- What is it about Cairns that made you move here?
- What is it about Cairns that makes you stay here?

Figure 8 is word cloud created from the notes captured at each small group table by a small group facilitator.



Figure 8: Small table discussion feedback 'What do you love about living in Cairns?'



The verbatim feedback provided on Mentimeter and during table discussions has been analysed and grouped into themes. Prominent themes from the small group discussions and individual feedback included:

- climate and weather
- diverse and friendly community
- size and scale of being a regional city
- natural environment
- affordable cost of living
- connection with First Peoples
- retail and hospitality locations
- urban design and building character
- diverse and unique scenic landscape
- tourism opportunities
- lifestyle
- regional city character.

These themes indicate that the stakeholders have a great appreciation for the natural environment and landscapes, friendly and diverse community, culture and family-friendly environment in Cairns.

What are your hopes for Cairns in 2050?

Next, participants were asked to use Mentimeter to capture their individual reflections on their hopes for Cairns in 2050. There was an option to submit 3 options, with a 50-word character limit. Responses received from Mentimeter are provided in Figure 9.



Figure 9: Mentimeter results 'What are your hopes for Cairns in 2050?'

After capturing individual sentiments, each table discussed the same question with the following questions as prompts:

- What does the Cairns of 2050 have that the Cairns of 2023 did not?
- What are you proud that Cairns has achieved? How did it happen?
- What opportunities enabled us to get here?

Figure 10 is word cloud created from the notes captured at each table by a small group facilitator.



The verbatim feedback provided on Mentimeter and during table discussions has been analysed and grouped into themes. Prominent themes from the small group discussions and individual feedback included:

- sense of community is retained or strengthened
- diversity and connection in the community
- housing affordability and diversity is improved
- public and active transport infrastructure is expanded
- secure access to food
- support for small and local businesses
- neighbourhoods are designed to have centres
- improved education infrastructure.



Figure 10: Small table discussion feedback 'What are your hopes for Cairns in 2050?'

The Stakeholder Panel participants described a hope for a diverse, sustainable and thriving community in Cairns, focusing on housing, transportation, economy, education, environment, infrastructure and connectivity.

What are your concerns about Cairns in 2050?

Finally, participants were asked to use Mentimeter to capture their individual reflections on their concerns for Cairns in 2050. There was an option to submit 3 options, with a 50-word character limit. Responses received from Mentimeter are provided in Figure 11.





Figure 11: Mentimeter results 'What are your concerns about Cairns in 2050?'

After capturing individual sentiments, each table discussed the same question with the following questions as prompts:

- What worries you about arriving at 2050?
- What might we missed doing between 2023 and 2050 that would have made life in 2050 so much better?

The verbatim feedback provided on Mentimeter and during table discussions has been analysed and grouped into themes. Prominent themes from the small group discussions and individual feedback included:

- housing availability and cost
- infrastructure cannot support population growth
- planning and urban development
- access to health care
- public transport system
- climate and natural environment impacts
- community becomes individualised and insular
- Cairns's resilience to natural hazards
- infrastructure being able to support the aging population.





Figure 12: Small table discussions 'What are your concerns about Cairns in 2050?'

These concerns highlight the range of issues that stakeholders in the Cairns region are worried about, encompassing economic, social, environmental and infrastructure-related challenges.

The most common themes in response to each question, and how these correspond, is shown in Figure 13.

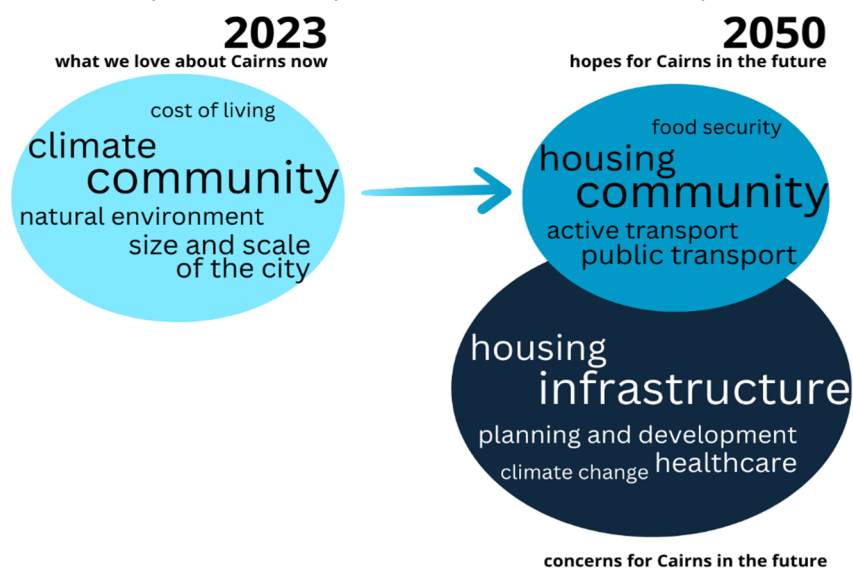


Figure 13: Key themes of feedback from Stakeholder Panel Meeting 1

Analysis of feedback indicates that the Stakeholder Panel:

- love the sense of community in Cairns now and hope for the sense of community to remain or improve in 2050
- love the natural environment and climate in Cairns now and are concerned about the impacts of climate change in 2050
- love the size and scale of Cairns now and are concerned about planning and urban development changes in 2050
- are both hopeful and concerned about housing cost, access and diversity in Cairns in 2050
- are both hopeful and concerned about infrastructure delivery (including public and active transport) supporting the population of Cairns in 2050.



4.2 Towards 2050 Youth Summit

The Towards 2050 Youth Summit on 5 May 2023 provided a platform for 34 students from 10 schools across the region to engage in discussions about the past, present and future of Cairns. The Youth Summit aimed to capture feedback from young people who were an under-represented group during Phase 1 of the engagement process.

Section 0 provides a detailed description of the Youth Summit format and findings.

4.2.1 Towards 2050 Youth Summit format and findings

The Towards 2050 Youth Summit opened with a Welcome to Country and welcome to the participants from Cairns Mayor Bob Manning. The project team also discussed the agenda for the day and provided a short introduction to the project.

Looking back on past Cairns

The project team led a short discussion about what Cairns was like 30 years ago, focusing on the changes in the built and natural environment that have taken place since then. This discussion centred around a large-format timeline spanning a wall of the room. The timeline included snapshots of life and pictures of Cairns from the 1950s to the present day. The first activity asked participants to place their names on the year they were born or arrived in Cairns. The purpose of this activity was to understand the changes that have occurred in Cairns and for participants to consider the change they have observed during their time in Cairns.

Results

The project team asked participants for their key takeaways from the activity. They included:

- “Several places in the city are more inviting and take advantage of their location (like the Esplanade).”
- “Cairns has evolved from a ‘place to pass through’ to somewhere one is encouraged to, and chooses to, stop.”
- “The city has expanded horizontally, not vertically.”
- “New industrial areas are more green and more sustainable.”
- “Big population increase from 30 years ago to now.”
- “Technology in general has improved and become a bigger part of our lives. There are more efficient and automated services.”

The next part of the Youth Summit moved participants to the present.

Looking at present Cairns: What do you love about Cairns now? What don’t you love?

Each participant was asked to write up to 3 things that they love and don’t love about Cairns. These were written on individual sticky notes. The notes were then displayed in the room and sorted into themes. The question that related to what participants didn’t love was not included in the Phase 1 online survey.

“How it can feel remote but with benefits of a city.”



Results

When analysing the feedback provided on the sticky notes about what the Youth Summit participants love about Cairns, the project team identified 85 pieces of feedback. The most frequently mentioned responses related to:

- the natural environment (47 responses)
- sport and recreation opportunities (16 responses)
- size, scale and amenity of being a regional city (13 responses)
- public spaces (11 responses)
- the Cairns community (8 responses).

The results indicate that the natural environment is very highly valued, with the number of responses relating to the environment being 1.4 times the number of students who attended. This indicates that many participants wrote more than 1 piece of feedback that related to the natural environment, such as feedback about the mountains, beaches, rainforest, reef, creeks and waterholes. The natural environment was also a very prominent theme of feedback in responses to this question in the Phase 1 online survey.

When analysing the feedback provided on the sticky notes about what the Youth Summit participants don't love about Cairns, the project team identified 76 pieces of feedback. The most frequently mentioned responses related to:

- the public transport system (16 responses)
- safety (11 responses)
- the heat and climate (10 responses)
- housing (9 responses)
- opportunities for the future (6 responses)

“ Limited opportunities in the creative industry ”

The most prominent theme was the public transport system. Low public transport access may be more impactful on young people if they cannot rely on using a private car.

Towards 2050: When thinking about Cairns in 2050, what are your hopes and concerns?

Next, participants shared their hopes and concerns about the future of Cairns by writing them on differently coloured leaves. Participants used green leaves for hopes and brown leaves for concerns. Facilitators helped them attach these leaves onto a tree using adhesive dots, creating a visual representation of young people's hopes and concerns for Cairns's future (Figure 14).





Figure 14: Youth Summit participants

Results

When analysing the feedback provided on the green leaves for what Youth Summit participants hope for the future Cairns, the project team identified 92 pieces of feedback. The most frequently mentioned responses related to:

- a thriving and protected natural environment (33 responses)
- improved public transport (12 responses)
- affordable and diverse housing (9 responses)
- improved sporting, recreation and entertainment industry (9 responses)
- relaxed, friendly and diverse population (4 responses).

When analysing the feedback provided on the brown leaves for what the Youth Summit participants are concerned about for future Cairns, the project team identified 62 pieces of feedback, with the most frequently mentioned responses relating to:

- protecting the natural environment (20 responses)
- safety (11 responses)
- cost and availability of housing (11 responses)
- inflation and cost of living (8 responses)
- lack of investment in infrastructure (7 responses).

Youth Summit participants identified similar themes as Phase 1 online survey respondents, but with different frequency. Hope for improved sporting, recreation and entertainment infrastructure was not expressed in the online survey. However, the top 2 concerns from Youth Summit participants reflect the feedback received from the Phase 1 online survey. The Youth Summit participants were more concerned about housing, inflation and cost of living: these concerns were mentioned less frequently by participants in other engagement activities.

Prioritising opportunities that can come with growth

For the next activity, participants used sticky dots to rank a set of statements drawn from an online survey question which asked ‘What opportunities excite you the most in planning for the growth of Cairns?’. Each participant received 3 dots and could spend these dots on the opportunities they wanted to prioritise (Figure 17). Table facilitators read the statements and ensured any discussion was captured. This activity aimed to gauge the collective opinions and priorities of the participants.

This question was explored during the Youth Summit as the online survey did not attract many responses from young people.

Results

Responses are displayed in Figure 15.

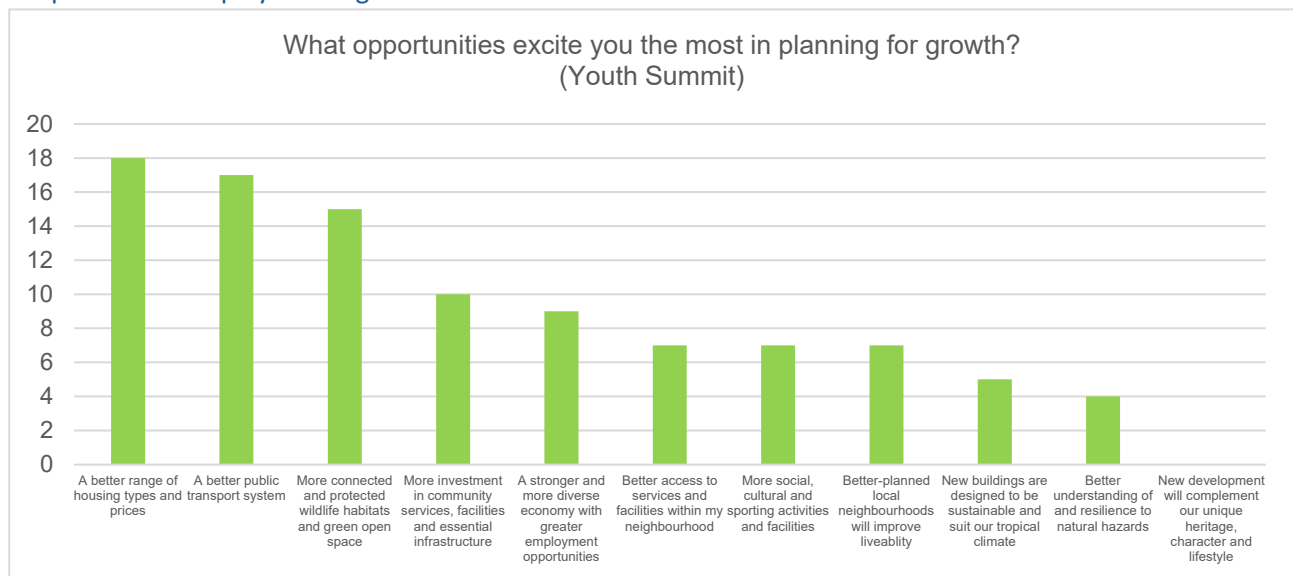


Figure 15: Youth summit priority of opportunities

The outcome of this activity had several notable differences to the outcome of the Phase 1 online survey, which are shown in Figure 16.

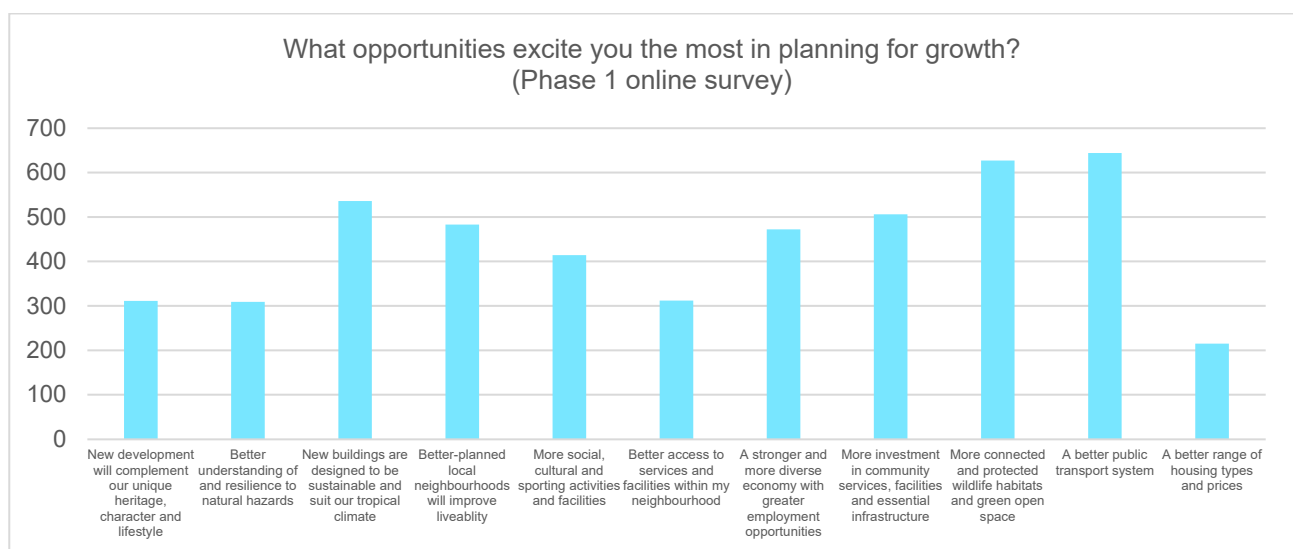


Figure 16: Phase 1 online survey priority of opportunities



Youth Summit participants ranked 'A better range of housing types and prices' as their top priority, followed by 'A better public transport system' and 'More connected and protected wildlife habitats and green open space'.

In comparison, housing was marked as the lowest priority by Phase 1 online survey respondents. The second and third priorities are common between the Youth Summit participants and Phase 1 online survey respondents.

Following this activity, the project team gave a short presentation on the outcomes of the Phase 1 engagement process.



Figure 17: Prioritising opportunities for growth

Imagining Cairns in 2050

Next, the project team gave a presentation on future trends and possibilities for Cairns. This presentation was designed to move the focus of participants to the Cairns of the future. This presentation encouraged participants to consider long-term perspectives and potential opportunities for growth.

After this presentation, participants imagined the future of Cairns. They also brainstormed and shared their "wild ideas" about the region's future. Table facilitators documented the discussion, which was later shared with the whole group for further discussion.

Results

The wild ideas shared by the Youth Summit participants followed similar themes to their prioritised opportunities for the future growth of Cairns. The themes and a short description of what was discussed within each theme is outlined in Table 1.



Table 1: Summary of wild ideas

Theme of wild idea	Description
Housing	More affordable housing with access to green spaces, diversity in house designs, elevated living due to limited land availability, and homes powered with renewable energy.
Transport and travel	Electric, solar or hybrid cars, scooters for pick-up and drop-off, ride-sharing, and improved public transport with electric vehicles. Hydrogen-powered aircraft, electric trains for freight and high-speed rail connections.
Planning, development and urban design	Skyscrapers, vertical gardens, efficient climate control, underground infrastructure, roads with built-in solar panels, and housing on water. More public parks and green spaces, walkable places, pedestrian streets, affordable and comfortable apartment buildings, and net-zero buildings.
Environmental sustainability	Renewable energy systems (wind, water, solar), farming changes for food supply, reduction of invasive species, and self-sustaining cities.
Technology	Teleportation, AI-controlled jobs, defensive domes, more online jobs, virtual reality experiences, and improved devices and robotics.
Environmental protection	Healthy Great Barrier Reef, community gardens, green roofs and walls, wind farms, solar farms, and hydroelectric dams.
Society and economy	Government subsidies, universal basic income, reduced demand for physical stores, online platforms and businesses, and a focus on sustainability-related jobs
Cultural recognition	Recognition and inclusion of First Nations voices, place names, and cultural artefacts in communication and decision-making processes.

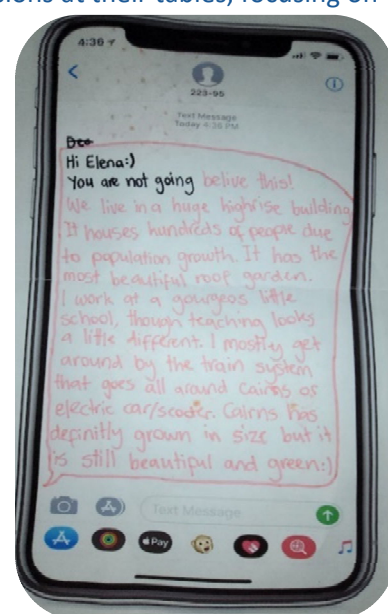
For the next activity, participants were prompted to write a message to their current selves from their future selves living in 2050 (Figure 18). This activity encouraged personal reflection and an exploration of values and aspirations.

After the individual portion of the activity, participants engaged in discussions at their tables, focusing on what was personally important to them.

Results

Some Youth Summit participants did not want to share their message from their future selves. Of those messages given to the team, recurring themes and a short description of what was discussed within each theme follows.

- **Environmental sustainability:** Cairns is sustainable. We only use renewable energy. The natural landscape hasn't changed since 2023.
- **Homes:** We live in high rise buildings with roof top green spaces.
- **Transport:** A new public transport system has been developed for Cairns, which includes trams. There is a high-speed rail system connecting cities and towns in Far North Queensland.

**Figure 18: Message from your future self**

- **Jobs and technology:** There are more job opportunities available in Cairns. We rely on smart technology and this industry is a huge employer. We don't use computers and phones, our work and life uses virtual reality and AI.
- **Community:** The Cairns community is diverse and happy.

Planning activity

The project team introduced the next activity by describing the challenges of being a planner. This included a brief overview of how planners consider opportunities and constraints for growth in an area and how this can influence the direction for change or growth.

At their tables, participants were guided through an activity to design their ideal neighbourhood, applying the principles of urban planning discussed by the project team (Figure 19). This exercise encouraged participants to think critically about their surroundings, their ideal neighbourhoods and understand the growth challenge.

After the activity, the whole group discussed each table's reflections about designing their ideal neighbourhood.

Results

All designed neighbourhoods included increased green space and medium or high-density housing. The majority of designed neighbourhoods included environmental conservation areas, active transport infrastructure and a retail and hospitality area.

The planning activity indicated that participants were committed to planning a neighbourhood centred around social and environmental outcomes.



Figure 19. Planning activity (Youth Summit)

The project team asked the Youth Summit participants to summarise their key takeaways from the planning activity. These key takeaways for planning a future community involved:

- More green space.
- More communal areas.
- Not living on top of each other (in really small lots). High density residential will be up to 26 storeys in the CBD. Housing is affordable and dense.
- Each household will generate energy on site.
- Ground floor being all public space to increase social interactions.
- No cars. There will be new and alternative modes of transport that frees up ground space.
- Activities are located central to communities.
- Incorporating nature into development.
- Neighbourhoods that are lifestyle driven. Everything you need will be in your neighbourhood.
- Everything being accessible and inclusive.
- Retail changing to be online centred. Retail becoming large format warehouses and delivery systems.

4.3 Towards 2050 Community Summit

The Towards 2050 Community Summit on 6 May 2023 aimed to deepen the project team's understanding about community aspirations and capture input to inform the development of a vision for managing the growth of Cairns up to 2050. The Summit also captured input to help prioritise what is important about Cairns today that needs to be protected and enhanced up to 2050.

Section 0 provides a snapshot of the Community Summit participants. Section 0 provides a detailed description of the Community Summit format and findings.

Towards 2050 Community Summit participants

104 people were invited by Council to attend the Towards 2050 Community Summit, with 83 people participating on the day. The 104 people invited to attend the Summit either represented identified community organisations or were one of 353 community members who expressed interest in attending the Summit.

Two students from the Youth Summit attended part of the Community Summit.

The majority of participants (92%) responded to demographic questions in the Summit workbooks. Figure 19 provides a demographic snapshot from the information provided in the 77 completed workbooks. In summary:

- All age groups (from 16 years of age to over 70 years old) were represented in the room.
- 11% of workbook respondents identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.
- 22.7% of workbook respondents indicated that they speak a language other than English at home or with family.



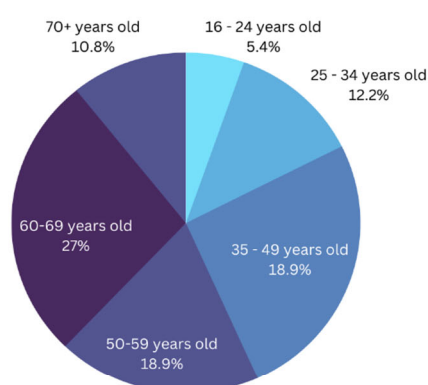
Community Summit Format

The grouping of Summit participants at each table at the Community Summit was designed to reflect the diversity in the Cairns community. Almost all tables had a participant who identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, a mix of age ranges, and a participant who spoke a language other than English.

The Community Summit began with a Welcome to Country from a local Traditional Owner Elder, followed by opening remarks from Cairns Mayor Bob Manning. Council then presented an introduction to Towards 2050, providing an overview of its objectives and progress. After this, the Queensland Government's Regional Planning team provided a project update and discussed the connection between their work and the Towards 2050: Shaping Cairns project.

Towards 2050 Community Summit: Participants at a glance

How old are you?



Who do you live with?

I live by myself	16
I live with my partner	41
I live with my school-aged children or younger	20
I live with my adult child(ren)	3
I live with my parent(s)/carer(s)	5
I live with a friend(s) or housemate(s)	3
I live with a family member(s)	5
Other	3

Do you identify as ATSI?

Yes	8	(10.7%)
No	66	(88%)
Prefer not to say	1	(1.3%)

Do you speak a language other than English at home or with your family?

Yes	17	(22.7%)
No	58	(77.3%)

Figure 19: Towards 2050 Community Summit: Participants at a glance

Looking back on past Cairns

The Summit activities began by reflecting on the significant change that has taken place in Cairns over the past 30 years. Participants were guided through the large-format timeline display from the Youth Summit and the project team asked each participant to mark when they arrived or were born in Cairns. The timeline was displayed throughout the day.

The activity was designed for participants to consider the change that had occurred while they had been living in Cairns. The activity also encouraged participants to feel a sense of responsibility as custodians of Cairns for future generations when the arrival of Youth Summit participants in Cairns was considered.

Looking at present Cairns: What do you love about Cairns now? What don't you love?

Next, participants participated in an activity that asked them to express what they love and don't love about Cairns now. Participants used sticky notes to record their ideas; yellow and orange notes captured what people love about Cairns and blue and green notes captured what people don't love about Cairns.



These were written on individual sticky notes. The notes were then displayed in the room and sorted into themes.

This activity provided an opportunity for participants to centre themselves in Cairns now and share their connection with the region. Responses from this activity also provided an opportunity for ‘ground-truthing’ the responses received during the Phase 1 online survey.

Results

The top responses captured during this activity were partially consistent with responses received in the Phase 1 online survey. The Community Summit responses are compared to the Phase 1 online survey responses in Table 2. The coloured cells show the themes that were captured in both engagement activities.

Table 2: Towards 2050 Community Summit and Phase 1 online survey results 'What do you love about Cairns now?'

Community Summit:	Online survey (Phase 1):
Our unique natural environment	Our relaxed lifestyle
Size, scale and amenity of being a regional city	Our unique natural environment
Location	Our tropical climate
Our relaxed lifestyle	Our community and social networks
Our community and social networks	Our green city character

The unique natural environment is Cairns was highly valued by both the Community Summit participants and online survey respondents. As demonstrated in Table 2, 3 of the 5 key themes are consistent between the Summit and online survey.

The most common themes in response to ‘what don’t you love about Cairns?’ included:

- planning, development and urban design
- safety
- public transport system
- infrastructure
- threats to the natural environment.



Lack of diversity in appropriate housing



The question that related to what participants didn’t love was not included in the Phase 1 online survey.

Sharing engagement activities and findings

The next Summit session provided participants with an overview of the Youth Summit. The project team discussed the number of participants and provided a summary of the input young people provided about:

- how things have changed in last 30 years in Cairns
- what they love and don’t love about Cairns now
- their hopes for Cairns in 2050 and what they consider are challenges for the future
- their wild ideas for life in Cairns in 2050
- their messages to their future selves in 2050
- the planning activity to design future communities of Cairns in 2050.

Two young people who attended the Youth Summit also shared their personal key takeaways from the day.



Following this presentation, each table discussed what they were curious about and what surprised them about the feedback received at the Youth Summit.

Results

One participant from each table was asked to share their table's key takeaways from the presentation and discussion about the Youth Summit. These included:

I am curious about . . .	I am surprised that . . .
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how to work together to improve public transport options and making it more convenient. • whether the Youth Summit participants are aware of the available green spaces and utilise them. • whether the Youth Summit participants considered the cost and accessibility of green areas. • barriers to integrating social services into residential areas. • lack of political discussion as a contributing factor in urban design. • how many Youth Summit participants intend to stay in the region. • underground infrastructure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • there was a preference for high density living and against houses on small lots. • there was desire for both metaverse socialisation and desire for more public space. • Youth Summit participants want 26-storey buildings in Cairns. • community owned farms and gardens are identified as the solution for food security.

The next presentation from the project team provided an overview of the Phase 1 engagement, including:

- engagement and feedback rates
- snapshot of survey respondent demographics
- how survey respondents view their neighbourhood
- how survey respondents define 'Cairns-ness'.

The project team also highlighted the differences between Phase 1 engagement findings and feedback provided by young people at the Youth Summit.

Thinking about Cairns in 2050, what are your hopes and concerns?

The next activity invited participants to write their hopes and challenges for Cairns in 2050 on leaves. Similar to the activity at the Youth Summit, these leaves were attached to trees on the wall. This activity was intended to encourage participants to think about Cairns in 2050. Responses from this activity also provided an opportunity for 'ground-truthing' the responses received during the Phase 1 engagement online survey.

Results

When analysing the feedback provided on the green leaves to determine what Community Summit participants hope for the future Cairns, the project team identified 149 pieces of feedback. The 5 most frequently mentioned themes are shown in Table 3 and compared with the prominent themes identified during analysis of the Phase 1 online survey responses. The colours used in Table 3 highlight the top 5 themes that were expressed at the Community Summit and in the online survey.



Table 3: Towards 2050 Community Summit and Phase 1 online survey results 'What are your hopes for Cairns in 2050?'

Community Summit:	Online survey (Phase 1):
The character of Cairns is protected	Expanded infrastructure
A thriving and protected natural environment	Relaxed friendly and diverse population
Relaxed friendly and diverse population	A built environment that reflects the Cairns culture
Improved public transport	A thriving and protected natural environment
Affordable and diverse housing	Resilience to natural hazards

Two of the 5 top themes identified during analysis of online survey responses were also identified in feedback from the Community Summit, but they were mentioned with different frequency. It is important to note that public transport was a key sub-theme under the 'expanded infrastructure' Phase 1 online survey theme. The other top themes identified in the Community Summit feedback were also found in the online survey feedback, but they were mentioned less frequently.

When analysing the feedback provided on the brown leaves to determine what Community Summit participants are concerned about when thinking about the future Cairns, the project team identified 142 pieces of feedback. The five most frequently mentioned themes are shown in Table 4 and compared with the prominent themes identified during analysis of the Phase 1 online survey responses. The colours used in Table 4 highlight themes that were expressed at the Community Summit and in the online survey responses.

Table 4: Towards 2050 Community Summit and Phase 1 online survey results 'What are your concerns for Cairns in 2050?'

Community Summit:	Online survey (Phase 1):
Local economy	Protecting the natural environment
Loss of unique Cairns identity	Safety
Safety	Impact of natural hazards
Lack of investment in infrastructure	Planning, development and urban design matters
Planning, development and urban design matters	Managing increased traffic

Two of the 5 top themes found during the analysis of online survey responses were also identified in feedback from the Community Summit, but they were mentioned with different frequency. The remaining top themes identified in the Community Summit feedback were also found in the online survey feedback, but they were mentioned less frequently.

'Ground-truthing' the Phase 1 engagement online survey responses against Community Summit participant feedback helped to inform the project team's understanding of 'Cairns-ness' and community views about Cairns in 2050.

Looking towards Cairns in 2050

After lunch, Summit participants moved forward to considering the future in Cairns. The project team provided a short presentation about potential possibilities and emerging trends, stimulating participant imaginations about life in Cairns in 2050.



To support participants to imagine Cairns in 2050, they were asked to form a sensory description of what their neighbourhoods and the wider region might be like in the future. Participants were asked to write what they saw life being like in 2050 in their home neighbourhoods and the wider region. Participants then shared this at their tables.

Results

Participants responded individually to the following questions explaining their sensory experiences when imagining Cairns in the future. Participants then discussed their descriptions at their tables:

- When thinking about Cairns in 2050:
 - what can you see?
 - what can you hear?
 - what can you smell?
 - what can you taste?

The responses provided to these questions are displayed in word clouds in Figures 22 to 25.



Figure 20: Individual responses to 'Picture Cairns in 2050, what can you see?'



What can you taste?



Figure 23: Individual responses to 'Picture Cairns in 2050, what can you taste?'

The most prominent theme in responses to the sensory questions related to preserving the natural environment. Participants described:

- **seeing** the mountains, rainforests, shorelines and the region's unique flora and fauna
- **hearing** sounds of nature, including birds, waves and wind rustling through trees
- **smelling** native plants, a healthy ocean, pollutant-free air, grass, flowers
- **tasting** fresh produce, clean air, clean water and fresh food.

Key themes from responses exploring the sensory future that respondents imagine in Cairns in 2050 are described in Table 5.

Table 5: Key themes from responses to sensory imagining of Cairns in 2050

Key theme	Description
Planning, development and urban design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased density in sustainably designed high-rise buildings • Incorporating plants into buildings • Eco-friendly housing • Green spaces • Reliance on renewable energy sources
Community and connection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embracing multiculturalism • Harmonious living • Hearing languages from around the world • First Peoples and marginalised people are more involved in decision making and represented in the community. • Leisure activities, sports and social connections • Vibrant and lively city atmosphere
Efficient modes of transport and infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved public and active transport and infrastructure • Specific modes of travel (e.g., monorails, trams, electric trains) • Less petrol vehicles
Technological advancements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technological advancements (e.g., AI, holograms, electric cars and interactions in virtual reality)
Creativity and the arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music, live entertainment • Laughter in public spaces.
Food and water security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable and diversified agricultural practices contributing to a diverse food bowl. • Fresh water is accessible for everyone.



Overall, the responses indicate a strong emphasis on creating a sustainable, green and inclusive city that values its natural environment and community connections, and is able embrace different technological advancements.

The next questions related more to the overall perception of Cairns in 2050. Participants responded to the following questions individually and then discussed their descriptions at their tables:

- What are people doing?
- What do you think would be surprising to people from 2023?
- What will still be recognisable in 2050?

The responses to these questions are displayed in word clouds in Figures 26 and 27.

What will people be doing?



Figure 24: Individual responses to 'Picture Cairns in 2050, what are people doing?'

Prominent themes of feedback in response to ‘What will people be doing’ include:

- **Work/life balance:** Participants described people working from home (when possible), working fewer hours, and enjoying a well-balanced lifestyle with time for leisure and relaxation.
- **Embracing an outdoor lifestyle:** Participants described people engaging in outdoor activities, such as walking, cycling, spending time in parks and green spaces, socialising in outdoor pedestrian spaces and connecting with nature and the environment.
- **First Peoples culture and learning:** Participants described an appreciation for First Peoples culture, stories, and knowledge, along with a desire to learn from and listen to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.
- **Technological advancements:** Participants described new technology, such as the use of artificial intelligence, virtual reality, robots, drones, and virtual reality which are changing various aspects of life, including work and leisure.
- **Sustainable lifestyles:** Participants described people focussing on environmental protection and sustainability, with an emphasis on waste management, renewable resources, and locally grown community gardens.
- **Community and connection:** Participants described communities where people come together, collaborate, socialise and engage in positive and productive interactions (both in-person and



virtually) promoting mental health and mutual support. Participants described community members that care for each other and support vulnerable individuals.

- **Health and education:** Participants described health and wellness with an emphasis on promoting healthy living, exercise, and mental health support. Participants described people who are engaged in learning and innovative industries, contributing to the region's economic growth and intellectual development.
- **Efficient modes of transport and infrastructure:** Participants highlighted walking, cycling, and public transport as preferred means of travel, promoting an active and environmentally friendly lifestyle.

Overall, the responses indicated a desire for a future Cairns where people are leading healthy fulfilling lives with a strong connection to nature, a balance between work, education and leisure, and a focus on community connection and sustainable practices.

Technological advancements and changes in modes of travel were described as complementing these aspirations.



We are one Australia, living in harmony, learning from 60,000 years of Indigenous culture and knowledge.



Key themes from responses to 'What do you think would be surprising to people from 2023?' are described in Table 6.

Table 6: Key themes of feedback about what would be surprising in 2050 to people from 2023

Key theme	Description
Planning, development and urban design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes to the built environment and Port of Cairns. • Cairns has moved to high-density residential living. • Growth of neighbourhood hubs. • Buildings over the sea.
Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New public transport infrastructure (e.g., light rail). • Transition to one-car households. • New transportation modes (e.g., self-driving, flying vehicles) and less reliance on cars. • No petrol cars.
Social patterns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes to policy and politics. • People miss face-to-face interactions with technological advances. • Education includes more emphasis on soft skills and critical thinking. • Face-to-face learning is still in place. • Active Aussie spirit.
Natural environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plastics don't exist, and a reliance on composting for waste disposal. • Increasing heat. • River, reefs and rainforests are healthy and thriving. • There are more green spaces and less concrete. • Conservation is a top priority. • New technology slows climate change.
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on mental health and wellness. • A balance between remote work and in-person interaction. • Harmony and happiness in the community. • Successful health system with reduced disparities. • No crime. • Young people stay in Cairns.



Economy and industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circular economy is practiced. • Unexpected solutions come from technological advances. • Cairns is the regional hub for Far North Queensland. • Transition to different energy sources.
Cultural heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involving First Peoples in all decision making.

The next question provided insight into what Community Summit participants think is most important to protect as Cairns grows. These are the elements of Cairns today that they would still like to see in 2050.

Key themes from feedback captured during this activity included:

- **The natural environment:** the mountains and hills, the beaches and reef, the rainforest.
- **The public spaces:** the Esplanade and Botanic Gardens.
- **The built character of the city:** the heritage buildings and style of the city.
- **The sense of community in Cairns.**
- **The farmland in Cairns.**
- **The identity of Cairns:** being a tourism destination, size and character as a regional city, and relaxed lifestyle.
- **The Sacred sites in Cairns.**
- **The tropical climate.**

What will still be recognisable in 2050 in Cairns?

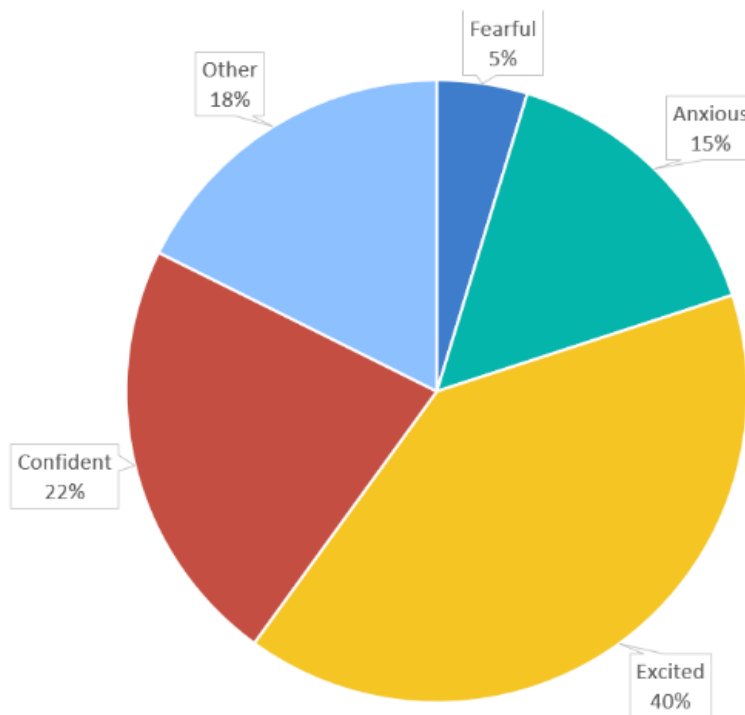


Figure 25: Individual responses to 'What will still be recognisable in 2050 in Cairns?'

The next question asked participants to consider how they feel about change. The majority of participants indicated that they were positive about change with 40% of participants indicated that they feel excited and 22% indicating that they are confident. A breakdown of responses is illustrated in Figure 27 and other responses in Figure 26.



Figure 27: Responses to 'How do you feel about change?'



How do you feel about change? (other)



Figure 26: Responses to 'How do you feel about change?' (other, please specify)



Planning for the future

The next presentation explored the concept of urban growth and the various planning considerations associated with it. This led to the project team describing the draft planning principles that have been developed for the project.

After the presentation, participants engaged in a whole-room discussion about the developed planning principles. This discussion generated a list of 38 principles that were then prioritised by Community Summit participants. To prioritise the principles, each statement was attached to the wall. Participants were given 3 sticky dots to spend on the principles that resonated the most with them.

Results

The project team brought 14 draft principles into the Summit. These principles related to:

- design to reflect the tropical climate
- green spaces
- natural hazard resilience
- housing
- natural environment and biodiversity
- community networks
- First Peoples culture
- heritage and traditional places
- active and public transport
- local economy
- farmland
- infrastructure

Before we prioritised the draft principles, Community Summit participants added a number of principles that they thought need to be considered. These additional principles related to:

- waste management
- accessibility
- energy security
- integrating innovative design and planning for future technology
- local industry
- recognition of the aging population
- water as centric to design
- prioritising locally grown produce
- geopositioning
- art in communities
- community wellbeing
- safety
- stabilising population rates
- road design
- community engagement in the growth strategy
- reef and rainforest village design
- consideration of urban footprint
- sense of community
- achieving net zero emissions
- balancing impacts

The total number of dots each draft principle received is shown in Figure 28.



Community Summit participants also suggested some changes to wording in the principles developed by the project team. These changes are described below.

Our unique natural habitat areas and biodiversity corridors are connected and protected and maintain traditional owner knowledge.

Consolidate urban growth with higher density, well-located apartments supported by public transport, and recreational and social facilities and limit urban sprawl.

Planning should minimise risk from natural hazards and improve resilience to the impacts of climate change. The project should attempt to stop climate change and reverse the impacts.

High value rural land is protected from urban development and retained for rural uses and supports a community who prioritises locally grown food.



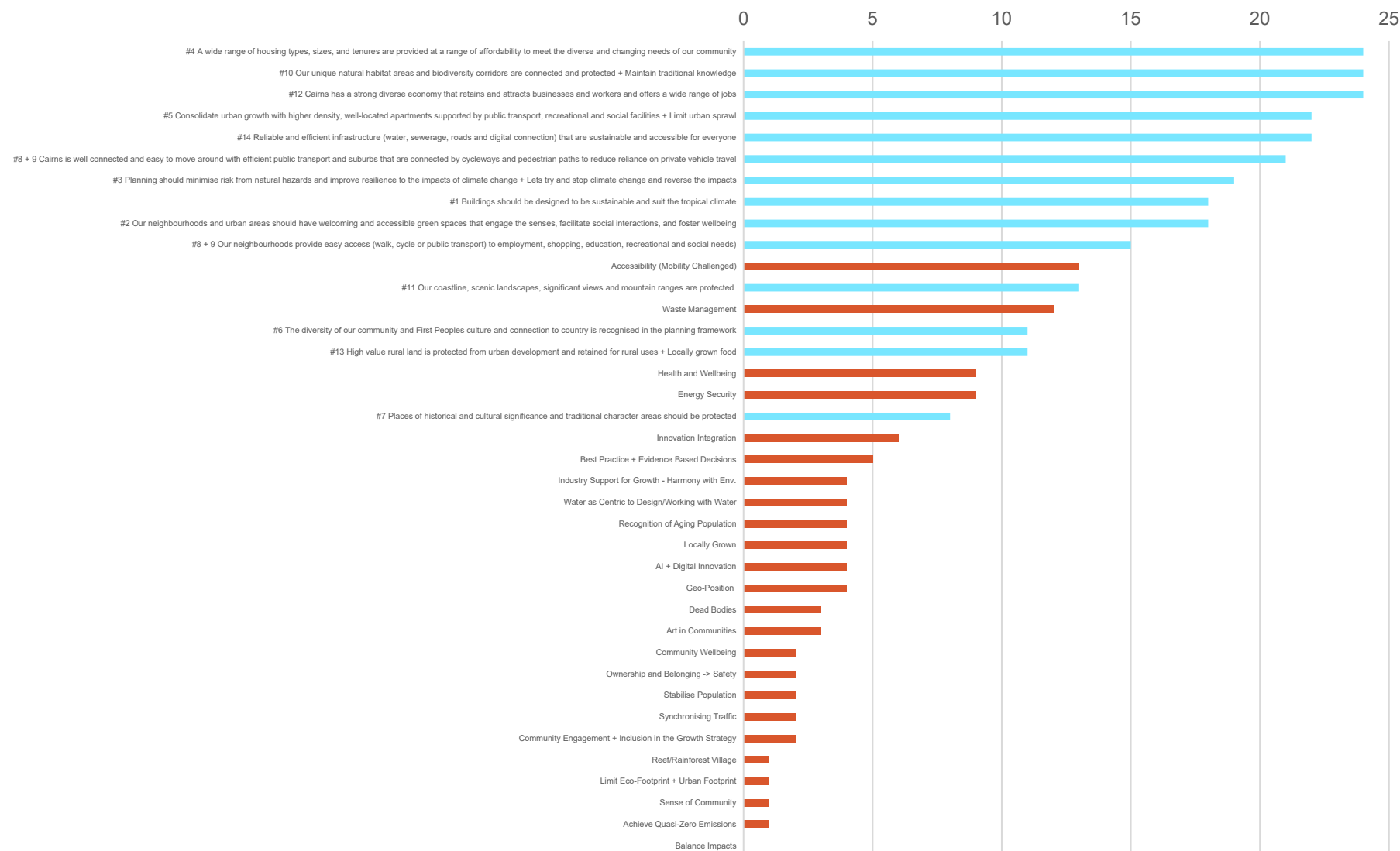
Wording developed by the project team



Wording developed by Community Summit participants



Number of participant dots on draft planning principles (descending)



■ Draft planning principle developed by project team

■ Draft planning principle development by Summit participants

Figure 28: Number of participant dots on draft planning principles

The next activity encouraged participants to extend their imagination by writing postcards from their future selves, providing a glimpse into their lives in Cairns.

Results

The individual messages Summit participants wrote to themselves from the future were analysed by theme. Themes included:

- 65% of postcards mentioned safety
- 57% of postcards mentioned community
- 61% of postcards mentioned street trees and greenery
- 43% of postcards mentioned environmental protection and natural beauty
- 38% of postcards mentioned work and opportunities
- 32% of postcards mentioned active and public transport
- 14% of postcards mentioned infrastructure.

A postcard from your future self was prepared using the common themes.

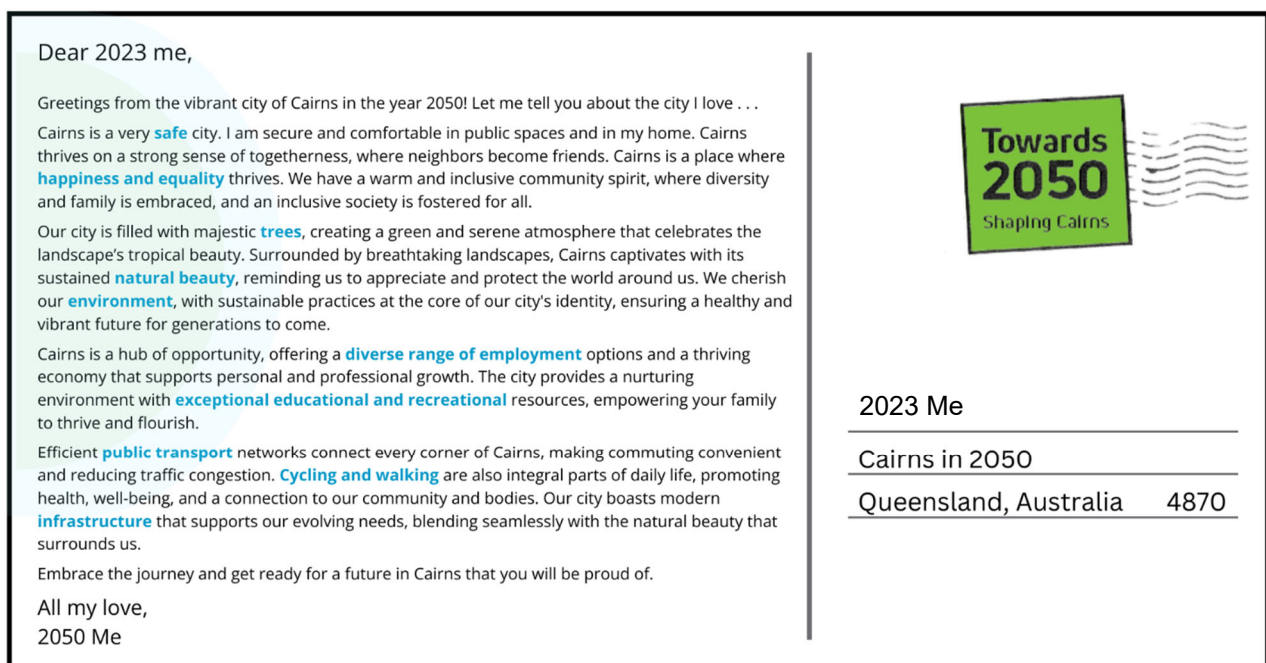


Figure 29: Postcard from your future self

Introducing YIMBY

In the final session of the Community Summit, participants deliberated on the barriers to growth and were introduced to the concept of YIMBY (Yes In My Backyard). Participants were invited to make a personal commitment to actively engage in the ongoing Towards 2050 project as community engagement continues.



When asked about their concerns for Cairns in 2050, key feedback themes included:

- pollution
- plastic waste
- unhealthy oceans
- crime and safety
- climate change
- AI.



Figure 31: Individual responses to ‘What are your concerns for Cairns in 2050?’

Input provided by the students indicated that they are hopeful that the natural environment will be protected but are concerned about the impact of plastic waste and pollution. Concern about environmental impacts was also a strong theme in feedback received during the Youth Summit.

The hope for more recreation and entertainment in Cairns also corresponds with feedback received during the Youth Summit. Hope for different modes of transport has been a strong theme throughout all engagement activities. Interestingly, this feedback does not include specific mention of public transport, which was a strong theme in the Youth Summit.

Concern about crime and safety has also been a consistent theme throughout most engagement activities, including the Phase 1 online survey. While Youth Summit participants mentioned artificial intelligence and improving technology as a hope for the future, Woree State High School students mentioned these matters as a concern.

Hope for more or improved universities and financial security correspond with the age of the participants in this activity.

4.6 First Peoples Advisory Committee

The project team attended a First Peoples Advisory Committee (FPAC) meeting on Thursday 9 March 2023. This was the first meeting of FPAC held since the launch of Towards 2050. During the meeting, the project team introduced the project and delivered a short workshop activity to gather feedback about the hopes and concerns for Cairns in 2050. Figures 33 and 34 are word clouds created using the feedback gathered in response to these questions.



Celebrating First Peoples culture and fostering a relaxed, friendly and diverse population reflect aspirations for cultural recognition and harmonious community dynamics. However, challenges lie in supporting locals amid growth, addressing concerns about safety and crime, improving education accessibility and managing unmet expectations.

This feedback indicates that FPAC members are hopeful for a celebration of First Peoples culture and connection to Country in 2050, but they are also concerned about local people being left behind.

5. Conclusion and next steps

Phase 2 of the community engagement process for Towards 2050: Shaping Cairns provided opportunities for community members to learn about the project, connect with the project team and provide feedback. Through a mix of traditional and contemporary engagement activities, this phase of the engagement process encouraged community members to:

- get involved
- understand the opportunities and challenges that growth could bring to Cairns
- share their aspirations and ideas about how to manage the growth challenge and protect what defines Cairns
- help to shape the Cairns region of the future.

Input captured through Phase 2 of the engagement process will help to refine the vision and other ongoing work to develop the growth strategy.

This section draws conclusions from the analysis of community feedback and provides a number of recommendations for the project.

5.1 Summary of Phase 2 objectives

Phase 2 of the community engagement process was designed to inform the development of Towards 2050: Shaping Cairns. Feedback captured during Phase 2 of the community engagement was collated and analysed to determine key themes. Feedback indicates that engaged community members are interested in continuing to be involved in the planning process to shape Cairns.

Sections 5.1.1, 5.1.2, and **Error! Reference source not found.** describe the conclusions as they relate to the objectives of Phase 2.



5.1.1 Defining 'Cairns-ness'

The project team asked community members and stakeholders what they love about Cairns and what they think makes Cairns special during Phase 1 of the engagement process. The project team analysed over 3400 pieces of feedback received through the online survey and pop-up events in response to this question to understand what makes Cairns unique or to describe 'Cairns-ness'. This feedback provided a strong overlap of most common themes in response to what respondents love about Cairns and what makes Cairns special (Figure 34).

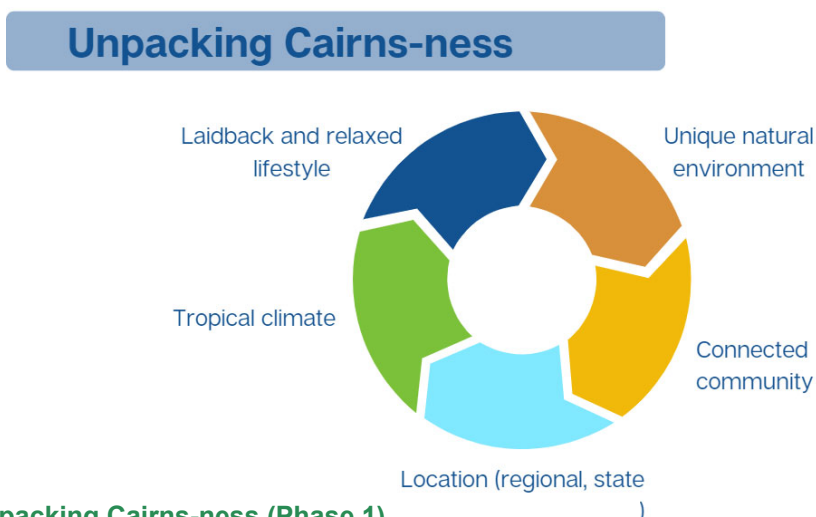


Figure 34: Unpacking Cairns-ness (Phase 1)

The project team asked the same question at the Towards 2050 Summits and shared a short summary of the Phase 1 engagement at the Towards 2050 Community Summit. The response from Summit participants showed an overlap in themes.

Table 7 illustrates the similarities in responses between the Phase 1 online survey and the two Summits. These findings confirm the definition of Cairns-ness for the project, which relates to:

- our unique natural environment
- our relaxed lifestyle
- our connected community
- our relaxed lifestyle
- being a regional city
- location.

The other key themes highlighted by the Youth Summit and Community Summit participants were reflected in the findings from Phase 1, but were not mentioned as frequently.

Table 7: Defining Cairns-ness

Youth Summit:	Community Summit:	Phase 1 definition of Cairns-ness
Our unique natural environment	Our unique natural environment	Our relaxed lifestyle
Sport and recreation opportunities	Size, scale and amenity of being a regional city	Our unique natural environment
Connected community	Location	Our tropical climate
Our public spaces	Our relaxed lifestyle	Connected community
Size, scale and amenity of being a regional city	Connected community	Location



The project team also communicated the engagement findings from Phase 1, including the definition of Cairns-ness, by publishing the Phase 1 engagement report and a designed summary of the Phase 1 engagement on the project's Have Your Say webpage.

5.1.2 Your hopes for Cairns in 2050

The project team asked community and stakeholders to share their hopes for Cairns in 2050. Feedback was gathered at:

- Meeting 1 of the Stakeholder Panel.
- Towards 2050 Youth and Community Summits.
- First Peoples Advisory Committee meeting.

These groups represented a diversity of different community members and stakeholders. Table 8 compares the top 5 themes with feedback provided in Phase 1 of the engagement process.

Table 8: Comparison of top 5 key themes across engagement activities

Stakeholder Panel	Towards 2050 Youth Summit	Towards 2050 Community Summit	First Peoples Advisory Committee	Online survey (Phase 1):
A built environment that reflects the community and tropical weather	A thriving and protected natural environment	The character of Cairns is protected	A built environment that reflects the community and tropical weather	Expanded infrastructure (including public transport)
Improved public transport	Improved public transport	A thriving and protected natural environment	Expanded infrastructure (including public transport)	Relaxed friendly and diverse population
A thriving and protected natural environment	Affordable and diverse housing	Relaxed friendly and diverse population	A thriving and protected natural environment	A built environment that reflects the Cairns culture
Affordable and diverse housing	Relaxed friendly and diverse population	Improved public transport	Celebrating First Peoples Culture	A thriving and protected natural environment
Strong local economy	Expanded infrastructure	Affordable and diverse housing	Relaxed friendly and diverse population	Resilience to natural hazards

The most frequently mentioned themes of feedback were found to have a strong overlap between different community members and stakeholder groups. In Table 8:

- 'a thriving and protected natural environment' was a key theme with all groups.
- 'improved public transport' and 'expanded infrastructure' was a key theme with all groups.
- 'relaxed, friendly and diverse population' was a key theme with 4 out of 5 groups.
- 'affordable and diverse housing' was a key theme with 3 out of 5 groups.
- 'a built environment that reflects the community and tropical weather' was a key theme with 3 out of 5 groups.



The similarity across key themes is further shown in figure 35.

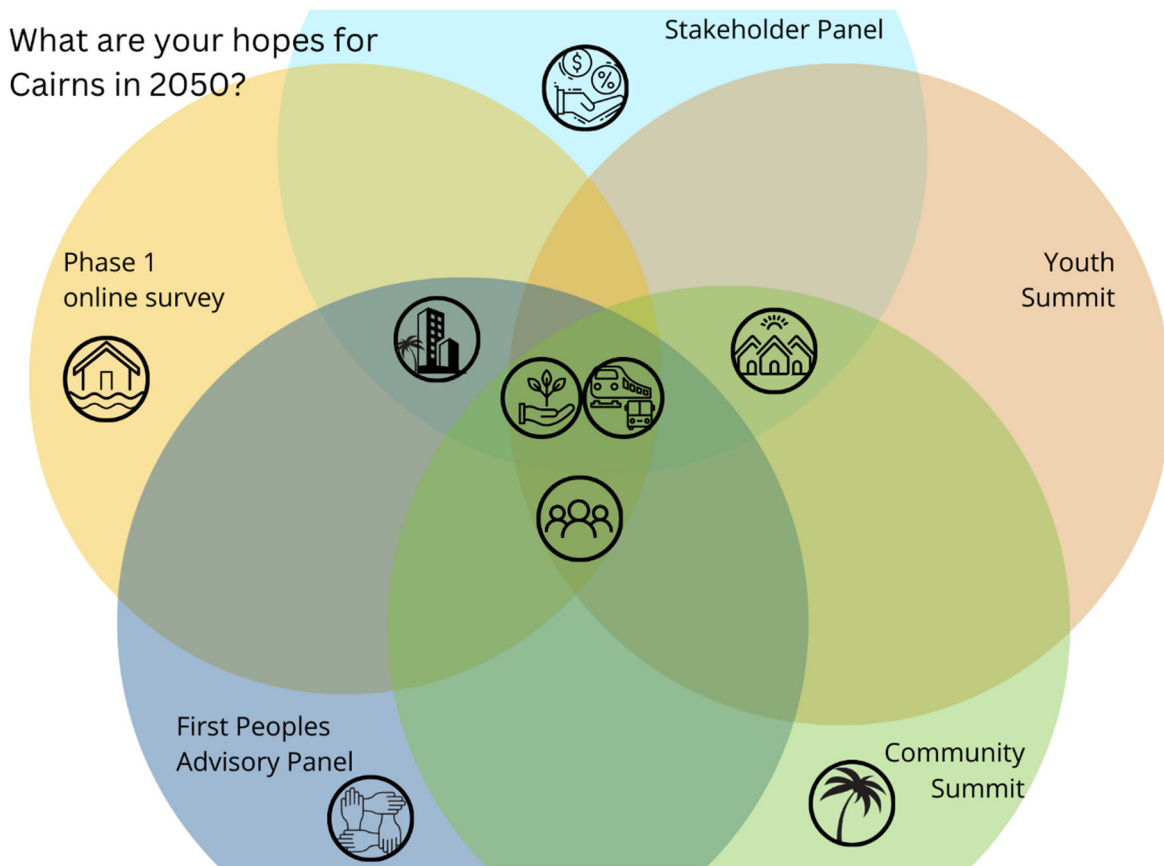


Figure 35: Comparison of prominent themes across engagement events

Expanded infrastructure (including public transport)	Relaxed friendly and diverse population	A built environment that reflects the Cairns culture	A thriving and protected natural environment	Resilience to natural hazards	Affordable and diverse housing	Strong local economy	The character of Cairns is protected	Celebrating First Peoples Culture

5.1.3 Guiding principles

The feedback captured during the Phase 2 engagement process has informed the guiding principles defined in the Growth Strategy Framework. The guiding principles for growth are listed in Table 9.

Table 9: Guiding principles

Housing that meets our changing needs	Supporting a thriving economy	Protecting our natural environment	Delivering sustainable infrastructure
Recognising and respecting our diverse cultures and heritage	Improving our resilience to natural hazards and climate change	Creating great tropical neighbourhoods	

These principles were developed using feedback received in Phases 1 and 2. These principles will provide direction in developing more detailed land use strategies that respond to the future challenges and opportunities for Cairns.

5.2 Next steps for Phase 3

During the Phase 3 engagement process, the project team will focus on:

- communicating the outcomes of Phase 1 and 2 engagement, including how community and stakeholder feedback has informed the Growth Strategy Framework
- continuing to communicate the growth challenge, the planning tools available to manage growth, and how the growth scenarios meet the needs of the Cairns community
- developing options for the shape of growth in Cairns at a region-wide and neighbourhood level.

To build on the outcomes of the Phase 2 engagement process, Council will continue to connect with the community members and stakeholders who have been part of the engagement process to date.

Phase 3 will also focus on capturing input from groups who have provided less feedback into the project, including:

- people who identify as First Peoples and culturally and linguistically diverse peoples
- suburbs and neighbourhoods who have been less engaged in Phases 1 and 2.



Appendix A: Media and advertisements

Registration of Interest Notice included in Rates Notice – sent to all rate payers in January 2023



The advertisement is a green rectangular panel with a white border. It features three circular images: a large one at the top left showing a person in a green shirt standing on a rocky outcrop looking over a coastal town; a smaller one in the middle left showing a close-up of rocks; and another at the bottom left showing a beach and ocean. The text is in white and green. The title 'Towards 2050' is in large white font, followed by the subtitle 'Shaping Cairns from the beaches to the boulders' in smaller white font. Below this is the heading 'Community panel' in large white font, followed by a paragraph in green text: 'We're seeking nominations from individuals to join a community panel and participate in the Towards 2050 Shaping Cairns project over the next two years.' A green arrow points to a QR code, with the text 'Scan or tap the QR code below to register your interest.' To the right of the QR code is the Cairns Regional Council logo, which consists of a stylized sunburst or fan shape above the word 'Cairns' in a serif font and 'REGIONAL COUNCIL' in a smaller sans-serif font below it.

Towards 2050

Shaping Cairns from the beaches to the boulders

Community panel

We're seeking nominations from individuals to join a community panel and participate in the Towards 2050 Shaping Cairns project over the next two years.

▶ Scan or tap the QR code below to register your interest.



20/04/2023, 13:52

<https://cairnsregionalcouncil.createsend.com/t/ViewEmail/y7E3CCC70CA164B792540EF23F30FEDED/C67FD2F38AC4859...>

Register your interest for Towards 2050 Summit

How do we balance future population growth with protecting what makes Cairns special?

This question and many others will be explored at the one-day **Towards 2050 Summit** in Cairns on Saturday 6 May.

Council is seeking 80 residents, from all walks of life, to take part in the Summit.

They don't need any special skills or prior knowledge, just a passion for Cairns and a willingness to share their opinions.

If you are a local aged 16 and over, you are the right person to take part!

[Find out more and register your interest online](#) or phone 4044 3061. Registrations close Tuesday 18 April.

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST FOR TOWARDS
2050 SUMMIT



Your Cairns Newsletter – sent to all letterboxes in Cairns May 2023



Cairns is growing. Do you want to help shape our future Towards 2050?



We all love Cairns - and it's growing

Our population is expected to grow up to 265,000 by 2050. That's around 100,000 more people than today!

We need to plan now, so we can balance future population growth with protecting what makes Cairns special.

Planning for growth will help ensure everyone can live here and enjoy what we love about Cairns today.

Register to be part of our new Community Panel

We're seeking 350 Cairns residents from all walks of life to help discuss and understand the issues that come with planning for growth. Get involved and help shape the future of Cairns.

Why?

As a panel member, you will play an active role in helping Council understand the wants and needs of our whole community. You will help us consider what's important to our current and future residents, so we can shape our growth in a positive way.

Who?

You don't need any special skills or prior knowledge, just a passion for Cairns and a willingness to share your opinions. So if you're a local aged 16 or over, and are an Australian citizen or permanent resident, YOU are the right person!

What?

Between June 2023 and the end of 2024, panel members will be asked to explore ideas through activities including surveys, online polls and workshops or meetings.

Scan the QR code to find out more and register your interest, or freecall 1800 979 787.



Towards 2050

Shaping Cairns from the beaches to the boulders



What will panel members do?

Between June 2023 and the end of 2024, panel members will play an active role in helping Council shape our predicted growth in a positive way. You will learn about the present and future growth challenges facing our community, as well as different ways these challenges might be met. Your input will help us protect and embrace all the things that make Cairns special.

Panel members will be asked to explore ideas through a small number of activities including surveys, online polls and workshops or meetings. We'll give you plenty of notice before each activity, and we understand that you might not be able to take part in everything. We will also provide support to help everyone participate.

We understand that your time and input is valuable. As a thank you, panel members will go into regular prize draws for e-gift cards (up to \$250 each) during the project. Members who complete more complex and time-consuming engagement activities will be reimbursed with e-gift cards. The value of these cards will vary depending on the type of task.

Who chooses the panel members?

Panel members will be chosen by an independent non-profit organisation that specialises in recruiting and selecting people to take part in these kind of events. We want to capture broad community views, so panel members will represent a wide variety of interests, ages, abilities, lived experience, skills and knowledge. Council is not involved in the selection of panel representatives.

Not selected? You can still take part in the Towards 2050 project. There will be lots of ways for everyone to have their say.

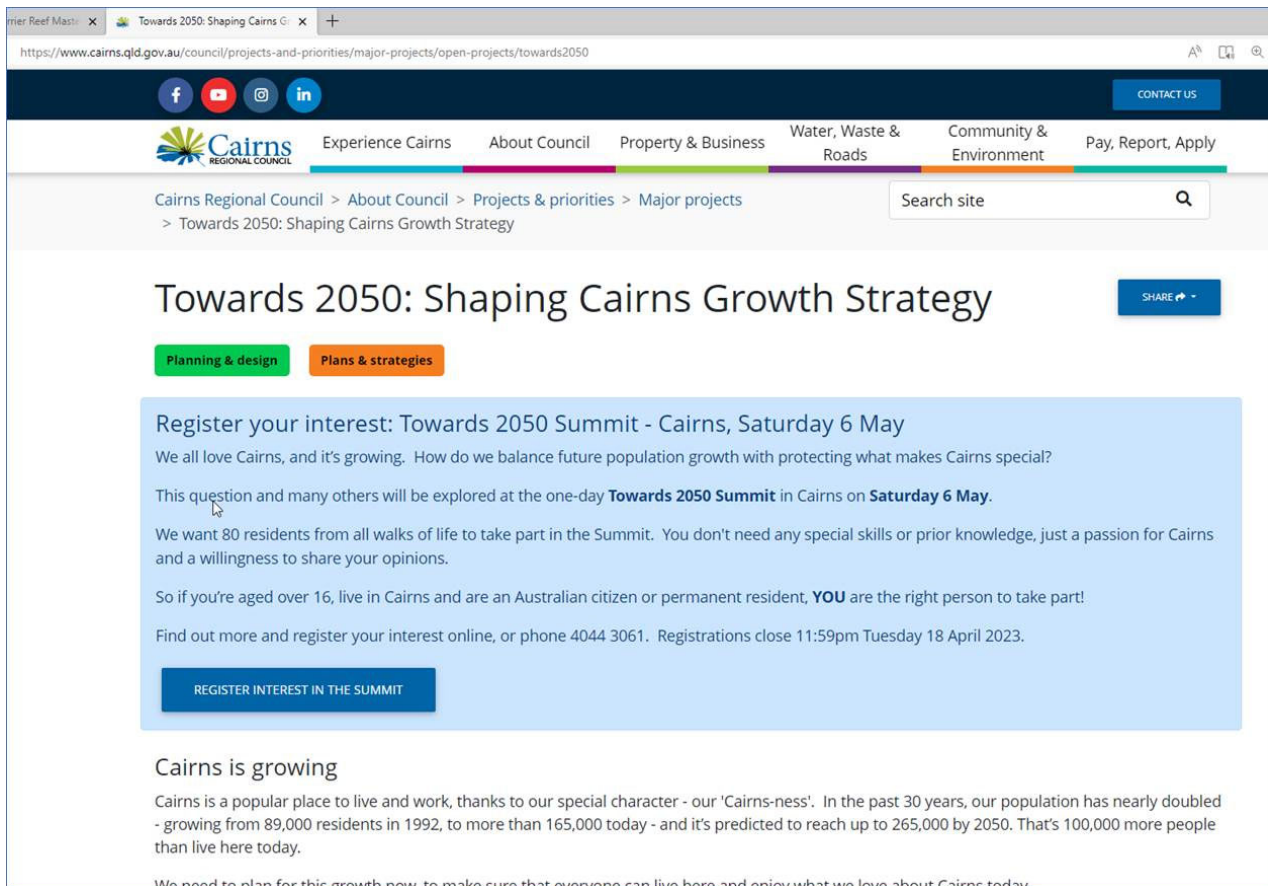
Sign me up!

If you're reading this and you meet the basic eligibility criteria, then YOU are the right person to take part!

Sign up via the QR code at right, or visit www.sortitionfoundation.org/cairns, or freecall 1800 979 787 by 11:59pm on Sunday 18 June 2023.



Cairns Regional Council Website



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://www.cairns.qld.gov.au/council/projects-and-priorities/major-projects/open-projects/towards2050>. The page features a dark blue header with social media icons (Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, LinkedIn) and a 'CONTACT US' button. Below the header is a navigation bar with the Cairns Regional Council logo and links: Experience Cairns, About Council, Property & Business, Water, Waste & Roads, Community & Environment, and Pay, Report, Apply. A breadcrumb trail reads: Cairns Regional Council > About Council > Projects & priorities > Major projects > Towards 2050: Shaping Cairns Growth Strategy. A search bar is also present.

Towards 2050: Shaping Cairns Growth Strategy

[Planning & design](#)
[Plans & strategies](#)

Register your interest: Towards 2050 Summit - Cairns, Saturday 6 May

We all love Cairns, and it's growing. How do we balance future population growth with protecting what makes Cairns special?

This question and many others will be explored at the one-day **Towards 2050 Summit** in Cairns on **Saturday 6 May**.

We want 80 residents from all walks of life to take part in the Summit. You don't need any special skills or prior knowledge, just a passion for Cairns and a willingness to share your opinions.

So if you're aged over 16, live in Cairns and are an Australian citizen or permanent resident, **YOU** are the right person to take part!

Find out more and register your interest online, or phone 4044 3061. Registrations close 11:59pm Tuesday 18 April 2023.

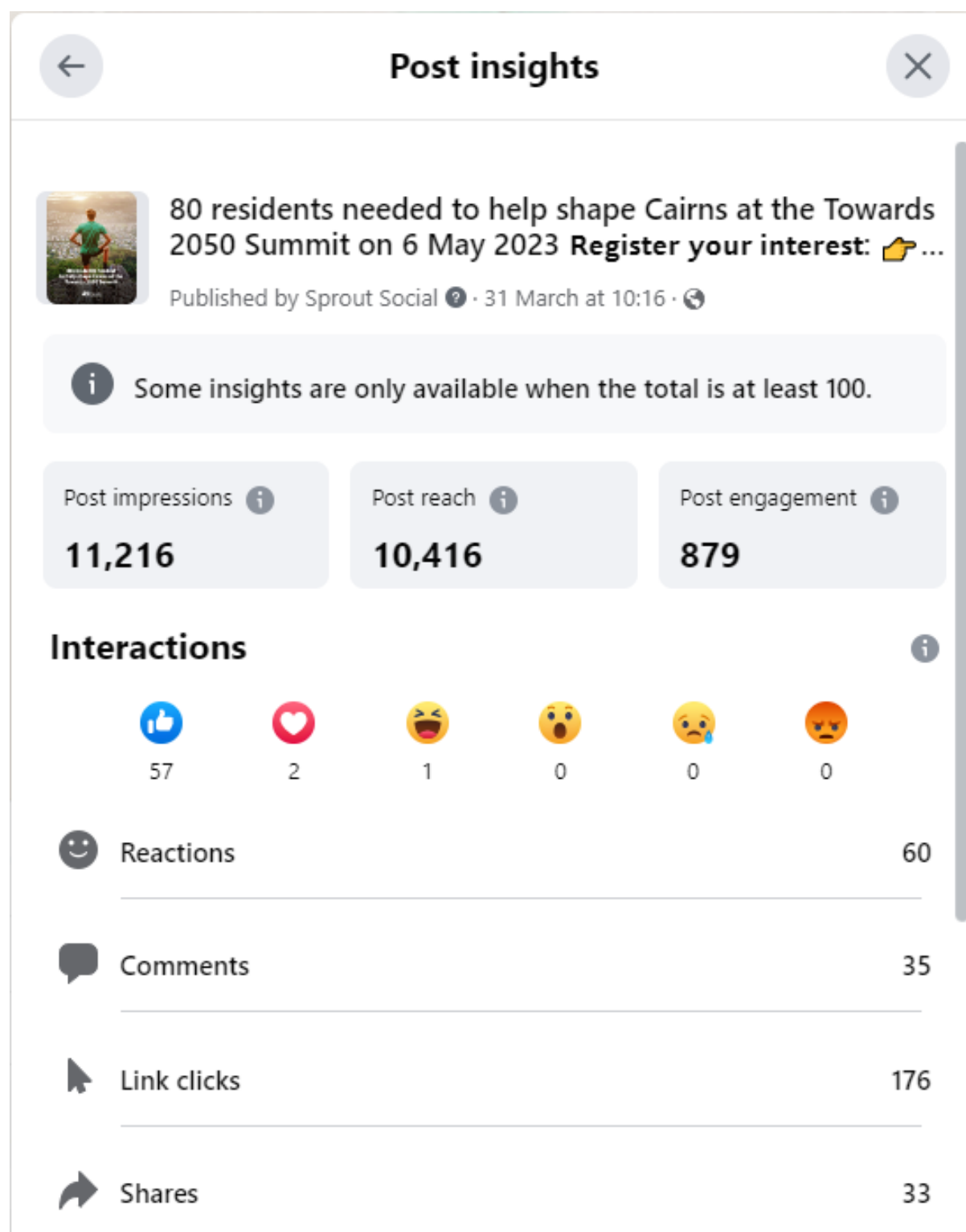
[REGISTER INTEREST IN THE SUMMIT](#)

Cairns is growing

Cairns is a popular place to live and work, thanks to our special character - our 'Cairns-ness'. In the past 30 years, our population has nearly doubled - growing from 89,000 residents in 1992, to more than 165,000 today - and it's predicted to reach up to 265,000 by 2050. That's 100,000 more people than live here today.

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





**Cairns Regional Council**

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June 2020.

**Cairns Regional Council**

This is the official page of the Cairns Regional Co...



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Share



63

2 shares



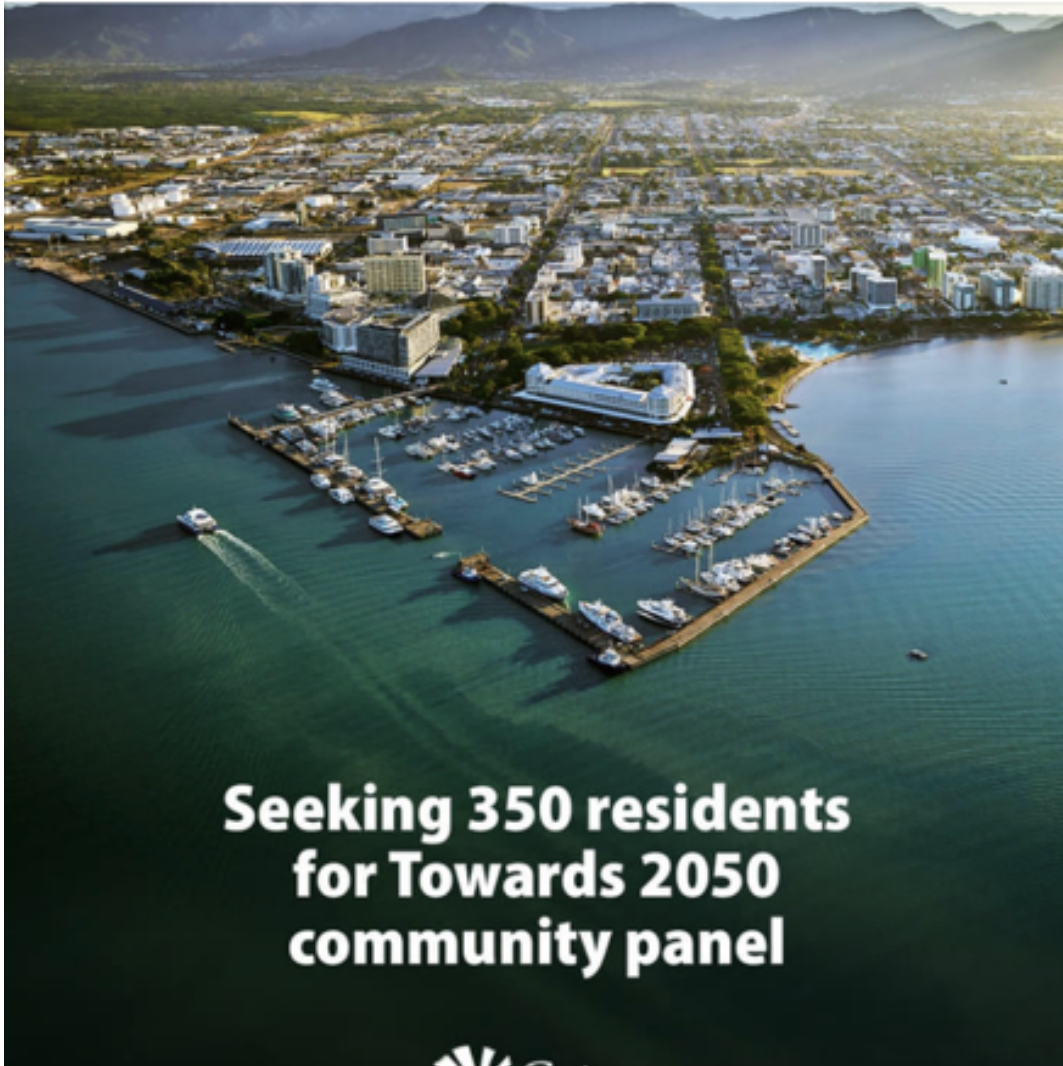


Cairns Regional Council



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You're invited to help shape the future of Cairns.
Register to be part of our new Com... See more



**Seeking 350 residents
 for Towards 2050
 community panel**

Cairns Regional Council



156

114 comments 2 shares



CALLING FOR INTEREST: TOWARD 2050 COMMUNITY PANEL

Council is seeking 350 Cairns residents to help discuss and understand the issues that come with planning for growth.

Panel members will be asked to explore ideas through a small number of activities including surveys, online polls and workshops or meetings.

Panel members will be chosen by an independent non-profit organisation that specialises in recruiting and selecting people to take part in these kind of events. We want to capture broad community views, so panel members will represent a wide variety of interests, ages, abilities, lived experience, skills and knowledge.

Council is not involved in the selection of panel representatives.

To register your interest visit www.sortitionfoundation.org/caims, or freecall 1800 979 787 by 11:59pm on Sunday 18 June 2023.



Private page for Community Panel members engagement



Home / Towards 2050 Shaping Cairns Community Panel

Members' Page

All online engagement activities for Community Panel members are hosted through the private page.

[Access Members Only page](#)

About the Panel

Cairns Regional Council is committed to meaningful and effective community engagement throughout the Towards 2050 Shaping Cairns project.

Between May and June 2023, Council commissioned independent non-profit organisation, The Sortition Foundation, to recruit members for a new **Towards 2050 Community Panel**.

The Panel is a forum for the project team to ask questions and have discussions with diverse group of Cairns community members on the issues that come with planning for growth.

A total of 766 Cairns residents registered their interest in being part of the Panel, and 350 community members were independently selected. The chosen Panel members reflect the diversity of the Cairns community, creating a 'mini Cairns public'. The Panel includes people from different walks of life, demographics, backgrounds and interests.

Panel members will play an active role in helping Council understand the wants and needs of our whole community. Their input will help us consider what's important to our current and future residents, so we can shape our growth in a positive way.

All 350 successful members of the Community Panel have now been contacted.

Panel activities

Community Panel members will be actively involved until Towards 2050: Shaping Cairns is complete in late 2024. Panel members will:

- join an online hub
- be asked to give feedback on key topics, issues, and priorities relating to the project
- be invited to take part in various engagement activities relating to the project.

Staying involved

If you are not a Panel member, you can still take part in the Towards 2050 engagement process.

There will be lots of ways for everyone to have a say through surveys, discussions and face-to-face activities.

Keep up to date with the project on this web page. If you haven't already, please register to follow the project and register to receive project updates.

FAQ

? What is a Community Panel?

? Who could be part of the Panel?

? How were Panel members selected?

? Who manages the Community Panel?

? Why has council formed the Towards 2050 community panel?

The future of every community lies in capturing the passion, imagination, and resources of its people.

- Ernesto Sirilli - Sustainable Development Expert

Document Library

Towards 2050 Growth Strategy Framework
PDF (3.38 MB)

The Growth Strategy Framework document explains how we are developing the Growth Strategy, and introduces a suite of technical studies and guiding principles that will underpin the next phase of the project.

Towards 2050 Summits Summary Report 04092023
PDF (5.48 MB)

This summary report explains the objectives, structures, activities and key findings of both summits.

Towards 2050 Phase 1 Engagement Summary Report
PDF (3.02 MB)

Towards 2050 Engagement Report: Phase 1 June 2023
PDF (8.64 MB)

Towards 2050 Roadmap
PDF (5.05 MB)

Contact Us

Have questions or want to learn more about a project, contact us below:

Name: Towards 2050 Project Team
Email: towards2050@ Cairns.qld.gov.au
Website: haveyoursay.cairns.qld.gov.au/towards2050



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