Shaping Cairns City Centre into the future: key public space project opportunities
Acknowledgements: The Cairns City Centre Master Plan has been developed by Cairns Regional Council with TPG Architects, TCL, CA Architects and Andrew Prowse Landscape Architect.

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Cairns city centre remains the primary focus of our region’s economic activity. As Cairns continues to evolve, and population and tourist numbers grow year by year, it is imperative that we plan now for the future of our city’s public spaces. The iconic lagoon, much-loved Esplanade Parklands, the redeveloped Shields Street Heart and transformation of Lake Street were delivered under Council’s 2001 Esplanade Master Plan and 2011 Cairns City Centre Master Plan. These plans laid the foundation for the Cairns city centre of today. Supported by Council’s investment in public infrastructure projects, they helped foster confidence, attract private investment, and intensify business activity in the area.

In recent years, game-changing private developments have further transformed the shape of the city. This is most evident in the central business and tourist district, where our city connects to its waterfront. Now is the time for a new plan to help shape the city’s ongoing evolution. Hundreds of millions of dollars of tourism, residential and commercial development is now underway or confirmed, and a number of major projects are anticipated for the decade ahead (including the Tropical North Global Tourism Hub and Cairns Convention Centre expansion).

Our city centre’s public spaces must be vibrant, welcoming and accessible for all. We want our city centre to celebrate our tropical lifestyle and natural assets, and support economic diversity and prosperity.

This City Centre Master Plan is based on our community’s values. We have listened to your feedback on our master plan ideas and opportunities papers for the city centre in 2018, and we have heard your wishes for a “Future Cairns” as expressed through the 2016 Our Cairns community survey and forums.

This City Centre Master Plan sets the direction for a future Cairns city centre – one where public spaces embrace our unique lifestyle and iconic natural assets, while supporting a sense of community and furthering our economic prosperity.

I thank all the residents, business community members and industry experts who have helped shape this important plan.
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Master Plan will guide the ongoing evolution of public spaces within the Cairns City Centre. Through five key public space project opportunities, it will help further shape the city as a vibrant, liveable space for everyone.

As a design and planning framework, the Master Plan reflects Council’s Corporate Plan 2017-2022 and the community’s values and aspirations for their city. These values and aspirations are expressed through the following five guiding principles which will shape the project opportunities identified in this plan.

1. Embrace Tropical Urbanism
2. Support economic growth and diversity
3. Create an accessible and connected city centre
4. Celebrate culture, creativity and the arts
5. Deliver a sustainable, safe and liveable city centre

This plan will build upon previous master plans and strategies, and be an important tool for Council to guide the development of public spaces and drive positive development outcomes in the city centre. Underpinned by the five guiding principles, the plan identifies key public space project opportunities that can be implemented over time.
A number of Council master plans and strategies have guided the development of public places in the Cairns city centre over recent decades.

The 2001 Esplanade Master Plan delivered the much-loved Esplanade Parklands, including the now-iconic Lagoon as the centrepiece. The 2011 City Centre Master Plan focused on revitalising the city’s important pedestrian and transit precinct at Lake and Shields streets, and initiated Council’s Tropical Urbanism policy.

Since 2014, significant Council investment in public space and infrastructure projects in the city has further transformed the city centre. Notable among these is the redevelopment of Lake Street, Shields Street Heart, Lake Street Car Park upgrade, the Cairns Museum and School of Arts, Munro Martin Parklands and the Cairns Performing Arts Centre. This is in addition to the millions of dollars’ worth of game-changing private sector investments in tourism, residential and commercial development that are underway, recently completed or confirmed for the future.
This includes the $55 million Cairns Aquarium, the GA Group’s $370 million investment in three major hotels, and the $550 million Nova City development. Additionally, the establishment of city campuses by James Cook University and CQUniversity at Shields Street have introduced student life to the city heart. Council’s 2016 acquisition of the heritage-listed former Cairns Courthouse, positioned between the heritage-listed former Mulgrave Shire Council offices and Cairns Art Gallery, offers an exciting opportunity to create a new gallery precinct connecting and celebrating these three heritage buildings. In 2017, the Queensland Government announced the Ports North City Port precinct at the south-eastern end of the city centre as its preferred site for the proposed Tropical North Global Tourism Hub. Continued public and private investment will see Cairns evolve and strengthen as a growing, diverse and resilient regional city.

Many of these projects are identified in the Cairns 2050 Shared Vision (November 2018), developed by Council with key stakeholders. This vision incorporates a number of project proposals with relevance to the Cairns city centre including:

**WORLD HERITAGE GATEWAY CENTRE**

A new centrally-located facility would capitalise on the city’s unique position at the gateway to the Great Barrier Reef and Wet Tropics Rainforest. As a world-class tourist attraction, it would contribute to activation within the city centre.

**NATIONAL INDIGENOUS HERITAGE CENTRE**

Cairns provides an authentic location for an iconic cultural heritage centre, complementing the proposed (and possibly co-located) World Heritage Gateway Centre. It would generate employment and enterprise opportunities in Cairns.

**CAIRNS METRO**

A new high frequency public transport link between the city centre and Cairns Airport would be a valuable addition to the city’s tourism infrastructure, further boosting connectivity and economic activity within the city centre.

**TRANSPORT STRATEGY**

Alternative transport modes such as bus, rail, walking, cycling, autonomous and electric vehicles would be emphasised under a new, long-term transport strategy. It would also focus on better connecting the main communities of Cairns to the city centre.

Together with this master plan, these projects and ongoing private investment will continue to change the shape of Cairns city into the future.

### Timeline

- **2003**
  - Esplanade Lagoon and promenade opens
  - Reef Fleet Terminal opens

- **2010**
  - Cityport Foreshore Development and Cruise Liner Terminal (Stage 1) completed

- **2011**
  - Cityport Cruise Liner Terminal (Stage 2) transformation completed

- **2014**
  - Lake Street redevelopment completed

- **2016**
  - CairnsPlan 2016 Tropical Urbanism Policy adopted
2016
Shields Street Heart Stage 1 completed

2016
Munro Martin Parklands completed

2017
Shields Street Heart Stage 2 and Cairns Museum completed

2018
Lake Street Car Park completed

2018
Cairns Performing Arts Centre opens
In April 2018, Council invited residents to share their views on an Ideas Paper, outlining three initial project ideas for a renewed Esplanade Parklands, an Esplanade Dining Precinct and a new Gallery Precinct. Almost 2500 people took the opportunity to give feedback and make suggestions on these ideas. Using Council’s interactive online ideas wall, residents told Council how they use the city’s public spaces, what they value most, what issues they would like to see addressed, and generated new ideas.

Reflecting on the community’s feedback and suggestions on the Ideas paper, Council developed a suite of opportunities and preliminary concept sketches. Council invited feedback on these project opportunities throughout July and August 2018, with over 3300 people engaging in the process.

The guiding principles and project opportunities in this master plan reflect the outcomes of this engagement process as well as the community’s values expressed in the 2016 Our Cairns community survey and forums. It also considers the Cairns 2050 Shared Vision, a strategic document developed by Council with key stakeholders that outlines a bold vision for the city’s future. The Shared Vision seeks to build upon Cairns’ natural setting, existing quality of life and established character. It identifies a suite of projects, investment and policy decisions to achieve future economic and liveability outcomes.
"INTEGRATE THE ESPLANADE WITH THE REST OF THE CITY"

"CREATE AN AUTHENTICALLY 'CAIRNS' LOOK AND FEEL..."

"MAKE THE WHOLE AREA FEEL WELCOMING, COMFORTING AND ENJOYABLE"
GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The City Centre Master Plan is underpinned by five Guiding Principles that respond to the challenges and opportunities identified through the process to date.

1. Embrace Tropical Urbanism
2. Support Economic Growth and Diversity
3. Create an Accessible and Connected City Centre
4. Celebrate Culture, Creativity and the Arts
5. Deliver a Sustainable, Safe and Liveable City Centre

These principles will guide each of the project opportunities and will help deliver on Council’s vision and community aspirations for the City Centre.
In Cairns, the relationship between built form, city planning and landscape is expressed as Tropical Urbanism and is a defining characteristic of the Cairns identity. Framed by two World Heritage Areas, the presence of the natural environment and its abundant landscape makes Cairns a ‘City in a Rainforest’. It is this close proximity of nature to the city that attracts tourism, energises the experience of locals, and positions Cairns as a unique tropical urban environment.

In 2016, Council introduced its Tropical Urbanism policy to celebrate and promote its tropical urban environment. Signature elements of the Tropical Urbanism policy include a focus on integrated lush tropical landscaping at all levels of the streetscape, with rainforest-like street canopies to create cool, shaded public spaces. The policy also seeks to retain views to the surrounding mountain ranges and waterfront.

Community engagement during the Our Cairns community survey and forums in 2016 indicated that the community places high value on the city’s green, tropical environment and open spaces. This value was reinforced in the responses to the 2018 master plan engagement process with a strong focus on creating cool and shaded public spaces.

The master plan embraces tropical urbanism through projects that will deliver:
- lush tropical landscaping integrated at all levels of the streetscape
- a uniquely tropical character expressed through the look and feel of public spaces
- cool, breezy, shaded public spaces that can be enjoyed all year round
- enhanced connection to our natural environment
- views to the waterfront and mountain ranges that frame the city centre
The strength and diversity of a city’s economy underpins the quality of life of residents and the opportunities for future growth and prosperity. Through Council’s 2016 ‘Our Cairns’ community survey and forums, the community expressed a clear vision for a strong and diverse economy that supports the growth of new and existing business activities. The economy is a central pillar of Council’s Corporate Plan 2017-2022 and the Cairns 2050 Shared Vision, and developing a resilient economy remains a key focus for Council.

The Cairns economy is becoming increasingly diverse, and this contributes positively to its future resilience. Whilst the economy has continued to diversify, Council recognises that tourism remains a critical part of the region’s future prosperity. Designing people-focused and memorable public spaces within the city centre will play an important role in supporting tourism into the future. Continued investment in public spaces will support and strengthen existing business and stimulate new investment.

The master plan supports economic growth and diversity through projects that will deliver:
- vibrant, activated city streets that support a diverse 24-hour economy
- a memorable experience for visitors
- public spaces that can accommodate a range of events
- an attractive and well-designed urban environment that supports business opportunities and investment
- flow on economic benefits to the community from the construction of the projects
During the Master Plan engagement process, and through the 2016 Our Cairns community survey and forums, parking and sustainable transport were highlighted as important issues for the community. Significant work has been undertaken to improve car parking in the city centre with more potential for improvement through the project opportunities. In 2018, Council implemented several changes to car parking in the city to make it easier for workers, shoppers, diners, visitors and businesses to find a park. These changes include the upgrade to the Lake Street multi-storey public carpark, 350 additional car parking spaces at the busy Hospital Precinct and increased time-limited parking, coupled with increased parking fees and fines to encourage vehicle turnover. Council continues to monitor the opportunities for a public-private partnership to develop a second multi-story car park in the city centre. Sustainable transport solutions are being investigated in consultation with other government sectors. Walkability and wayfinding are important components of accessibility. Distinctive streets and spaces, wayfinding signage and acknowledgement of landmarks and attractors can assist in improving the legibility of our city.

To cater for a growing population and tourism industry, transport solutions, parking, walkability and technology are key elements for the liveability of our future Cairns city centre.

CREATE AN ACCESSIBLE AND CONNECTED CITY CENTRE

The master plan will help to create an accessible, connected city centre through projects that will deliver:

- vibrant public spaces and streets for everyone to access, use and enjoy
- improved walkability and access for cyclists and other modes of transport
- people-focused streets with strong pedestrian connections between key cultural facilities, the Esplanade Parklands and dining and commercial spaces
- improved accessibility, wayfinding, car parking, public transport connections and technology
Cairns is a multicultural city and a thriving hub for arts and culture, activated by events and festivals throughout the year. It is Council’s vision for Cairns to become the arts and cultural capital of northern Australia and the gateway to Indigenous culture in Queensland’s Tropical North.

We heard from the community (2016 Our Cairns community survey and forums) that festivals and events as well as the performing arts are valued highly and should be a continued focus of Council.

One of the Cairns 2050 Shared Vision strategic themes is arts and culture: focused on developing and enhancing the arts and culture offering, and developing and celebrating the world’s best Indigenous arts, education and events. Council’s Strategy for Culture and the Arts 2022 (adopted in March 2018) and the “Culture on a Map” tool are important for understanding and activating Cairns’ cultural activities and spaces. They provide a framework to support and stimulate the city’s cultural and creative vitality, and promote its artistic and cultural heritage.

In recent years, public and private investment in the city has delivered many key cultural assets, including the Cairns Performing Arts Centre, Munro Martin Parklands, the Centre of Contemporary Arts (COCA) and the Cairns Museum / School of Arts. This investment, combined with the emergence of Cairns as a hub for artistic and cultural expression, continues to build on the vision for Cairns to be recognised as the Arts and Cultural Capital of Northern Australia.

The master plan celebrates culture, creativity and the arts through projects that will deliver:

- activation of cultural spaces including the new Cairns Gallery Precinct
- public spaces integrating art, storytelling and place-making to build a strong arts and cultural economy
- recognition of our unique Indigenous heritage through spaces and places
- adaptive, flexible public spaces that can accommodate a range of events and will support community celebrations of culture, creativity and the arts
The environment, sustainability and liveability were highlighted as the most important considerations to meet the community needs now and into future (2016 Our Cairns community survey and forums). Our environment is one of the most highly valued assets, and is essential to the liveability and health of the community. Since 2016, Council has implemented a range of sustainability measures in the city, including energy efficient street lighting, public place recycling bins and electric vehicle charging infrastructure at the Esplanade carpark. Sensor-equipped ‘smart’ irrigation systems within the Esplanade Parklands will ensure the most efficient use of water. There is a growing demand for inner city living and Council’s planning scheme encourages more residential development in the city centre. The projects proposed in this master plan will help make the Cairns city centre an attractive residential lifestyle option – delivering vibrant and safe public spaces, people-focused streets, new cultural and entertainment facilities, and expanded night-time activity. Growth in inner city occupancy will generate increased shopping, dining and recreational activity both day and night, and in turn, help realise the city’s economic, social and cultural potential. Council is committed to improving safety measures with the expansion of the city’s CCTV network (currently 225 cameras). Equally important is the incorporation of Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles to carefully and creatively design public spaces to minimise the opportunity for crime. Vehicle speed limits were reduced in the city centre in early 2019 to improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists.
The master plan identifies five project opportunities that respond to the changing shape of the city centre and deliver on the guiding principles. These opportunities will progress through further investigation, community engagement and concept development.
CAIRNS GALLERY PRECINCT

CAIRNS HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE RECOGNISED AS THE ARTS AND CULTURAL CAPITAL OF NORTHERN AUSTRALIA. THE GALLERY PRECINCT PROJECT CLEARLY SUPPORTS THIS AMBITION.

The project will transform and connect three heritage listed buildings in the Cairns city centre (the Cairns Art Gallery, former Cairns Court House and former Mulgrave Shire Council offices) and establish a vibrant new world-class gallery building. The iconic heritage buildings will be retained for future generations, and the entire precinct will be designed to celebrate the city’s cultural heritage.

Responding to community feedback, the precinct will present exhibitions and events both day and night, supported by retail and dining outlets. As a multi-use precinct, it will be able to host small community displays through to large international and domestic touring exhibitions as well as contemporary local and indigenous art. Informal outdoor spaces will function as both gallery spaces and places for social gatherings. Clear pedestrian connections will be provided within the precinct, to the adjacent Esplanade Parklands and beyond to the broader city streets.

The result will be a unique, dynamic gallery precinct with social, cultural and economic benefits for the local community as well as domestic and international visitors.
Retention of existing, iconic heritage buildings
New touring gallery and community galleries
Collaborative workspaces
Production and learning spaces
Retail and dining outlets
Indoor and outdoor event and meeting spaces
Clear pedestrian connections within precinct and beyond to broader city centre
PROJECT: ESPLANADE DINING PRECINCT
THIS PROJECT WILL ENHANCE THE BEST FEATURES OF THE ESPLANADE DINING PRECINCT

Outdoor dining is one of the great features of Cairns. The cafes and restaurants along the Esplanade have a prime location overlooking the parklands and offer a uniquely tropical outdoor dining experience for locals and visitors alike. The outdoor dining precinct extends along the Esplanade from Aplin Street to Shields Street and includes the adjoining section of Shields Street between the Esplanade and Abbott Street.

This project will enhance the best features of the Esplanade Dining Precinct, expanding the dining area to provide space for additional dining and seating, improving views to the parklands and increasing pedestrian connections.

The Esplanade roadway will remain open for one-way vehicle traffic, ensuring convenient access to businesses along the dining precinct.

In response to positive community feedback regarding the Esplanade’s closure for Festival 2018, the design will allow for temporary road closures so the area can serve as a public event space as required.

Car parking along the precinct will be limited, reducing noise and exhaust fumes and enhancing the overall dining experience. Accessible car parking and short-term loading zones will be provided.

To build a distinct precinct and reduce the visual clutter identified by the community, the Precinct will be tied together through elements including consistent street furniture and footpath treatment, continuous awnings, tropical landscaping and lighting. The result will be a more vibrant, connected outdoor dining experience, contributing to the city’s liveability for locals and a major drawcard for visitors.
• Wider and more accessible footpaths
• Extended outdoor dining area to provide opportunity for additional seating and a more spacious environment
• Higher and extended awnings to provide weather protection and a comfortable environment
• Vibrant and attractive lighting to improve night time experience
• Consistent street furniture and footpath treatment
• Tropical landscaping
• Esplanade to remain open for one-way vehicle traffic
• Road alignment and treatment supports flexibility of road use, with option for temporary closures to function as public event space
PROJECT: RENEWED ESPLANADE PARKLANDS

The Esplanade Parklands is well-loved by locals and tourists alike. It is alive with diverse activity, from relaxation to exercise and events. A renewal of the parklands’ key spaces, connections and facilities can build upon the Esplanade’s most valued qualities and features and distribute activity more evenly along the full length of the parklands. The Esplanade is a large and diverse space and the project will consider the discrete features and activities unique to the Esplanade’s north, centre and south.
ESPLANADE NORTH

While most activity currently occurs at the southern Esplanade, the northern end can become an attractive destination through new and enhanced facilities.

With a high proportion of events, activities and facilities located to the south near the lagoon, the northern end of the Esplanade offers a more relaxed atmosphere. A new boardwalk through the mangroves north of the Esplanade was suggested by the community during engagement. This would create an immersive new walking track experience through an ecologically valuable landscape and capture unique views to the city. Given the value and sensitivity of this landscape, the project will require further investigation.

A renewal and expansion of the popular Fun Ship playground, with additional play equipment, seating and shade, will draw activity to the northern Esplanade parklands. Reflecting community feedback, a new commercial activity, such as a café, or kiosk, will further enhance the northern Esplanade.
CAIRNS CITY MASTER PLAN 2019

KEY DESIGN ELEMENTS

- A mangrove boardwalk
- A renewed and expanded Fun Ship playground
- A potential new commercial activity
- New facilities such as barbecues, seating and shelters
- Retention of wide open spaces for passive recreation and organised events
- Opportunities to incorporate public art
- Relocating car parking to the road edge of the parklands to free up valuable open space
ESPLANADE CENTRAL

THE CENTRAL SECTION OF THE ESPLANADE IS AN EXTENSIVE PARKLAND WITH KEY OPEN SPACES FOR SPORTS, PLAY AND EVENTS

Community feedback revealed that the open spaces in the central section of the parklands are highly valued and should be retained. Additional facilities for relaxing and socialising, such as barbecues, seating and shelters, can support, encourage and extend the use of the parklands’ open spaces.

A clear network of well-defined pedestrian and cycle paths and improved lighting will provide pedestrians, runners and cyclists safe ways of using the parklands.

An expansion and revitalisation of Muddy’s playground will provide more opportunities for children’s play and socialising for families.

The multi-use activity precinct is a popular recreational and gathering destination in the parklands. Responding to community feedback, the precinct can be further enlivened by events and commercial activity, such as temporary food trucks or market stalls.

An extension of the Esplanade boardwalk from the south and the introduction of additional viewing platforms can build upon one of the Esplanade’s greatest features, providing greater access to the parkland’s spectacular views.
• New facilities such as barbecues, seating and shelters
• Improved network of cycling and walking paths to minimise conflict and enhance safety
• Expansion and revitalisation of Muddy’s playground
• An extended boardwalk from the south
• Additional viewing platforms
• Relocating car parking to the road edge of the parklands to free up valuable open space
With the iconic lagoon as the centrepiece, the southern end of the Esplanade is a key destination of the parklands and plays an important role in linking the city centre to the waterfront. Acknowledging the popularity and important role of the southern end of the esplanade, this project proposes an expansion of the existing parklands by extending the boardwalk’s sweeping arc, creating additional open space for the southern Esplanade’s lively mix of recreation, socialising and events. This opportunity will require further investigation as there are a number of complex matters to be considered. Responding to community feedback for additional viewing platforms, the project proposes a new Florence Street Pier, connecting the Florence Street project to the Esplanade boardwalk.
- An expanded parkland, creating additional public open space for recreation, entertainment, events and community activities
- New Florence Street Pier
- Improved connection between the Esplanade parklands, the Dining Precinct, Shields Street, the Gallery Precinct and surrounding landmarks
**PROJECT: FLORENCE STREET**

FLORENCE STREET IS A KEY CONNECTION INTO THE CITY CENTRE AND A PROMINENT GATEWAY FOR VEHICLES AND PEDESTRIANS. WITH LAKE STREET, IT ALSO SERVES AS A KEY PUBLIC TRANSPORT CONNECTION.

Council has created a new, world-class cultural hub spanning Florence Street, with the construction of the Cairns Performing Arts Centre and adjacent Munro Martin Parklands.

The opportunity now exists to enhance Florence Street with the creation of a pedestrian boulevard that supports walkability and connects these public places to the Esplanade Parklands.

In keeping with Council’s Tropical Urbanism Policy, Florence Street will become an extension of Munro Martin Parklands, with an avenue of shade trees. Tropical planting will feature along revitalised footpaths, and flowering shade trees will highlight the intersections. Sheltered walkways, constructed as part of future developments, would complement those already existing. In combination with footpath shade tree planting, they will provide filtered sun and rain protection to users of the space.

For both vehicles and pedestrians to successfully co-exist in this space, the Abbott and Lake Street intersections will be signalised. This will improve safety for pedestrians and aid traffic flows to the city centre.
• Improved pedestrian connectivity and walkability between Cairns Performing Arts Centre, Munro Martin Park and Esplanade Parklands
• Safe, signalised intersections and clear pedestrian crossings
• Avenue planting to create a green central median and flowering shade trees to highlight intersections
• Improved weather protection
• Feature lighting to major trees
• Consistent street furniture and improved footpath treatment
PROJECT: CITY STREETS
ALL STREETS WITHIN THE CITY CENTRE ARE VALUABLE PUBLIC SPACES, IMPORTANT FOR MOVEMENT AND CIRCULATION

Whilst the other project opportunities focus on specific areas, this project recognises that all streets within the city centre are valuable public spaces, playing an important role for movement and circulation. Vibrant and well-defined streetscapes foster walkability, encouraging people to explore, relax and gather. Cairns can build upon its wide streets, lush vegetation and majestic street trees to enhance the city’s tropical identity and appearance. Drawing from feedback during consultation, this project focuses on streetscapes that create a connected, tropical public place with an active street life. The project will guide the evolution of city streets in a consistent way, through a distinct and cohesive suite of materials and treatments.
Over recent years, Council has been progressively upgrading the footpath treatment throughout the city centre to improve the functionality and appearance of the city streets. The map at right shows where footpath treatments have been upgraded or are planned for an upgrade in future.

* as at April 2019
Landscaping will play an important role in this, and the Master Plan proposes a landscaping palette to guide future plantings. In line with Council’s Tropical Urbanism Policy, landscaping will also be integrated into the built environment and will contribute to the tropical atmosphere.

Over time, generous two-storey awnings delivered through private developments will form an additional street canopy and provide weather protection and shade for pedestrians.

In addition to landscaping, consistent footpath treatments and a street furniture palette will improve the functionality and appearance of our city streets. Incorporating feature lighting where possible will add to the city’s night-time atmosphere, highlight key features of the city and enliven the city’s public spaces during special events.

A number of streets have already been upgraded, with the balance of the city’s streets to be completed over time by Council or developers through the redevelopment of sites. The result will be a connected, comfortable and safe pedestrian network, linking the city’s existing and emerging attractions through attractive public spaces.
**LANDSCAPE PALETTE**

- **Centre Median Shade Tree**
  - *e.g.* Illawara Flame Tree
  - *Brachychiton acerifolius*

- **Understorey Groundcover**
  - *e.g.* Gardenia Glennie River
  - *Gardenia psidioides*

- **Side Island Shade Tree**
  - *e.g.* Queen’s Crepe Myrtle
  - *Lagerstroemia speciosa*

- **Footpath/Verge Shade Tree**
  - *e.g.* Golden Penda
  - *Xanthostemon chrysanthus*

- **Feature Planting**
  - *e.g.* Australian Fan Palm
  - *Licuala ramsayii*

- **Understorey Shrub**
  - *e.g.* Ixora “Malay Pink”
  - *Ixora coccinea c.v. “Malay Pink”*

- **General Use Flowering Vines**
  - *e.g.* Shower of Gold
  - *Tristellateia australasiae*

**KEY DESIGN ELEMENTS**

- Tropical landscaping and street tree planting
- Improved weather protection, including awnings
- Distinctive lighting
- Consistent street furniture, pavement and signage
MASTER PLAN PROCESS

This Master Plan is a non-statutory document that articulates Council’s vision for the Cairns city centre and identifies future project opportunities underpinned by guiding principles. These project opportunities have the potential to build upon the many successful public space projects delivered throughout the city centre over recent years and to respond to the community’s aspirations for Cairns. Whilst only opportunities at this stage, the individual projects will progress through further investigation, community and stakeholder engagement, and concept development. This work will be undertaken over the longer term and be subject to a range of factors including but not limited to funding availability, service delivery priorities, investment decisions by private businesses and other levels of government, environmental and other approvals, presentation of new opportunities, and changes in community needs and aspirations. As individual projects progress, the community will be notified separately about consultation opportunities and statutory notification processes.