

Towards 2050

Directions Paper

*Directions and options for
growing well to 2050*



Shaping Cairns
from the beaches to the boulders

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Acknowledgement of Country

Cairns Regional Council acknowledges the First Peoples within the Cairns region who are the Traditional Guardians of this country. Traditional Guardians within the Cairns region include the Djabugay; Yirriganydji; Buluwai, Gimuy Walubara Yidinji; Mandingalbay Yidinji; Bundabarra and Wadjanbarra Yidinji; Gunggandji; Dulabed and Malanbara Yidinji; Wanyurr Majay; Mamu and NgadjonJii peoples.

We pay respect to Elders past and present and extend that respect to all other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians within the region.

Definitions

Adaptive re-use

Adaptive re-use is a process that changes a disused or underutilised space into a new space that can be used for a different purpose.

Blue + Green

Refers to the blue (watercourses, ponds, and lakes) and green (plants, trees and green spaces) elements within our environments. Often referred to as Blue + Green infrastructure, we can integrate Blue + Green elements into our built environments to make them more resilient and pleasant places to live, work, and play.

Cairns Citywide Area

The definitive boundaries for the scope of the Growth Strategy. This definitive boundary has been established based on the divisional areas of the Cairns Regional Council Local Government Area (LGA). The Cairns Citywide Area further comprises three catchment areas.

Economic cluster

Concentrations of like-minded, similar or comparable industries and activities that seek to foster economic activity and growth through resource and knowledge sharing, amalgamation of economic activity, and sharing of export orientations.

Greenfield

Areas of undeveloped land in the urban footprint suitable for urban development.

Growth drivers

Growth drivers, or drivers for growth, are the aspects of an evolving urban environment that impact our need to change our existing approaches to planning and development.

Infill

New development that occurs within established urban areas where the site or area is either vacant or has previously been used for another urban purpose.

Key worker housing

Refers to affordable housing options that are available to workers within a population that provide essential services (i.e. nurses, teachers). Generally these key workers are on moderate incomes that may not be able to afford to live in the location that they work.

Missing middle

Housing types between high-rise, high-density living, and free standing, suburban family homes. The missing middle includes housing types such as duplexes, row-houses, or walk-up apartments.

QGSO

Queensland Government Statistician's Office (QGSO), located in Queensland Treasury, is Queensland Government's lead statistical agency. QGSO provides statistical and demographic research services for government. www.qgso.qld.gov.au

SA2

SA2s are generally the smallest areas used for the release of ABS non-Census of Population and Housing statistics, including Estimated Resident Population and Health and Vitals data.

State Development Area (SDA)

Clearly defined areas of land in which State claims jurisdiction, delineated on a plan, and declared under the State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971 to be a State Development Area. The declaration is generally made to promote economic development in Queensland.

Urban development

A general term including residential, industrial, retail, commercial, sporting, indoor recreation, short-term accommodation, community activities, and a range of other urban land uses. It does not include rural land uses such as agriculture and horticulture.

Urban fabric

Means the physical characteristics of an urban structure or urban area in our cities and towns. This includes the streetscapes, buildings, soft and hard landscaping, signage, lighting, roads, and other infrastructure.

Urban rejuvenation

The action of reshaping existing urban areas with the goal of creating more sustainable development for the current and future communities of that area. This term can also be referred to as Urban Renewal and Urban Revitalisation.

Urban village

An urban village is an urban development typically characterised by medium-density housing, mixed-use zoning that encourages walkable and cycle friendly neighbourhood development.



Section 1: Introduction

Purpose of the Directions Paper

Cairns Regional Council is seeking further feedback from the community to better understand the desired outcomes for growth.

This Directions Paper is intended to be a conversation starter and thought provoker on the key issues that are currently impacting our city and need to be addressed when considering its future. The potential growth outcomes for Cairns have been separated into citywide growth directions and catchment-based growth options. These growth directions are outlined in Section 10 and the catchment options in Section 11. Plans have been prepared to support the information outlined across this paper and to provide a visual representation of what growth may look like.

It sets out the opportunities and challenges for growth across the Cairns Citywide Area to inform outcomes of the Growth Strategy – the final deliverable of the Growth Strategy project. These outcomes include urban directions, aspirations and the defined vision for Cairns and its growth through to 2050 (see Figure 1).

The Cairns Citywide Area is large and diverse, defined by 3 catchment areas located within the Cairns Local Government Area (Northern Beaches and Surrounds, Central Cairns and Surrounds, and Southern Corridor).

The intent of the Growth Strategy is not to identify new land for development, given the current CairnsPlan 2016 already has the capacity to sustain forecasted growth to 2050. The Growth Strategy instead presents an opportunity to revolutionise our current approaches to growth in a way that is value aligned for the community, sustainable and resilient.

This allows us to grow well, being responsive to hazards, considerate of our community's diverse needs, and aligned with our guiding principles and identified values for growth.

The purpose of the Directions Paper is to generate conversations and to consolidate community feedback to inform the preparation of the final Growth Strategy document delivered as part of Phase 4 of the project.

In doing so, the Directions Paper presents a suite of citywide growth directions for the Cairns Citywide Area, in addition to specific growth options for the three catchment areas. The unique opportunities and challenges associated with the individual growth directions and options are explored for community consideration.

This Directions Paper has been informed by:

1. Community engagement and technical studies. These inputs have guided the foundations of the Directions Paper and informed the guiding principles and citywide directions.
2. Growth intent and strategic direction of the CairnsPlan 2016 and other State Government policies. This included assessing the potential for growth in Cairns in alignment with these policies, and interpreting what the outcomes of this growth direction will look like.
3. Our community-led approach to establishing the Growth Strategy. We value community inputs, and are seeking further inputs to guide the direction of the Growth Strategy. We are seeking feedback on the proposed citywide growth directions, and the proposed growth options for the 3 catchments.

We invite you to read this document and consider what growing well looks like for Cairns to 2050. A number of questions relating to the Directions Paper will be available for comment on Council's 'Have Your Say' page:

haveyoursay.cairns.qld.gov.au/towards2050

Studies and influences

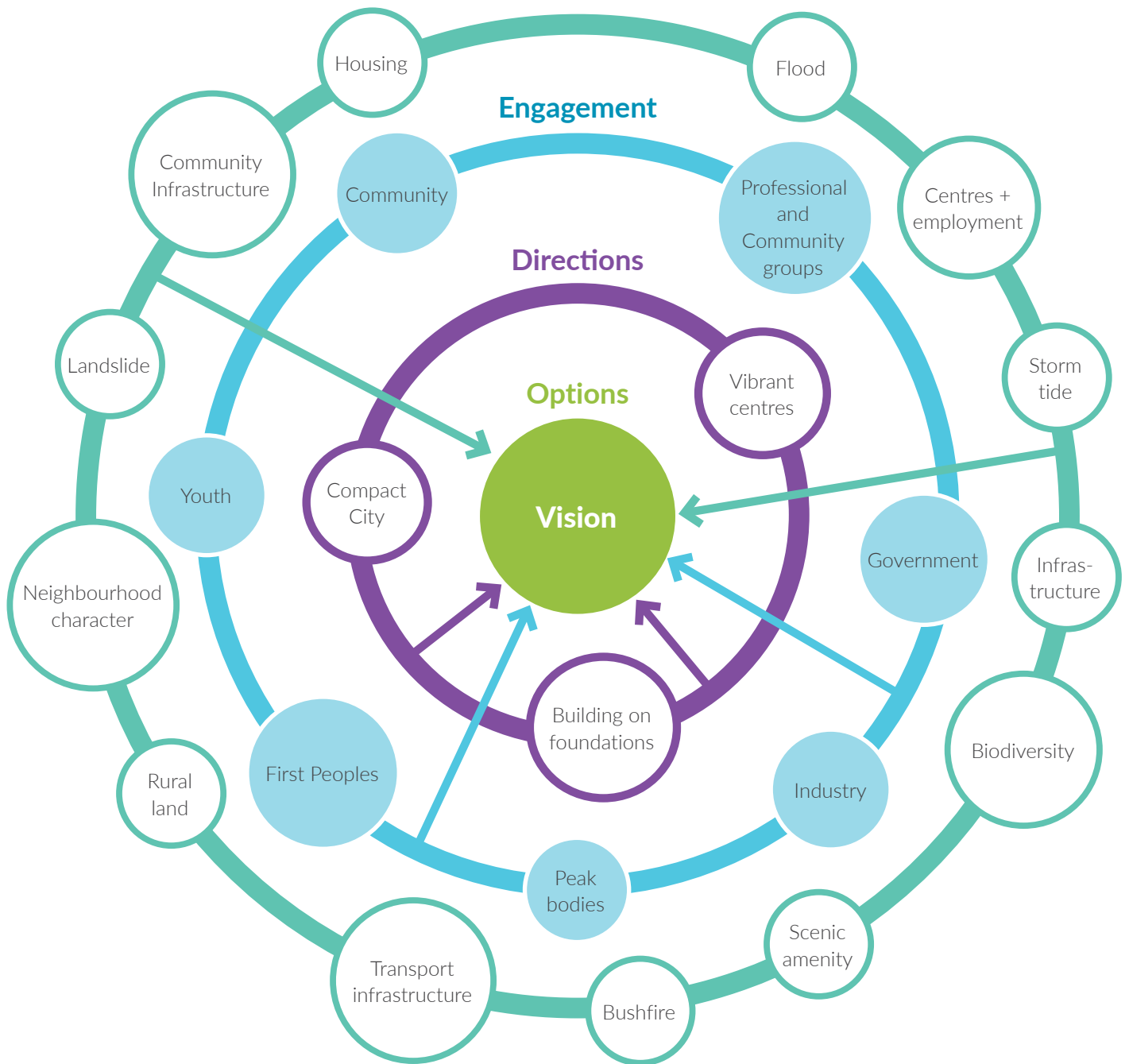


Figure 1: T2050 Growth Strategy Vision Diagram

Section 2: Background

The story so far

The Towards 2050: Shaping Cairns Growth Strategy (Growth Strategy) will represent our collective vision for the future of Cairns and set the scene for development and planning policy. It will drive sustainable growth for the next few decades and beyond. Cairns Regional Council started work on the Growth Strategy in October 2022. This work will continue on through to middle 2025 (see Figure 2 for project phase timeline).

The Growth Strategy forms part of our long-term planning and strategic framework, providing the foundation for the preparation of a new planning scheme for Cairns. Beyond this, the Growth Strategy will influence the overarching growth intent for Cairns. Given the influence of the Growth Strategy on the future of Cairns, a holistic approach is taken to understand the complex factors that drive change.

Across the phases of the Growth Strategy, the historical growth of Cairns has been investigated, helping guide the identification of emerging trends and future challenges to prepare for what is to come. Community engagement is central to further inform the Growth Strategy. Community feedback and inputs have influenced the development of the guiding principles and priorities that will shape our response to planning and managing growth in Cairns into the future.

Phase 1 of the Growth Strategy focused on community engagement (see Figures 1, 2 and 3). This engagement process captured the diverse perspectives and aspirations of the community, and we heard what was important for the future of Cairns.

Phase 2 of the Growth Strategy focused on developing a deep understanding of the existing conditions in Cairns, and evaluating how Cairns could grow under existing policies. To establish this evidence base, we conducted a range of technical studies. These studies explored natural hazards, housing choice, diversity and affordability, future employment and centre growth, neighbourhood character, and scenic amenity values.

Community engagement in Phase 2 included the Community and Youth Summits and stakeholder group engagement (peak bodies, community groups, networks). We also established a community panel. The insights captured through the technical studies and community engagement informed the responses to the challenges and opportunities associated with growth documented in this Directions Paper.

This Paper is the focus of Phase 3 of the Growth Strategy. Community feedback on the Directions Paper will help us to shape the Growth Strategy.



Figure 2: Time line of the Growth Strategy

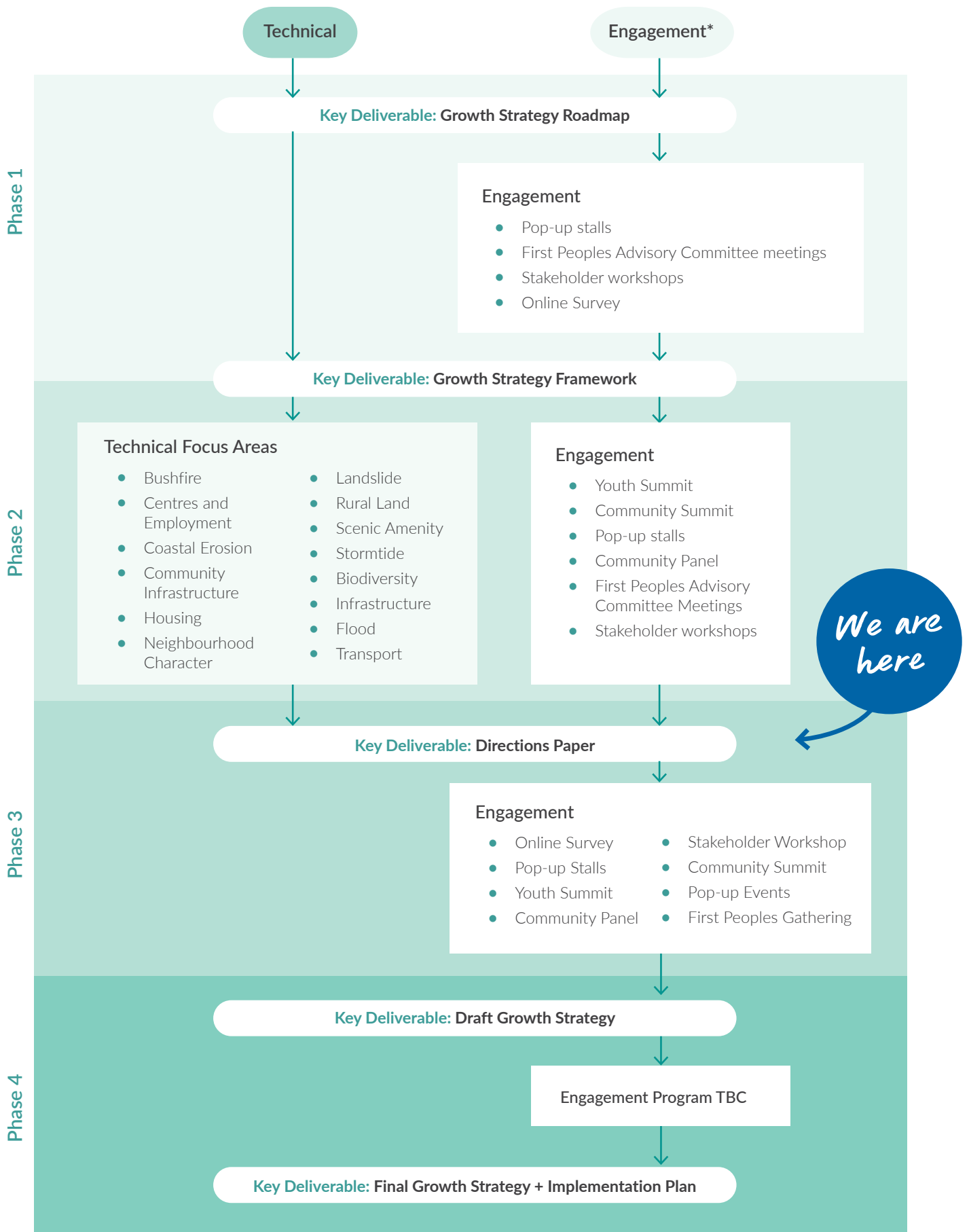


Figure 3: T2050 Growth Strategy Key Deliverables and Engagement Program

*Engagement occurs across all phases of the project, you can find the reports at www.cairns.qld.gov.au/council/projects-and-priorities/major-projects/open-projects/towards2050



How to use this document

This Directions Paper is structured around 11 sections. The key topics in each section of the paper are:

Section 1: Introduction

The introduction articulates of the purpose of the Directions Paper including what has informed the Directions Paper.

Section 2: Background

The background provides the overarching framework for understanding the environmental and population drivers, and how they inform our approach to growth. The background includes:

- the context guiding the Directions Paper;
- a summary of community engagement to date;
- the influence of policy and regulation on planning and managing the growth of Cairns; and
- an outline of the key guiding principles for growth.

Sections 3-9: Contextual impacts and opportunities

Section 3-9 introduces the issues and opportunities surrounding the various considerations to growth and its impacts, such as housing, climate impacts and economy. This information has been divided into seven sections:

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

Section 10: Citywide Urban Growth Directions

This section is an invitation to have a conversation on what direction we should take. It outlines the key strategic areas and opportunities across the Cairns Citywide Area. It sets the scene and examines possible growth directions. It highlights key considerations for accommodating growth, including infrastructure needs, housing diversity, and the safeguarding of environmental assets.

Section 11: Catchment options

This section outlines the potential growth options for the 3 catchments making up the Cairns Citywide Area, being:

- Northern Beaches and Surrounds
- Central and Surrounds
- The Southern Corridor

It identifies key strategic opportunities for these catchments, gathered from the information to date. It incorporates a range of ideas that focus on alternative growth opportunities at a catchment level, which aim to generate community conversation and feedback.

Our city, our future, our choice

This section imagines our future city.

Have your say

This section is the conclusion of the Directions Paper, summarising the key priorities, directions and options, and where to find further information.



Context

Cairns is loved for its unique position and special character, treasured by residents for its relaxed lifestyle, tropical climate, and strong community spirit.

With the continued pressures of urban growth, our current 'business-as-usual' approach can be strengthened to work towards outcomes that preserve and embrace the Cairns identity.

This 'business-as-usual' approach does not always lead to development that matches the diversity of our population or respond to the climate of our region. We have the opportunity to refocus our initiatives and together build a strengthened vision for a Cairns that considers alternative ideas, incorporates community aspirations and provides a clear direction on what kind of city we all want to work towards to 2050.

The population of Cairns is expected to increase from approximately 169,000 people in 2021 to 241,000 by 2050. We need to ensure we have enough space for everyone to live, work, and play. Planning for this growth is a balancing act.

(Note: The above population data is sourced from ABS data and is based on Growth Strategy project projections).

Our role as guardians

For millennia, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have had an enduring and ongoing connection with the land, waters and sky. Our First Peoples have spoken about their role as custodians of the land, which means to have responsibility and care for Country, both now and for future generations.

In honouring this wisdom, we must shift our focus of planning to consider the impacts of our decisions and footprint on future generations. This value set is essential to crafting a sustainable and resilient strategy for the future of Cairns.

We can evolve our approach to development to one that focuses on responsibility for bettering our community and the land. This shift will help us to address the urgent and unavoidable growth drivers – identified in this paper broadly as 'environmental processes' and 'population increases'. We have an opportunity and a choice to grow well, and approach development with a guardian lens (Figure 4).

By adopting a guardian approach, we can shape a focused vision for Cairns' future growth. This vision can prioritise economic, social, and environmental objectives by elevating the significance of our natural Blue + Green environments and making them central to our decision-making processes. Ultimately, our vision will guide development and growth through this guardian lens in a manner that ensures a sustainable and thriving future for Cairns and its residents. A vision for Cairns will be developed as part of future community summits and detailed in the final Growth Strategy.



Drivers of change

Our environment, both urban and natural, experiences constant change. These changes are influenced by factors such as urban growth, evolving climate patterns, and shifting socio-economic structures. Given the nature of these changes, we have grouped them into 2 growth drivers - identified in Figure 4.

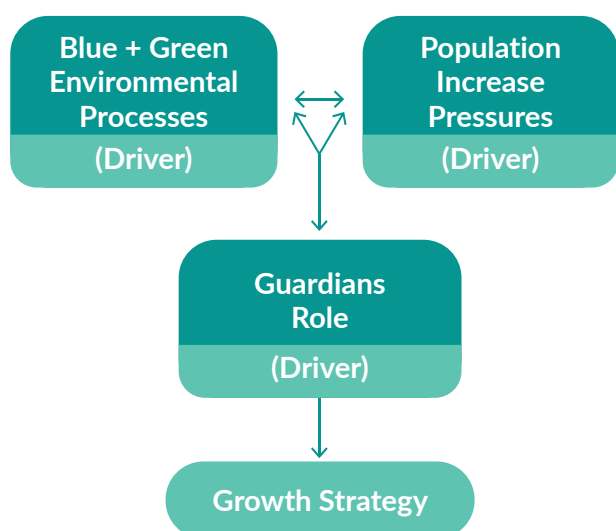


Figure 4: Identified drivers for growth. Environmental processes (i.e. climate impacts), and population increases to the area are drivers for informing our approach. If we take a guardian approach to addressing these 2 drivers, our Growth Strategy can respond with resilience, inclusivity, and sustainability.

Blue + Green Environmental processes are influenced by pressures relating to climate patterns and our natural environment. Recent events, such as Cyclone Jasper (December 2023) have underscored Cairns' susceptibility to natural hazards and unveiled critical issues concerning urban expansion and the need for resilient communities. We need to complement our environmental assets as we manage and plan for growth.

Population increase drives demand for housing, leading to pressure to expand residential areas into rural and environmentally sensitive regions. These areas often lack adequate infrastructure and require substantial financial investment to develop. Population increase emphasises the need to plan for and manage housing accessibility, diversity and affordability, economic prosperity, and social inclusiveness. The escalating pressures of change highlight our need to establish a strategic direction for growth.

The challenges in managing the growth of Cairns lie in the balance of the layered and often conflicting outcomes of community expectations, economic factors, environmental responsibilities, and State and Federal agendas and roles in the delivery of facilities such as schools and hospitals. Population growth underpins the need to strategically plan for housing, places of employment, schools, and community facilities to ensure we are maintaining and protecting our natural environment and the unique tropical character of Cairns. We, as guardians for current and future generations, are responsible for finding a way to balance these equally critical factors.

Community engagement

The outcomes of the ongoing engagement have captured the thoughts, interests, and imagination of the diverse Cairns community. Our significant engagement activities that have included engaging with the community, stakeholder groups (peak bodies, community groups, networks), development industry, our youth, Traditional Owners and First Peoples, and government have led to valuable information that informs the options explored for Cairns in this paper.

Community online survey



The online survey was available on the project's Have Your Say page for approximately 2 ½ months in 2022. During this time, 1,053 responses were received.

The survey captured demographic data and information about the respondents' connection to their home suburb and Cairns more broadly.

Responses: 1,053 received.

Community and Youth Summits



These summits for young people and the community aimed to capture feedback and build an understanding about the future of Cairns, and what the growth of Cairns means for each participant.

For the Community Summit, participants were randomly selected from Community Registration of Interests received. A total of 353 people nominated.

Attendees: 80 community members.

For the Youth Summit, Council invited 20 secondary schools from across Cairns to nominate students from Years 9 and 12.

Attendees: 34 students from 10 secondary schools.

Community Panel



The Community Panel is made up of community members independently selected to reflect the diversity of the Cairns community, which created a 'mini-Cairns public'. An invitation to join the Community Panel was sent to every household in the Council area.

Responses: 776 Cairns residents registered, 350 selected.

Community pop-up events



The project team organised 26 pop-ups across Cairns at a range of markets, festivals and other events. The team interacted with community members at these events to gauge their thoughts about Cairns, and what growth means to them.

Responses: 3,734 people.

Stakeholder Panel workshops



The Stakeholder Panel was formed to provide sector-specific input into the development of the Growth Strategy. Panel workshops explored a range of different topics to understand the relevant opportunities, challenges, concerns, and desires for the growth of the Cairns Citywide Area.

Organisations and Groups: 44

Growing Well videos



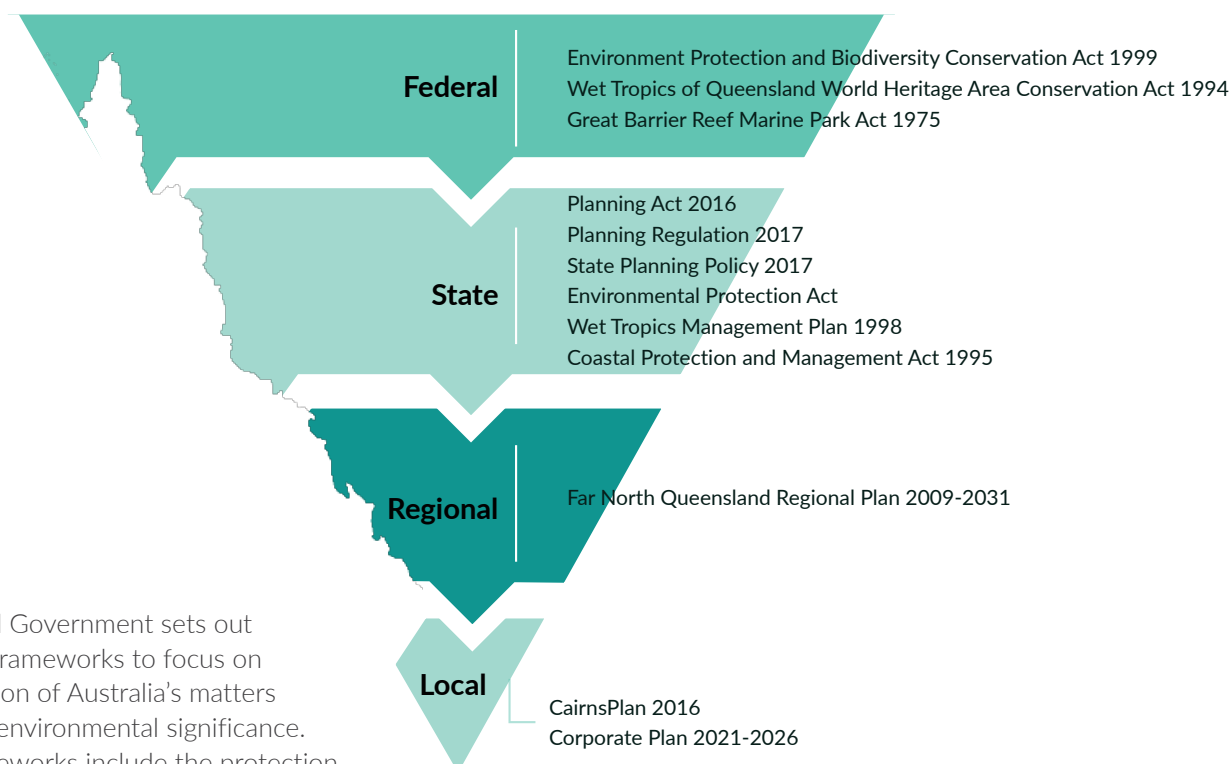
Through a series of 8 short videos and questions, the community explored key concepts that planners consider in delivering social, economic and environmental benefits of growth while protecting the things we love about our city.

You can find further information about the ongoing engagement on our project website at haveyoursay.cairns.qld.gov.au/tpwards2050.

Establishing the framework for planned growth

There is a range of regulatory and policy frameworks that exist within the context of Cairns, directing the growth of Cairns into the future (Figure 5). While we transition our view on growth to a guardian approach, we need to be responsive to the existing frameworks in place at Federal, State, Regional and Local levels that govern planning and development outcomes. The established best planning practices at the varying levels of government have underpinned the drafting of our focused vision for Cairns' future growth.

Figure 5: Policy Document Hierarchy



Federal

The Federal Government sets out regulatory frameworks to focus on the protection of Australia's matters of national environmental significance. These frameworks include the protection of World Heritage properties found within the Cairns Citywide Area.

State

The State Government regulates the broader Queensland planning and development system. The Queensland Government provides further policy direction to inform a range of matters considered to be of State Interest.

Regional

The State Government also regulates regional planning and development outcomes. The regional frameworks provide targeted policy direction for particular regions across the state of Queensland. The Cairns Citywide Area is located within the Far North Queensland (FNQ) regional area, giving a regional context to many of the State Interests.

Local

Local governments are responsible for planning and development within their Local Government Area. Cairns Regional Council is the local authority for the Cairns Citywide Area. We are responsible for setting expected planning and development outcomes unique to the Cairns local setting. This includes the establishment of broader strategic documents that establish values and a vision for Cairns.

Our guiding principles for growth

The Growth Strategy is important for the long-term planning and strategic framework for Cairns, helping us shape Cairns to 2050.

Outcomes of the Growth Strategy will inform subsequent Council policies, regulation, and decision-making. Ultimately, the Growth Strategy facilitates an agreed direction for the future of Cairns, helping us grow well and protect the Cairns identity. Given the Growth Strategy's importance in shaping a better tomorrow, we need to establish a clear vision and strong set of guiding principles to pave the future for growth and development. The Directions Paper allows us to explore the potential for Cairns.

As we progress with urban change, community awareness, sentiment, and understanding is invaluable. We know these factors are critical to the successful implementation of long-term strategies and frameworks for the Cairns Citywide Area. **After all, urban environments should be influenced by those who live in and experience them!**

Our seven guiding principles for growth align with a core value of the project to be community driven. The principles are:

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

These guiding principles will facilitate the positive and sustainable growth of Cairns to the year 2050, acknowledging the complexities and conflict points arising when balancing urban growth and environmental dynamics.



Figure 6: The Seven Guiding Principles

We need to consider where our growth drivers leave us. What do our findings mean for Cairns in 2050? How do we find the delicate balance and address our growth drivers, guiding principles, and growth priorities, all while satisfying our responsibility as guardians?



Section 3: Housing that meets our changing needs





Our growing population

Cairns is one of the largest and fastest growing regions in Northern Australia.

From 2021 to 2050, Cairns is projected to increase by 43%, with approximately 72,000 people.

A snapshot of the Cairns profile

While the population of Cairns is anticipated to continue to grow, trends indicate that in recent years the rate has been slowing. By 2050, it is projected that the population of Cairns will reach approximately 241,000.

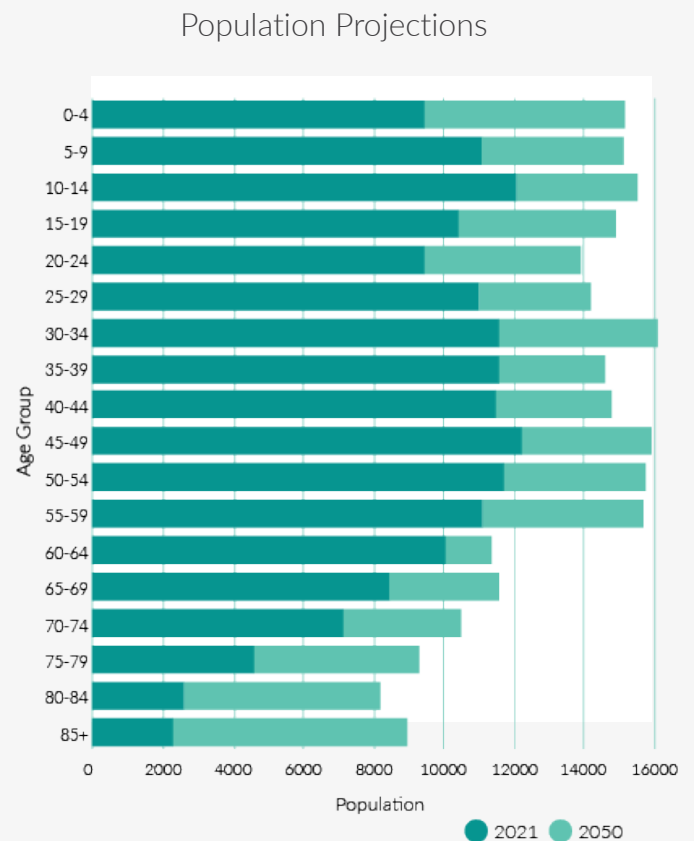


Figure 7: Snapshot of Cairns (ABS, retrieved 2024)

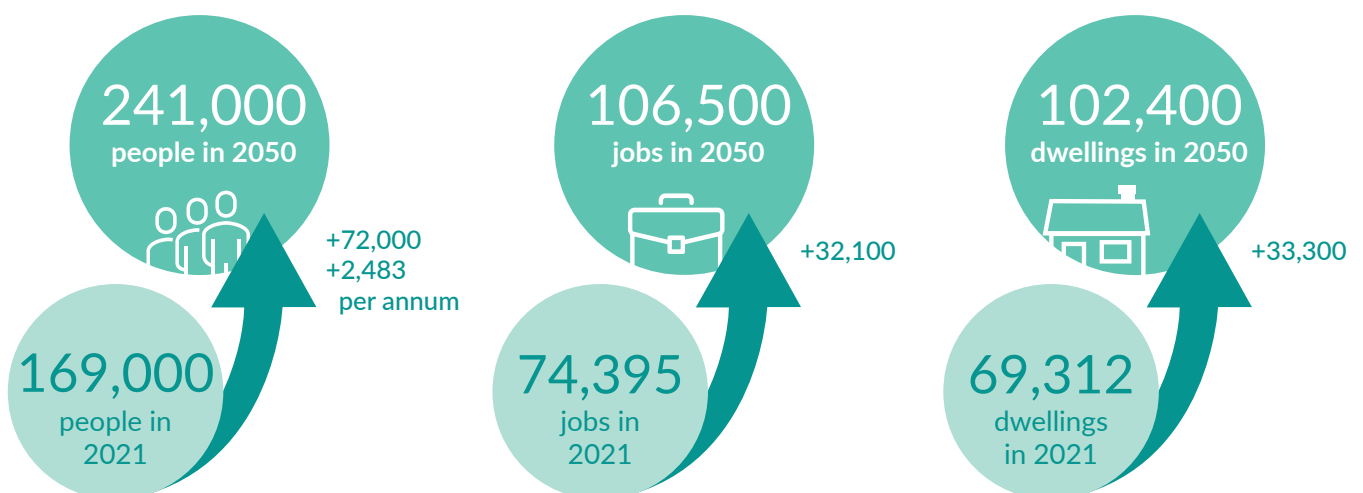


Figure 8: Snapshot of Cairns Profile

The benefits of population growth

Cairns is projected to grow by an additional 72,000 people by 2050. The need to house, employ, educate, and support this expected population increase will result in a noticeable change to the Cairns landscape, and is an opportunity to deliver positive outcomes.

Increased housing choice

A growing population means we need to provide more homes. Not all homes can be delivered in greenfield areas, as this can impact on our natural environment and farmlands. While greenfield development outside of protected areas will be important to support our community, we need to consider alternative housing options in established neighbourhoods. This presents opportunities for smaller, attached housing products. This ultimately increases housing choice, providing alternative housing options that can support the needs of a diverse community at varying stages of life.

Increased services

With an increased population comes greater potential to establish better dispersion and availability of community services and infrastructure. This promotes community access and inclusion to services, improving opportunity for communities to engage with public transport, employment, local centre and cultural activities, and green spaces.

Greater employment opportunities

An increased population can attract new employment and educational opportunities by encouraging more people to live in proximity to existing services, infrastructure, and centres. Establishing strong centres and employment hubs increases local career potential and improves employee appeal and retention.

Better public and active transport networks

With greater populations comes greater potential to expand on the public and active transport networks (i.e. walking and cycling). Currently, most of the Cairns population travel via private vehicles. By focusing population growth in established areas and creating well serviced neighbourhoods, we can provide greater diversity in travel opportunities. Encouraging alternative travel methods, we can reduce congestion on the roads, improve air quality, and support more enjoyable ways to travel.



What we have heard - Community

The Cairns community is passionate about what happens in its suburbs.

We understand that change can evoke feelings of fear, nervousness, and excitement. While the Community largely indicated feelings of excitement and confidence towards change, we appreciate this is not representative of the entire community.

How supportive are you of urban change to accommodate growth in Cairns?

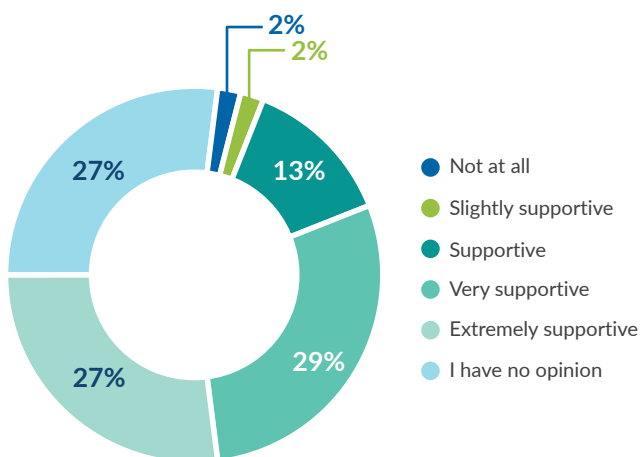


Figure 9: "How supportive are you of urban change to accommodate growth in Cairns?"
(Studio THI, T2050 Being a Future Shaper Survey, 2023).

Community feedback has been used to inform this Directions Paper. Understanding how we will accommodate our evolving community was of key interest to our respondents.

The high level of support from the community in recognising the importance of urban change is a fundamental step in our ability to grow well and promote a sustainable and resilient growth for Cairns. This support allows us to engage effectively with you, the community, to establish the Cairns identity and leadership approach that navigates urban growth and change

We will continue to engage, to inform decision-making for the Growth Strategy, and to maintain transparency, awareness, and understanding for the community.

Looking to the future of Cairns, we asked you what your hopes were for Cairns in 2050. The findings led to a clear distinction of subjects, identified as:

1. thriving and protected natural environment;
2. relaxed, friendly, and diverse population;
3. improved public transport and community infrastructure; and
4. built environment that reflects the Cairns culture.



What we have heard - Youth

Our youth are our future, so we need to share our ideas and thoughts with them and collaboratively look to the future.

A top priority for young people was an increase in housing diversity. However, this is the lowest focus area for the broader community.

If we are not building houses that satisfy the needs of future home-owners and residents, who are we building for?

Key focus areas for Young People

- a. Better range of housing types and prices.
- b. Better public transport.**
- c. More connected in community wildlife habitats and green open spaces.**
- d. More investment in community services, facilities, and essential infrastructure.**
- e. Stronger and more diverse economy with greater employment opportunities.
- f. Better access to services and facilities within my neighbourhood.
- g. More social, cultural, and sporting activities and facilities.
- h. Better planned local neighbourhoods.
- i. New buildings designed to be sustainable and suit our tropical climate.
- j. Better understanding and resilience to natural hazards.
- k. New development will complement our unique heritage character and lifestyle.

Public transport, connected wildlife habitats and green open space, and investment in community facilities, services and infrastructure, are consistently top focus areas.

Youth Summit



Online Survey



Figure 10: Comparison of youth data and wider community online survey of priorities (Towards 2050 Youth and Community Summits Summary Report).



Changing household structures and needs

As our population increases, the makeup of families and households will change. This will create a need to consider different types of housing to cater for all community members.



Lone Households

More people are living alone, currently representing about one in every 4 people. This trend is projected to continue, with an estimated increase of approximately 10,000 lone person households by 2050. The substantial increase in lone person households will generally mean a need for smaller dwellings, but many will still choose to live in larger dwellings if they can afford to, with 50% of lone persons residing in detached houses in 2021.

As more individuals embrace solo living, occupying larger dwellings, are we adequately prepared to meet the housing needs of this growing demographic? How can we house this growing demographic better?



Single Parent Families

The number of single-parent families is increasing, representing 1 in 8 households. This trend is expected to continue, with an additional 5,400 single parent family households projected for 2050. By 2050, single parent families will account for around 14% of all households.

Single parent households tend to occupy larger rental housing. There is a need for a housing product that will enable mobility within the local area if family circumstances change. *Are we providing enough housing choice and potential for rental in areas that meet single parent family requirements, ie near existing schools? What can we do better to better accommodate this need.*

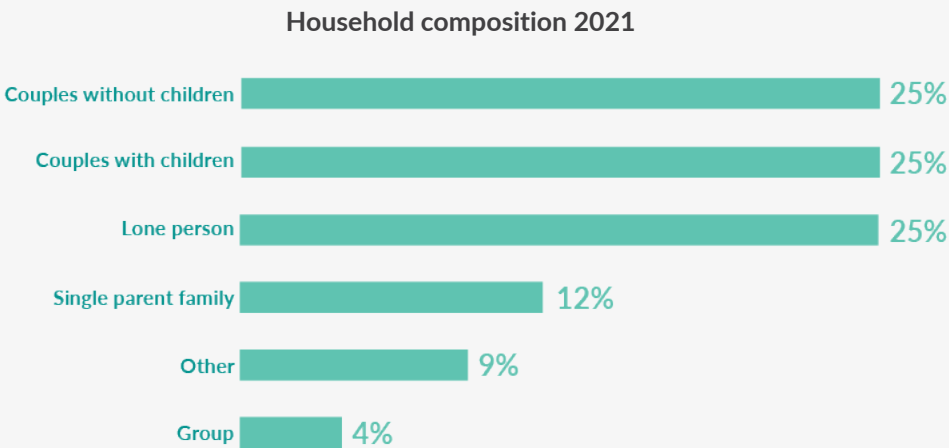


Figure 11: Household Composition (ABS) 2021



Ageing Population

Our population is ageing, with over 65s projected to represent approximately 20% of the population by 2050. With many elderly people living alone, there is a need for smaller and more diverse housing opportunities in well-located areas. Appropriately located and serviced housing will be critical for this population to ensure key infrastructure and healthcare services are accessible and ageing in place is an option.

How could we better support this? Is this an opportunity to increase supply of housing choices, aged care facilities, and retirement living?



Young People

Young populations across Cairns are declining. The past five years have seen young adults leaving Cairns to seek employment, entertainment, and education opportunities elsewhere, often in Southeast Queensland. This has flow-on effects for the socio-economic vitality of Cairns, including reduced feasibility for retail and entertainment opportunities, and a reduced labour market.

What opportunities are we offering our youth to enter the housing market, either as a renter or potential first home buyer?

Social and Affordable Housing

The current housing market is placing many populations under housing stress. While this pressure is felt by many, vulnerable populations feel the greatest impact. Facing the challenges of typical market housing, social and affordable housing alternatives present an opportunity to support those in our community struggling with housing security.

Housing is a human right. How do we ensure access to this right is equitable across the Cairns community?

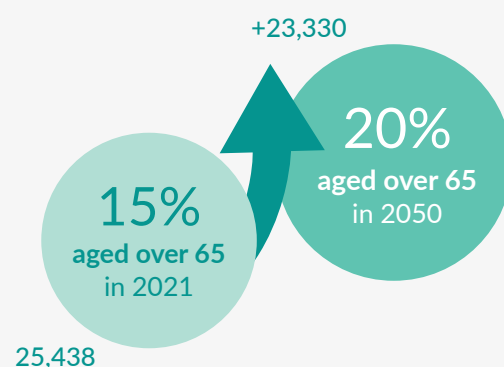


Figure 12: Over 65's Population Projection (ABS)

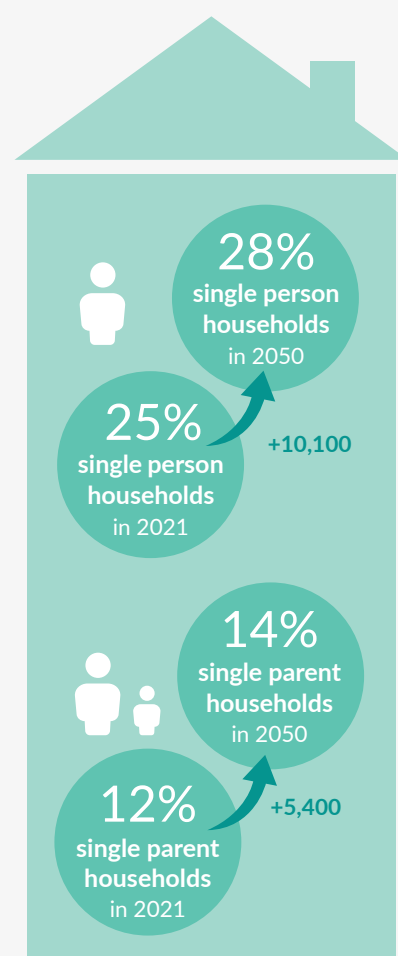


Figure 13: Household Composition Projections (ABS)

In 2050, what type of homes do we need?

Based on the findings of the Housing Strategy, the average household size in Cairns is declining. Understanding the diverse needs of our populations, we will need to focus on the following:

- increasing housing options for smaller households;
- providing a variety of housing options for the elderly, including opportunities for ageing in place;
- providing opportunities for dwellings to accommodate the changing needs of people throughout their life;
- improving the affordability of housing for all residents;
- improving the provision of social housing throughout Cairns; and
- providing increased opportunities for housing that caters for people living with disability and reduced mobility.

The options below show what these different housing typologies could look like. What do we need more of? We have provided a snapshot of housing opportunities for Cairns below.

Detached

Detached housing is not joined to its neighbours by connecting walls.

Small Lot Housing

A single or double level house that has only 1 dwelling per lot. They are often close to their neighbours, but do not share land with any other houses.



'Traditional' Housing

A single or double level house that has only 1 dwelling per lot. Larger footprint and lot size to small lot.



Typical Housing Parameters

	Detached		Semi-detached		Attached
	Small Lot	Traditional	Duplex / Triplex	Units / Townhouse	Apartments
Lot Area	250-450m ²	Over 600m ²	600-850m ²	Over 250m ²	Over 800m ²
Typical Lot Dimensions	7.5 x 40m	15 x 40m	15 x 40m	20/30 x 40m	30 x 40m

Semi-detached

Semi-detached dwellings are likely to have one or more connecting wall(s) to a neighbour.

Duplex (Dual Occupancy) / Triplex

Duplex and triplex style homes typically have a street frontage. A duplex is 2 attached and/or semi-attached self-contained properties. A triplex is 3 attached and/or semi-attached self-contained properties.



Units / Townhouse

Units / townhouses contain more than 3 dwellings on a single lot. They can be single or double storey, attached or detached, and access may be shared, such as 1 driveway. Units and townhouses are generally managed by body corporate.



Attached

Attached dwellings are likely to have multiple connecting wall(s) and floors to one or more neighbours.

Apartments

Apartments include private dwellings (the apartment unit) and common property areas, such as a pool or patio space, with the common property generally managed by a body corporate. Apartments are often greater in height (2 or more floors), connecting the private spaces via lift and access to property via a shared lobby.



Other

Shop Top

A shop top home is 1 or more dwellings located above ground floor retail premises or business premises.



Granny Flat

A granny flat is a smaller second dwelling on the same lot of a larger, main home. A granny flat can be attached or detached to the main home. They typically accommodate 1 or 2 people.



Section 4: Supporting a thriving economy







Positioning Cairns

A thriving economy involves more than just providing jobs for the 72,000 new residents, some of whom are anticipated to move here for our lifestyle. It requires an understanding of the types of jobs available and the ability to attract and retain a diverse workforce to help the city achieve its vision.

This Directions Paper outlines several opportunities and catalysts for economic growth and prosperity. Capitalising on existing potential and infrastructure is crucial, particularly in large employment areas such as the Cairns South SDA, hospital, port and airport. These areas have the potential to attract significant investment and new opportunities, supporting future growth.

Citywide growth directions and options suggest that consolidated growth may need to be achieved by directing jobs and opportunities to specific areas. Creating jobs near residential zones can reduce travel times and infrastructure costs, enhancing overall efficiency.

A key factor for the city is its economic role within the State and the greater Pacific region. There is significant potential to leverage assets like the Cairns South SDA, port, hospital, airport and strategic land for investment in research and development, benefiting the broader region. For example, the attraction, development, activation and specialisation of smart green economy activities of a circular economy, net zero energy systems and biodiversity and carbon markets could assist Cairns to build a leadership position as the Green Capital of the North.

Labour force

Ensuring that Cairns has enough of the right jobs and opportunities in the right locations can be challenging. Cairns' existing workforce is largely made up of population servicing activities such as construction, health care and social assistance, education and training, and retail. As we plan for growth, we need to continue to support these uses, whilst we support opportunities for employment and industry diversification. In achieving this balance, our economies can thrive.

Population

With population growth comes increased demand for workforce participation. Cairns currently boasts higher rates of workforce participation when compared to the Queensland average, which is a reflection of the younger population base. In the future, an ageing population and projected increased outflow of young, skilled workers will create challenges to maintaining a sufficient workforce. To support the population through to 2050, Cairns must adapt to demographic changes and evolving employment needs. Notably, jobs in the health industry are expected to double in response to our changing population.

Land vacancy

Vacant land analysis across Cairns reveals that there are land supply deficits in well-established employment areas, such as the Cairns CBD and Surrounds catchment. On the other hand, our future growth areas (eg greenfield sites) indicate a surplus land supply. This suggests that we will experience a more dispersed workforce over the next 30 years. With limited options for economic expansion in existing areas, Cairns must strategise methods to absorb the additional growth in these areas.



Catalysts for economic growth

Economic clusters and strategic locations are crucial for job creation and economic resilience. Key areas such as the airport, port, hospital, Central Queensland University (CQU) and James Cook University (JCU), will anchor development, creating employment and supporting sustainable growth.

Port: The port area's industrial uses will be diversified, highlighted by the State's recent announcement to increase activity in maintaining defence vessels and superyachts. This diversification, and development of new opportunities for the port, further reinforce its role in driving economic growth for Cairns.

Airport: Cairns Airport is set to become a central hub for aviation and training sector jobs. Its strategic location supports the expansion of logistics and distribution networks, enhancing regional and international trade.

Hospital: A Cairns health and innovation precinct will expand services at Cairns Hospital, transitioning it to university status. Clustering health services, research facilities, and educational institutions will drive innovation and create employment opportunities. Accommodations for residents and visitors near the hospital are also crucial. Providing accommodation for residents and visitors near the hospital is crucial.

State Development Area: The Cairns South SDA has capacity to deliver significant land for industrial use. The SDA is conveniently located on the North Coast Line (railway) and Bruce Highway, facilitating efficient transport connections. It promotes industry attraction and project facilitation, particularly for those industries that are difficult to locate.

Barlow Park: Cairns' premier football and athletics facility has been earmarked as key infrastructure to support the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Beyond the Games, the site has the potential to attract an increased number of athletes and tourists.

What we have heard

Supporting a strong local economy was a common theme arising in the engagement activities. This feedback tells us that the Cairns community would like to see a prosperous local economy. Notably, approximately 45% of participants who were engaged in an online survey selected "a stronger and more diverse economy with greater employment opportunities" as an opportunity that excites them about planning for the growth of Cairns. The community sees the projected growth to 2050 as a driver to the success of a thriving economy.

As part of promoting a prosperous local economy, planning for a strong, more diverse economy with increased employment opportunities for the community is key. We must focus on our catalysts for economic growth, building upon our existing foundations to establish a thriving economy.

When asked about existing centres in Cairns,

29%

of all survey participants do not believe our existing centres support diverse business and employment types.

Studio THI, 2023

Future hopes for the economy

"Smart green economy"

"More diversification"

"New industries"

Community Feedback - Towards 2050: Shaping Cairns Growth Strategy

It is projected that by 2050
industry employment in Health
Care and Social Assistance will
have increased by approximately

77%

We have enough vacant land to
support most employment growth
to 2050. However, there is an under
supply of vacant industry land outside
of our future industry precincts.

Opportunities arising from our catalysts for economic growth

- Investment into smarter, greener economies, capitalising on Cairns' recognition as a biodiversity hotspot.
- Major Centres to accommodate greater diversity of commercial opportunities to increase the potential to work close to home.
- Broader mix of supporting warehousing, logistics and distribution/transport activities close to the Airport.
- Co-location and integration between the Cairns Hospital and health precinct with the remainder of the Cairns CBD.
- Potential for a neighbourhood centre in industrial employment centres (such as the Cairns South SDA) to cater to worker and business needs.
- International exposure for premier infrastructure and facilities, increasing patronage and attracting further investment.

to the needs of our evolving and diverse workforce, businesses, residents, and visitors within our centres. It is important to consider these aspects to remain competitive in the employment market. Remaining competitive leads to the attraction of quality workers, and helps to retain these quality workers within the workforce. It is time to think proactively and creatively.

Preparing for a thriving economy in Cairns requires strategic planning and targeted interventions across key precincts and sectors. By focusing on catalysts for growth and the evolving role of centres, Cairns can create a resilient and dynamic economy. The integration of health, education, and innovation precincts, coupled with the modernisation of industrial and employment land, will position Cairns as a leading economic hub in Far North Queensland. Investing in key catalysts will accelerate this transformation, ensuring sustainable economic growth and prosperity for the region.

Evolving role of centres

Cairns' centres are transforming into multi-functional hubs which integrate retail, entertainment, social spaces, health, and education. With scarce vacant land in existing employment areas, growth of our employment industries necessitate densification and/or increased building heights to accommodate the growth.

Modern industrial environments: Demand is rising for cleaner, greener industrial spaces. This shift in demand requires versatile designs to accommodate diverse business activities within industry precincts.

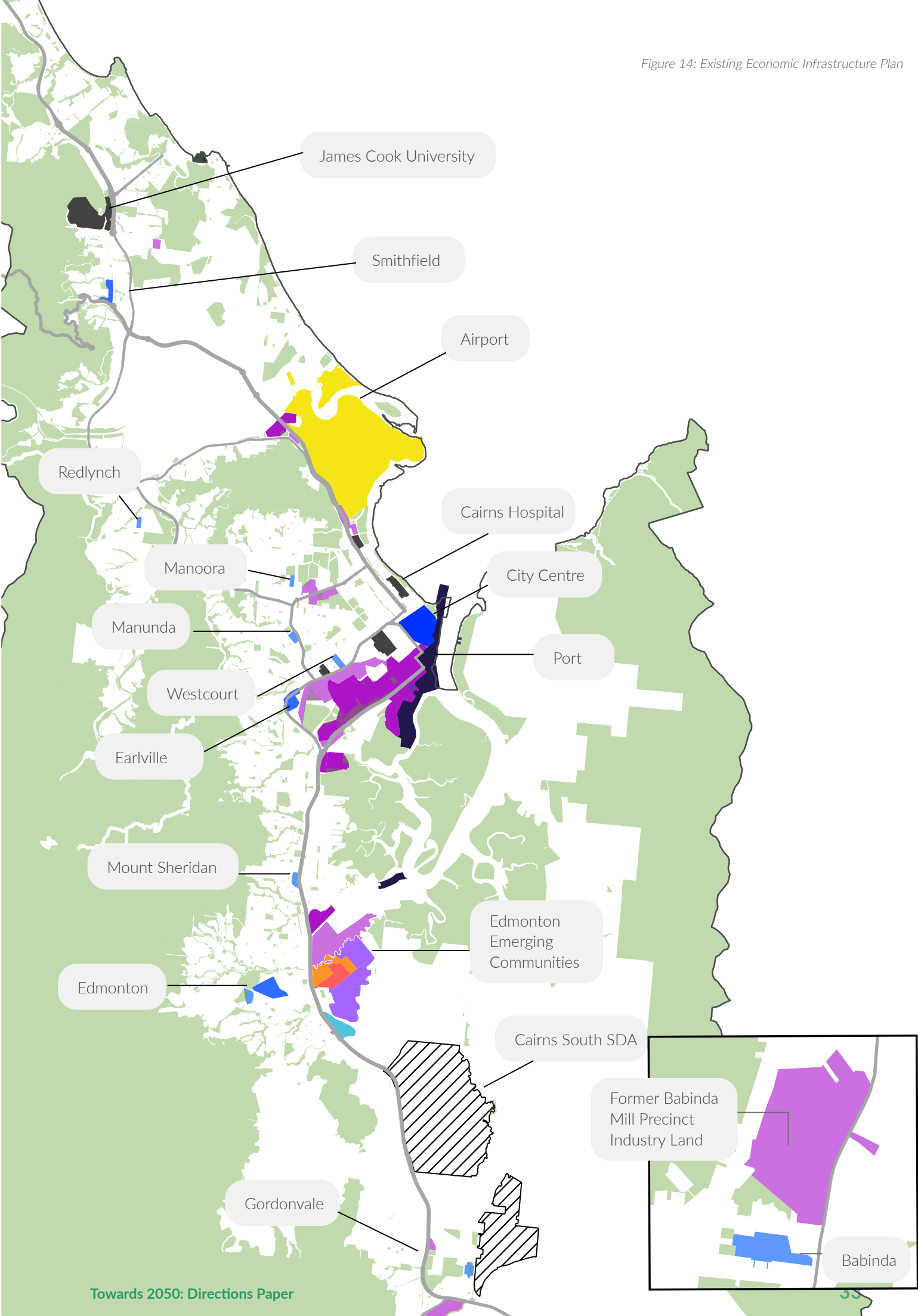
Impact of digital distribution channels: Digital and omnichannel retailing are reshaping consumer behaviour and centre design. E-commerce, drone delivery, and last-mile logistics require Cairns to adapt its planning strategies, transforming shopping centres into vibrant, multifunctional hubs.

Ensuring flexibility and adaptability: Cairns' strategy for growth must maintain the flexibility in the mix and array of activities that are encouraged within centres. Similarly, we must re-think how we cater

Legend

- Principal Centre
- Major Centre
- District Centre
- Specialised Centre
- Cairns South State Development Area
- High/Medium Impact Industry
- Low Impact Industry
- Waterfront and Marine Industry
- Strategic Port Land
- Cairns Airport Land
- Edmonton Industry & Business LP - Industry Employment
- Edmonton Industry & Business LP - Mixed Use Centre
- Edmonton Industry & Business LP - Business, Trades, and Service Employment
- Edmonton Industry & Business LP - Transport and High Impact Industries
- Conservation / Environmental Management / Open Space / Sport and Recreation
- Main Roads
- Cairns Regional Council LGA Boundary

Figure 14: Existing Economic Infrastructure Plan



Section 5: Recognising and respecting our diverse cultures and heritage





A snapshot of your 2050 community

Based upon the projected demographics, we have created the following personas to help you think about what the housing needs and desires of community members may look like in 2050. These projected demographics are drawn from both ABS data and the Housing Strategy developed as part of the suite of technical studies for the Growth Strategy. The desired housing outcomes reference the housing typologies outlined on pages 26-27.

These personas help us understand the diverse needs of our community into the future, guiding the growth direction of our neighbourhoods. Percentages below represent the projected increase in household types from 2021 to 2050. *What are the desires of these community members for where they live, work and play?*

Salonee & Jayden, Early 30s



Persona story

Salonee and Jayden are looking for a home with nearby public transport so they can get to work. They also want to be close to restaurants, a gym, and a local dog park. Jayden and Salonee both love to run, so they want to be in a shady and walkable neighbourhood and street. They need a home that accommodates working from home.

Desired housing options:

- Apartment
- Duplex / triplex
- Unit / townhouse

↑39%
couple with
no children

Cindy, Over 60s



Persona story

Cindy wants to downsize but stay in her suburb. She is looking for a home within walking distance to her local community centre where she frequently socialises. She loves hosting family gatherings. Cindy wants to continue living independently, so living close to a medical centre and neighbourhood centre is essential.

Desired housing options:

- Apartment
- Duplex / triplex
- Units / townhouse

↑54%
1 person
households

Destiny, Single Parent



Persona story

Destiny and her son, Solomon, are looking for a home that is affordable and easy to manage. Destiny wants to feel safe and be a part of a community that checks in on Solomon. Destiny wants to walk Solomon to school and be close to a park so he can play weekend sport. Destiny is a nurse and needs to catch Public transport to work.

Desired housing options:

- Apartment
- Duplex / triplex
- Units / townhouse
- Small lot housing

↑58%
single parent
households

Kingston, Late 20s



Persona story

Kingston is an electrician. He loves testing out new home improvement ideas. Kingston wants a home that requires minimal maintenance and can host dinner gatherings. Kingston wants to connect with his close friends at his local pub or club on a Friday, and with his wider friend group at run club on weekday mornings.

Desired housing options:

- Duplex / triplex
- Granny flat
- Shop top housing
- Units / townhouse

↑54%
1 person
households

Sigrid & Adam, Early 50s



Persona story

Sigrid and Adam have twin 12-year-olds and are looking for a home with space for each family member. The twins want space so they can have their friends over. Sigrid and Anna enjoy quality time walking in nature.

Desired housing options:

- Traditional housing
- Small lot housing

↑39%
couple with
children

The Cameron Family*



Persona story

The Cameron Family includes ageing grandparents, Karen and Tristan, Uncle Ray, and 2 kids. They are looking for a home that accommodates their multi-generational needs. The grandparents need to be on a single-level, with access to the kitchen. Uncle Ray would like some independence with a private entrance. They need access to local parks for the kids, and also to connect with their community.

Desired housing options:

- Traditional housing with granny flat or multi-generational detached family house

** Note: the current Census does not have a category for multi-generational households. It is important to identify these groups as we know they are a growing household, particularly with our multi-cultural community.*

Krystal, Young Adult



Persona story

After high school, Krystal moved to Cairns to start university, studying a Bachelor of Science at James Cook University. Krystal is looking for an affordable living option, given she will not be able to work full-time due to study commitments. Krystal would like to rent a home with other students to allow her to meet new people and keep living costs down. She doesn't have a car, so needs to be in walking distance or located along a public transport route to travel between locations. Krystal would like to be located near recreational and entertainment facilities to give her more opportunities to relax and socialise.

Desired housing options:

- Apartment
- Duplex/ triplex
- Unit / townhouse

↑68%
group
households

Our cultural heritage identity

The growth projected for Cairns indicates an increase in our population diversity. Population diversity promotes investment in community and cultural infrastructure and services that benefit the wider community. 2021 census data from the ABS informs Cairns' Cultural Snapshot below. This snapshot highlights Cairns' diverse community and its evolution over the years.

With Cairns' evolving population, it is critical that we accommodate for our communities diverse needs.

Cairns cultural snapshot

Numbers are all approximate and sourced from ABS Census Data 2021.



16,150

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population

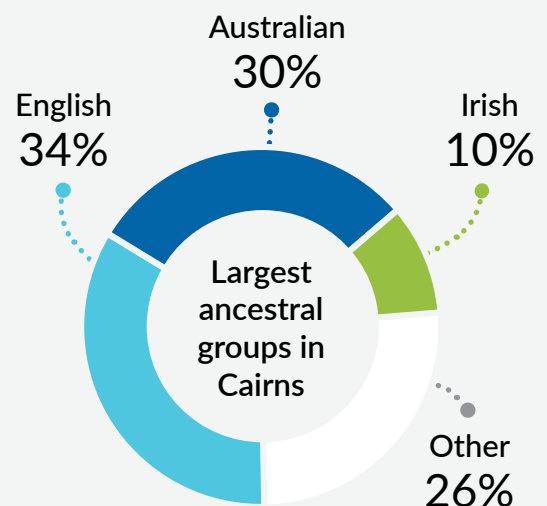
+2,000 from 2016



22.3%

born overseas

+10.9% between 2017-2021



Papua New Guinea

largest non-English speaking country of birth

1.4% of the population



14.1%

speak a language other than English at home

+13% between 2016-2021



Japanese

dominant language used at home other than English

1.4% of the population

Largest changes in reported ancestries of the population of Cairns



Australian First Peoples

+9,990

between 2016 - 2021



Torres Strait Islanders

+5,600

between 2016 - 2021

Largest changes in birthplace countries between 2016 and 2021:



+480 India



+440 United Kingdom



+330 Philippines



+200 Thailand

* Data shows discrepancy in additional population of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander from reported ancestries. This is assumed to be due to an increase of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population identifying their ancestry that are already residing in Cairns.

The voices of First Peoples

In planning for the future of our city, we must recognise that the places we inhabit today hold stories and histories from time immemorial and that these continue in culture today. We recognise the Traditional Owners of our region in being our first planners, architects, agriculturalists and place shapers, in having shaped and cared for Country for over 65,000 years. We respect past and continuing practices in caring for Country, and acknowledge there is much to be shared and learned as we consider our current relationship to our environment.

It is also important to recognise that our region holds memory of trauma caused by colonisation, and that these histories also continue to impact communities today.

It is essential to include voices of Traditional Custodians, Elders and those emerging in the conversations about how best to shape our shared future and pay respect to our past. The Towards 2050 Growth Strategy seeks genuine dialogue with the region's First Peoples community to build a picture of what is important to consider in policy, planning and on-ground outcomes.

So far, this has involved conversations with Council's First Peoples Advisory Committee (FPAC) about the project, to shaping the types of conversations that need to happen for open and safe dialogue. As well as discussions with FPAC, we also ensured that First People's voices were heard in the Community Summit (10.7% of attendees identified as First Peoples) and Community Panel (9% of Panel members identify as First Peoples).

We recognise that this is the very beginning of the conversation and that there is much more to learn and share. Following on from the conversations to date, we have planned a series of invitations for further conversations to occur. This includes dedicated First Peoples gatherings and conversations with First Peoples representatives in our Stakeholder Panel workshops and our Community and Youth Summits.

We look forward to continuing the conversation.

FPAC's hopes for 2050:

- *First Peoples leading discussions on issues impacting First Peoples*
- *Emphasis on First Peoples' connection to Country and culture*
- *Tropical design that respects and protects the environment*
- *Renewable energy and sustainable industries*

FPAC's concerns for 2050:

- *Crime and safety*
- *Climate change*
- *Over-development*
- *Inaccessible property market*

Section 6: Creating great tropical neighbourhoods







What we have heard

A clear picture of what Cairns is, and its meaning to the community has emerged from insights shared through community engagement.

There were 4 clear themes that emerged from community engagement during Phases 1 and 2, further defining the feeling of what Cairns is. The themes are:

1. Relaxed Lifestyle.
2. Tropical Climate.
3. Unique Natural Environment.
4. Strong Community.

These prominent themes from community members emphasised the desire to protect what Cairns is loved for – its identity.

We believe that the Cairns identity can be enhanced as we grow, focusing planning and management for growth through the guiding principles, and capitalising on unique growth opportunities.





Maintaining Cairns' identity through tropical neighbourhoods

Cairns means many things to many people. Whatever your reason for living, working, and enjoying Cairns, most agree that it's the natural landscape and lifestyle opportunities that make it feel like 'home'.

How do we keep connected to our nature and environment as the city grows? How do we respond to climatic factors eg heat in the design of our buildings?

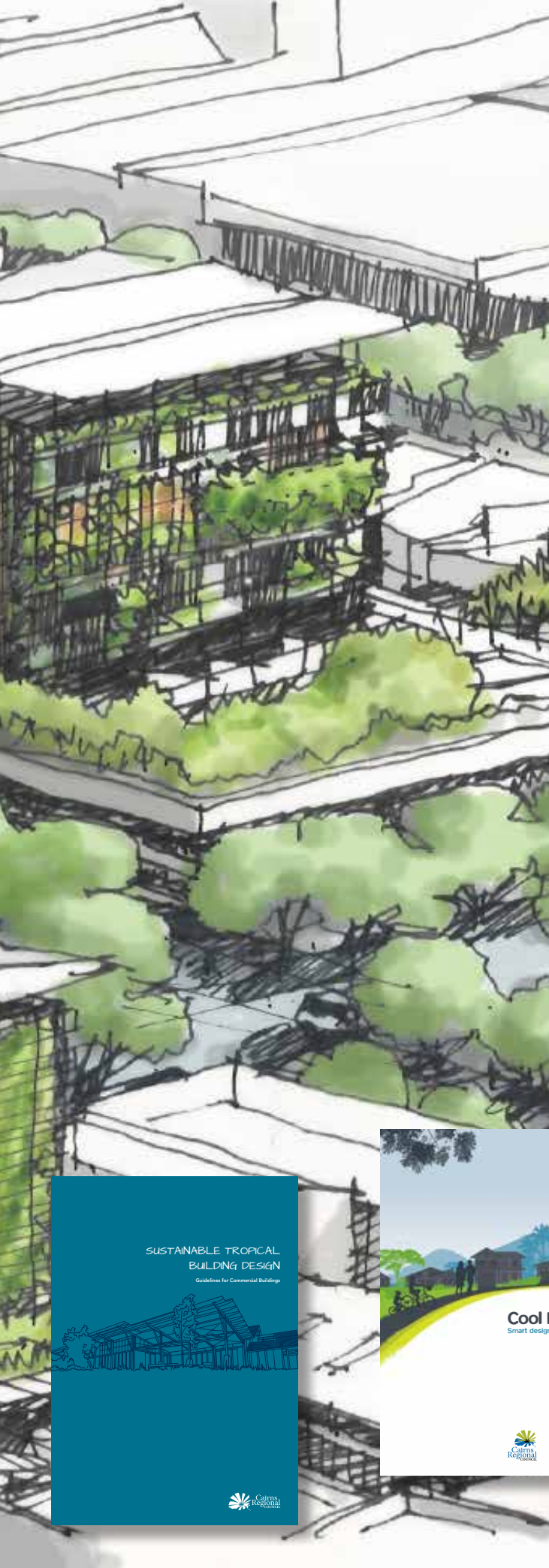
Tropical Urbanism can help us integrate nature and the community within our built environments. Cairns is the only city in both Queensland and Australia whose climate is classified as Wet Tropics.

What is Tropical Urbanism?

Tropical Urbanism is the integration of landscape and tropical design elements into the built environment. It is a climate responsive approach to design which can improve the way we respond to climate conditions within our built environment which can be integrated through a number of initiatives:

- Green, green and a lot more green. Providing green spaces such as green parks, verges, and green features on buildings helps achieve natural cooling to the localised climate.
- Orientation and widths of streets influence ventilation and breezes, which when designed correctly, can reduce heating from buildings caused by direct sun exposure, keeping us cool and comfortable on the ground.
- Climate responsive architecture with deep shady overhangs, colonnades, arcades, courtyards, verandahs, and balconies to provide sun protection and funnel cooling breezes.



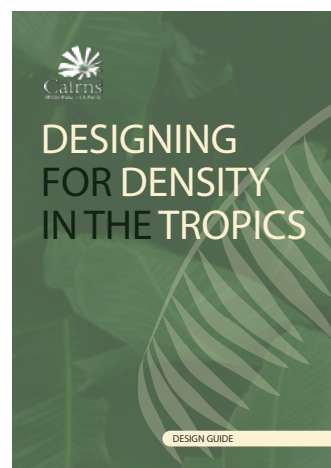


What have we done to accommodate Tropical Urbanism up until now?

Tropical Urbanism is not a new buzz phrase for designing our built environment. The iconic 'Queenslander' home responds directly to the climate through orientation, materiality, and layout of space. We have promoted aspects of Tropical Urbanism in previous strategies including:

- Planning Scheme Policy – Tropical Urbanism
- Designing for Density in the Tropics
- Cairns Style Design Guide
- Cool Homes: Smart Design for the Tropics
- Sustainable Tropical Building Design

Currently, the CairnsPlan 2016 incorporates these strategies through site coverage, landscaping requirements, built form responses, and setbacks. There are multiple examples in the Cairns City Centre of good Tropical Urbanism, such as the Esplanade, the Gallery Precinct, and Florence Street. However, for the Growth Strategy, we are investigating a neighbourhood level approach, with greater focus on adopting Tropical Urbanism in the suburbs.



Why is Tropical Urbanism important?

Climate impacts on how we orientate our streets and homes, how we design for stormwater, footpath, cycleways and parks. It affects how we design our homes, the materials we use and how the house will be cooled in summer. It is fundamental to ensuring we design for sustainable and resilient communities, either existing or future.

Walkable neighbourhoods

Which street in Cairns would you chose to walk down if both routes took the same time? The one with trees, or the one without? Creating walkable neighbourhoods has additional benefits to combating heat, including:

- increased access to green space;
- improved physical health;
- increased feelings of community connection;
- improved mental health;
- safer streets, through increased activation along the street;
- less car reliance;
- accessibility for our young people and elderly

population by providing comfortable streets and publicly accessible activation of our green spaces;

- valuing biodiversity and bringing the nature we love to our doorstep; and
- facilitating habitable spaces for native fauna.

Neighbourhood character

The neighbourhoods we love are often characterised by its landscape that is lush and green, typical of the Wet Tropics.

Landscaped neighbourhoods tend to be attractive to live, work, and play in, due to their comfortable, cool and attractive street characteristics. A local example is the suburb of Edge Hill. Edge Hill is well-loved, with its identity characterised by quality landscaping. Due to its appeal for community members, economic and cultural uplift is encouraged as a by-product of the suburb's attractiveness and comfortability.

Tropical Urbanism should be embraced at all levels and should not be limited to the building or street. There needs to be a collective approach to designing our urban environments that strongly promotes appropriate landscaping and built form requirements throughout Cairns.

More of this ...



Suburban



Urban

Image sources: Collins Avenue, Edge Hill, Cairns, Flickr; Google maps

What Tropical Urbanism is not ...

It is not just about the architecture

Tropical Urbanism is not just an architectural response. At its core, it is about how we live in our environment. Our lifestyle.

Its not just about taller buildings either. It is about creating focused areas providing housing choice and diversity, and because more people wish to live there, it provides opportunities for local cafes, shops and community facilities to establish.

Our unique climate, landscape and community

The Far North Queensland Wet Tropics climate is unique to Australia. Our approach to designing our neighbourhoods needs to respond to this specific local climate and character.

Yet, many of our planning codes and documents do not reflect the qualities and characteristics of Cairns. Many of these will need to be challenged to ensure we have a climate responsive approach to future growth.

Understanding the opportunities which come from a Tropical Urbanism approach to designing and managing Cairns future neighbourhoods empowers everyone involved as guardians of Cairns and its future.

Less of this ...



Suburban



Urban

Image sources: Doughendrie.com.au via google images; Google maps

Key 'Anchors' - a look at our diverse lifestyles

Anchors are destinations that individuals value for their everyday needs. They are important considerations for Tropical Urbanism as they inform our diverse community needs and are a necessary tool to understand growth priorities for a community.

Kingston, Late 20s



- Green space for run clubs
- Neighbourhood centre
- Restaurants, cafes - social lifestyle
- Bus stop
- Bike paths

The Cameron Family



- Neighbourhood centre
- Medical facilities
- Park
- Bus stop
- School
- Childcare

Salonee & Jayden, Early 30s



- Bars, cafes - social lifestyle
- Active lifestyle - green space, running trails and gym
- Dog park
- Bus stop

Cindy, Over 60s



- Medical facilities
- Neighbourhood centre
- Community centre
- Active lifestyle - green space, walking trails, public pool

Krystal, Young Adult



- Social lifestyle - restaurant, bars, cafes
- Education lifestyle - university, library
- Bus stop, cycle paths
- Active lifestyle - gym, walking trails

Destiny, Single Parent

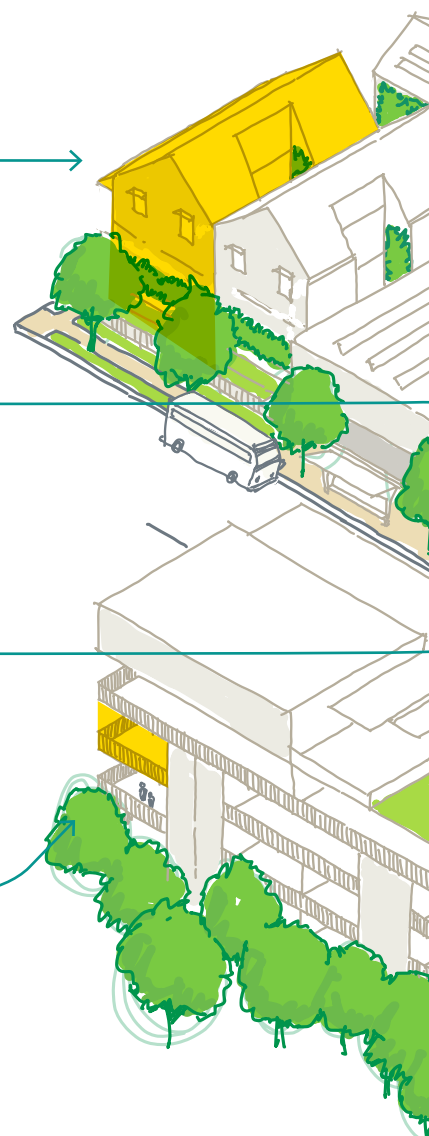


- School
- Neighbourhood centre
- Park
- Bus stop
- Library
- Shops

Sigrid & Adam, Early 50s



- Active lifestyle - green space, walking trails
- Neighbourhood centre
- Leisure lifestyle - restaurant, cafes, art galleries



How can we increase the diversity of housing, services and amenity in our neighbourhood to accommodate our future needs?

Positioning high and medium-densities around public space and parks allows for clustering of activities in the park, encouraging safety, community connection, cultural activation, and health and well-being.

Mixed-use development (combining residential and commercial) combined with high-density centred around amenity allows for economic resilience, day and night activation, and safety.

Significant trees, green vertical walls, and verge planting promotes comfortable and cooling environments for walkable activities as well as encouraging biodiversity to thrive.

High-density allows for greater opportunities for community to cluster around important key anchors, such as lifestyle and employment opportunities.

Attached dwellings promote people to experience their neighbourhood and utilise community facilities. This encourages safety and sense of belonging through activation of the neighbourhood and opportunities for connection.

Public transport infrastructure provides access to destinations of employment and lifestyle opportunities. Conversely, it reduces reliance on cars. This promotes a healthier lifestyle, and increases feelings of safety through improved activation and walkability of the street. Increased public transport and walkability rates also reduces costs associated with maintaining and operating private motor vehicles.

Section 7: Delivering sustainable infrastructure





Infrastructure needs for growth

Taking a look at our projections, we need to appropriately plan ahead for growth.

The effective and efficient delivery of infrastructure is critical to ensure a sustainable and resilient future. The distribution of 72,000 new residents will impact on a variety of infrastructure requirements, some of which include;

- roads
- bus stops
- bridges
- waste water treatment
- potable water
- power
- schools
- parks
- libraries
- swimming pools
- community activity spaces

Much of this infrastructure will be provided by new developments such as local streets and parks. At a Citywide level, we need to look at the provision and location of key facilities such as libraries and community activity spaces.

Are we going to promote increased rates of active and public transport through improved pedestrian connections and broader public transport catchments?

Do we locate community activities with increased housing choice to encourage liveability and incentivise the development of our urban villages?

Movement network

As we look forward to 2050, to support a growing population, our built environment will evolve. With a growing need for homes, community facilities and other infrastructure, an increased pressure is placed on our existing movement and transport networks.

With the majority of the population commuting by private motor vehicle, we need to take a close look at how our future transport infrastructure will evolve. Public transport was a key theme from the community engagement, when asked what residents don't like about Cairns. The Growth Strategy presents an opportunity to establish more desirable public transport options.

In partnership with Cairns Regional Council, the State Government is preparing a Transport Study to investigate the broader movement network for Cairns, and how this may look by 2050. This study will test how growth scenarios will impact on the movement network and provide recommendations to this study.

Community infrastructure

Increased need and demand will require the city to build and deliver a range of new facilities to meet the growing demand. Understanding where the growth is to be accommodate will help to locate these new facilities and the need to potentially upgrade existing facilities.

Across Cairns, the analysis of community facilities and open spaces found that these facilities are often co-located with other infrastructure, and situated in close proximity to other services and amenities, creating a highly accessible network.

The establishment of co-locating new community hubs can improve efficiency by attracting compatible uses, supporting partnerships, and resource sharing between different service providers.

2050 potential new facilities based on projected growth

With population growth comes investment in additional facilities to respond to the increase in community needs. This can include upgraded and/or new health and wellbeing facilities (eg recreation and sports parks), community facilities (eg libraries) and cultural facilities (eg museums and art galleries). Figure 15 demonstrates that with our future community, it is not only about what their housing needs are, but how this growth is a catalyst for increased amenity for the future community.

Community spaces

New and upgraded community spaces and libraries promote affordable services and spaces to allow for training and education, community groups and safe space to connect with community.

- 10 new community activity spaces
- 1 upgraded / expanded community space
- 1 new library
- 3 upgraded / expanded libraries

Health & wellbeing

As we grow our access to health and wellbeing infrastructure such as parks and sporting facilities is critical to promote physical, social and mental resilience for the greater community.

- 13 upgraded / expanded recreation parks
- 1 upgraded / expanded sports park
- 3 new aquatic facilities
- 1 new recreation park

Cultural facilities

Connection to our growing and diverse cultural identity is important to connect to the history, and cultural significance of the landscape and community.

- 2 upgraded / expanded art galleries
- 1 upgraded / expanded museum



Figure 15: 2050 potential new facilities based on QGSO projected growth

Section 8: Improving our resilience to natural hazards and climate change





Growth in the Wet Tropics - built form and urban settlement challenges

Responding to the risk of natural hazards is central to planning for Cairns' future growth. The Cairns Citywide Area is susceptible to a wide range of hazards, as was evidenced by the flooding and threat of storm surge from Tropical Cyclone Jasper (December 2023).

Significant parts of the existing urban area, including the Central Cairns catchment, are subject to flood, coastal erosion, and storm tide hazards. On the other hand, bushfire and landslide hazards pose a threat to the perimeter of the Cairns Citywide Area and the Rural Residential communities. Furthermore, rising higher temperatures and more frequent hotter days are and will be continue to impact neighbourhoods across Cairns.

The implications of these hazards are critical to how we manage future development and growth within the existing urban area and in new growth areas. Future development should avoid the hazards where it can, and reasonably mitigate and manage the risks to support Cairns' future resilience to hazard events.

Five natural hazard risk assessments have been undertaken to identify the susceptibility of areas to flood, coastal erosion, landslide hazard, storm tide inundation, and bushfire. Initial draft mapping generated as part of these risk assessments and associated findings will inform Cairns' Growth Strategy and a future planning scheme amendment. This will provide contemporary information to determine the current and future projected impacts of hazards, enabling planning policies that are cognisant of natural constraints.

Our investigations have found that:

- Significant parts of existing urban areas are affected by flood and storm tide inundation, with some of these areas important economic precincts for tourism, commercial activity, and industry.
- Development in hazard risk areas requires the consideration of 'relative benefits and risks' prior to intensification of housing in the Inner City and other hazard affected areas.
- Coastal erosion is a long-term risk for beachside communities. These risks are generally compounded by sea level rise and storm surge.
- The areas most affected by bushfire and landslide risk are adjacent to hill slopes, on the periphery of Cairns' urban area and in rural residential areas, where further growth and development is unlikely. As such, these risks are unlikely to significantly affect settlement pattern options or housing capacity for the Cairns Citywide Area overall.
- There are also several existing critical infrastructure facilities at significant risk of multiple hazards, including the airport, the hospital, water and sewerage treatment plants, and the port.

The risk assessments facilitate an evidence-based approach to land use policy aiming to minimise the exposure of vulnerable land uses (eg childcare centre, residential care, hospital, tourist attraction) and other development to hazards. Where avoiding a hazard is not feasible, future development needs to be appropriately designed and located to ensure adequate mitigation measures are undertaken to reduce vulnerability to acceptable levels and enhance community resilience. Effective land use policy plays an important role in reducing the adverse impacts of natural hazards, enhancing community resilience, and promoting sustainable development practices.

Future resilience

Establishing resilience for the Cairns Citywide Area is critical to protect people and places from hazards into the future.

Resilience is a measure of our ability to withstand exposure to hazards such as flood and fire. The technical studies prepared as part of the Growth Strategy have identified key responses and strategies for improving our resilience.

Both mitigation and adaptation solutions will be essential in delivering resilient outcomes for Cairns and will need to be a priority as we move forward to future planning and development regulation.

What does resilient planning look like?

- Protection of Rural, Conservation, and Open Space areas to maintain flood conveyance and storage capacity.
- Appropriate levels and scales of development along the coastline, particularly in coastal erosion risk and storm tide inundation areas.
- Mitigate and manage flood, coastal erosion, and storm tide hazards in tandem.
- Strategies to address lower risk hazards such as landslide and hillslope at a site basis (considered lower risk due to the dispersion and intensity).
- New development and growth capitalising on existing urban areas and avoiding encroachment into bushland areas that pose greater bushfire risk to people and property.
- Focus growth in low hazard areas where possible.
- Strategies to address flood, coastal erosion and storm tide hazards at a broader scale – focus approaches and strategies for the Cairns Citywide Area instead of site based responses.
- Adopting Tropical Urbanism design approaches to deliver neighbourhoods and housing products that are resilient to climate and natural hazard impacts.

When we understand the relationship between growth and its benefits, with the responsibility of ensuring we are not inadvertently and irreparably impacting on our home to create short sighted economic benefit. Once we acknowledge our collective roles as Guardians of this land for future generations we can begin to understand both the benefit of development but also its cost.

T2050 Consortia



Section 9: Protecting our natural environment







What we have heard

Our community values are deeply underpinned by Cairns' connection to the natural environment.

Beyond this, the natural environment is a key asset for Cairns and the community. It is important that the strategic direction for growth is embraced through a Blue + Green lens, protecting and enhancing the unique and much-loved natural environment that is a core part of our regional identity.

Across the Online Survey, Youth Summit, Community Summit and Pop-up Events, **Natural Environment** was one of the top 2 things community members love about Cairns.

Impact from Natural Hazards was listed in the top 4 things you don't love about Cairns.

Protection of the Natural Environment was a top concern identified by community participants for Cairns by 2050.

"What makes it special is what makes it unique... 2 World Heritage Areas on its doorstep: the reef and the wet tropics rainforest. Planning must carefully protect both."

"Laid back lifestyle, climate, proximity to nature."

"The weather, the community spirit, cafe and restaurants, the esplanade, the proximity of the reef"

Community Feedback - Towards 2050: Shaping Cairns Growth Strategy



What do you love about living in Cairns?

We asked, and you answered. We identified the top reasons you love living in Cairns, categorised by engagement type.

Online Survey

1. Relaxed Lifestyle
2. Natural Environment
3. Tropical Climate
4. Community and Social Networks

Community Summit

1. Natural Environment
2. Size, Scale and Amenity
3. Relaxed Lifestyle
4. Community and Social Networks

Youth Summit

1. Natural Environment
2. Sport and Recreation Opportunities
3. Community and Social Networks
4. Public Spaces

Pop-events

1. Relaxed Lifestyle
2. Natural Environment
3. Community
4. Beaches and Ocean

Figure 14: Top things the community loves about Cairns, categorised by engagement type, drawn from community feedback during Phase 1 and Phase 2 engagement throughout 2022 and 2023.



Blue + Green - environmental processes as a key driver of change

Our environment and climate is continually changing. These changes can impact our decision-making and future planning in a number of ways.

Green spaces - Our green spaces are abundant. Cairns supports diverse green spaces, ranging from the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Wet Tropics, to local parks, through to our backyards. How these spaces are maintained, protected, and used all inter-relate to our drivers for change. We see urban areas, particularly in our new housing estates, compromising opportunities for trees which further contribute to heat island effects. Our urban environments are becoming warmer, with hard, dark surfaces increasing heat absorption. Adopting a guardianship approach and planning for development through a Blue + Green lens presents opportunity to minimise these impacts, protect the Cairns identity and improve liveability.

Waterways and blue elements - Urban development impacts on the way water moves and interacts with the land it travels through. Exemplary practices of planning for and managing waterways and blue elements among urban development have adopted a 'touch lightly approach', where minimal impact on waterways and natural conditions are the desired practice. Shifting the focus to water quality and the retention and acquisition of viable Blue + Green corridors within the urban fabric is a critical step in ensuring that environmental processes are not catastrophically impacted through growth. The proximity and downstream impacts on the Great Barrier Reef heighten the responsibility to ensure this World Heritage treasure is retained for future generations to come.

Biodiversity - Cairns is admired for its connection to the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Wet Tropics, being globally recognised and unique to Northern Queensland. The tropical climate establishes ideal conditions for tropical rainforests and rich biodiversity. The unique characteristics and concentrations of biodiversity make the Wet Tropics extremely important, although highly vulnerable to change. Increases in localised temperatures through vegetation clearing and heat absorbing materials such as bitumen has a direct impact on flora and fauna, that are highly vulnerable to localised changes to their environment and ecology.

When we take the role of guardians, we acknowledge our responsibility for the welfare and livelihood of the diverse flora and fauna found across Cairns. Urban development and biodiversity protection is often at conflict. With more than 140 threatened species across Cairns (this number is anticipated to rise due to urban impacts), it is critical that we emphasise the need to manage growth, without compromising the protection of our biodiversity values.

Climate change - Future projections confirm increased temperatures, extreme rainfall events, increased intensity of cyclones, and increased sea level rise. The impact of these evolving climatic events on our natural habitat and environments poses a significant risk to their vitality.

As we manage and plan for growth, we must balance the interests of our residents, flora and fauna. Planning and managing growth through a Blue + Green lens will help us create the sustainable and resilient places we desire.

The extent of existing Blue + Green within the Cairns Citywide Area is shown on this plan. This highlights the importance of preserving and enhancing these areas as we move forward with growth. The existing tropical conditions and unique biodiversity that we cherish depends on it.

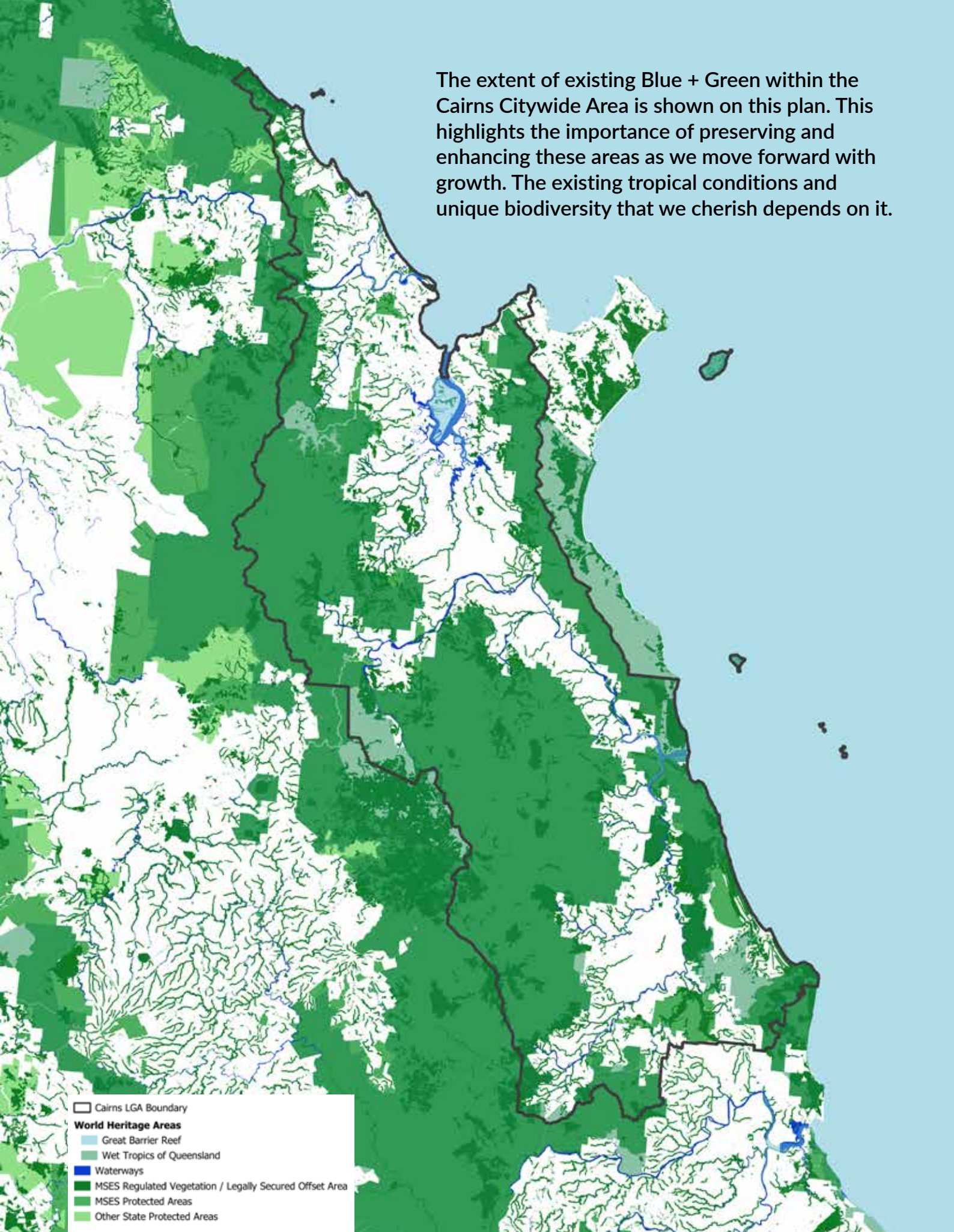
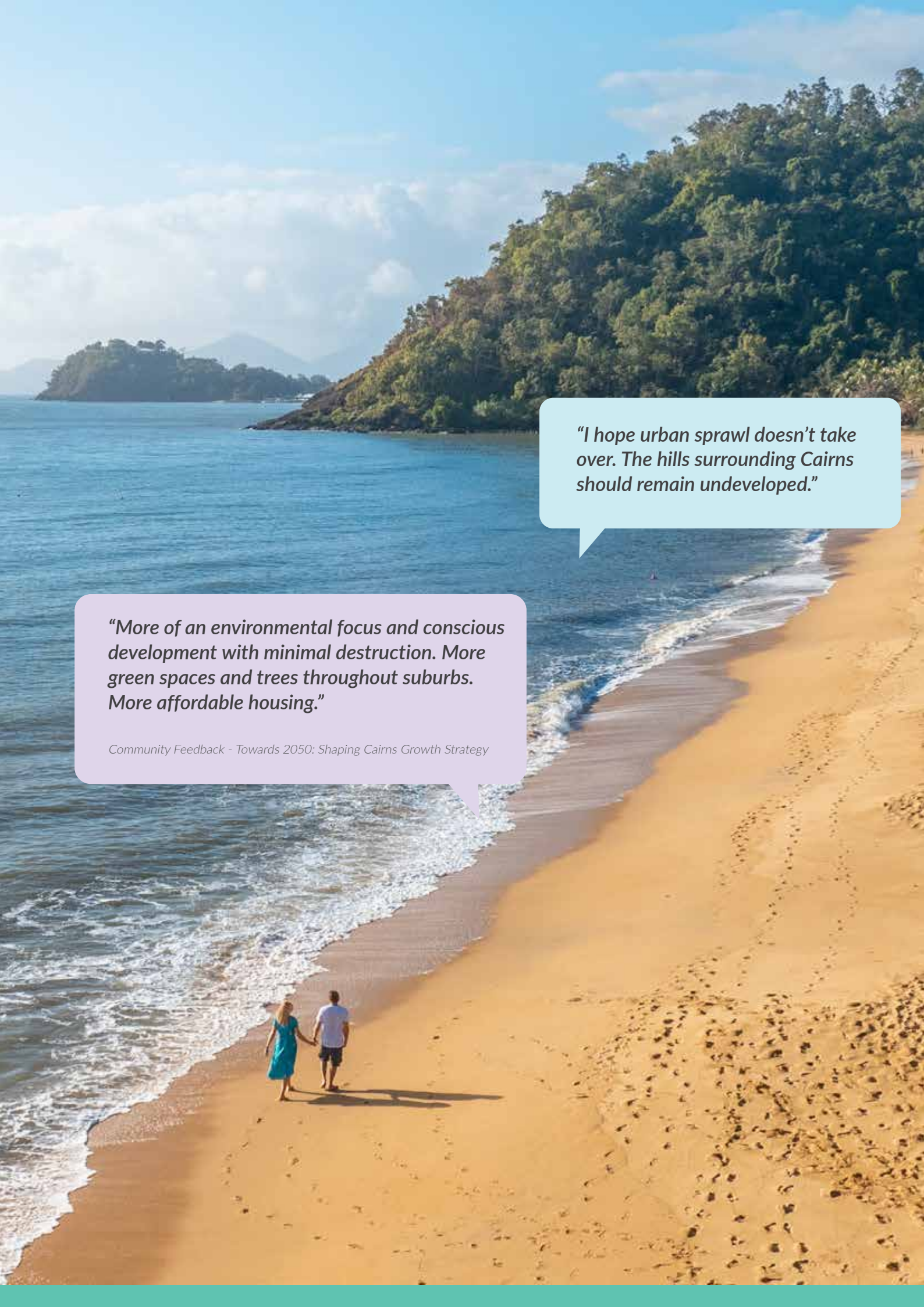


Figure 16 : Map illustrating the extent of our Blue + Green assets.



"I hope urban sprawl doesn't take over. The hills surrounding Cairns should remain undeveloped."

"More of an environmental focus and conscious development with minimal destruction. More green spaces and trees throughout suburbs. More affordable housing."

Community Feedback - Towards 2050: Shaping Cairns Growth Strategy

Integrating Blue + Green

By incorporating more Blue + Green into the urban landscape, we can create a cooler environment, improve air quality, and enhance overall comfort for residents and visitors.

Blue + Green elements also lead to increased social and economic benefits, such as increased recreational opportunities, improved mental well-being and physical health, and enhanced local economies.

Does Cairns have a future role in the Asia-Pacific region as a leader in Blue + Green innovation, circular economy, and research and development?



Figure 17: Benefits of the Blue + Green

Source: Shires of Golden Plains, Central Goldfields, Pyrenees and Moorabool, Central Highlands Water and the Department of Environment, Land Water and Planning, 2021, Green Blue Infrastructure Guide.

The scenic qualities of Cairns, including the 'blue' (the coast, rivers, waterfalls and ocean) and the 'green' (National Parks, rainforests, and open space) are highly valued by residents and visitors.

Blue + Green areas have the potential to attract significant economic activity to a local community. This is a great opportunity for Blue + Green elements to act complementary to our built environments and infrastructure, enhancing their natural function. This needs to be sensitively managed as to not undermine their value and function.

We have some great examples of effectively integrating Blue + Green infrastructure into the Cairns Citywide Area. Landmarks such as the lagoon and Esplanade, Shields Street Heart and Lake Street demonstrate how we can blend urban development with nature. This blend makes Cairns more beautiful and functional.

A series of forward-thinking policies and guidelines have been prepared for the Cairns Citywide Area, aiming to promote sustainability and resilience of our urban environments. Policies and guidelines such as Designing for Density in the Tropics, the Cairns City Centre Master Plan 2019, Planning Scheme Policy: Tropical Urbanism and the CairnsPlan 2016, strive to achieve a built environment that is characterised by tropical designs and surrounded by nature.

However, despite some successes achieved through these policies and projects, significant challenges persist in effectively implementing and integrating Blue + Green initiatives across the Cairns Citywide Area.

Potential challenges and barriers to using more widespread use of these initiatives include:

- funding and costs;
- disconnection between differing level of government initiatives;
- lack of awareness and knowledge; and
- reluctance to support new approaches.

Section 10: Citywide urban growth directions

An invitation to have a conversation on what direction we should take





Key considerations as we move to our urban growth directions and options

A suite of growth directions for the whole of Cairns Citywide Area and options specific to Northern Beaches and surrounds, Central Cairns, and Southern Corridor are outlined in Sections 10 and 11 of this paper.

The directions and options have been informed through a set of factors, which contemplate aspects associated with growth potential, aspirations and projected needs. Looking forward to the growth of Cairns, we need to maintain a holistic approach that addresses a diverse range of considerations, which have been explored in this paper.

Summary of key considerations for growth

1. Cairns is growing – Projections approximate that we will need an additional 33,300 homes across the Cairns Citywide Area by 2050.
2. Protecting and enhancing natural assets - Our blue and green assets are what we value most about the Cairns Citywide Area.
3. Houses to meet our needs - Household size is on the decline, decreasing from 2.73 persons per household in 1991 to 2.43 persons in 2021.
4. Great tropical neighbourhoods - We love our tropical climate and we want our housing estates to reflect it.
5. Improving our economic and social life - Employment opportunities in the healthcare sector are expected to double by 2050, and our desire to establish cleaner and greener industries is increasing. *What are our other opportunities?*
6. Land availability for employment and centres in existing, denser urban areas is scarce, while those areas with lower density offer surplus land.
7. Preparing for natural hazards - Existing urban areas are significantly impacted by natural hazards, including flood and storm tide inundation making it more difficult, with much of the land around Mount Peter relatively free of hazard risk.
8. Moving people around our city - Co-locating work, home and anchors within close proximity to work to reduce reliance on private vehicles and help make public transport more appealing.
9. Create new urban and suburban areas that can facilitate the desire and demand for high frequency public transport.



Where do we focus our future growth ?

At the heart of our planning lies the future role and support of the City centre. As the primary destination for tourism, employment, entertainment, accommodation and lifestyle, our strategy encompasses various approaches to bolster the centre's significance and growth.

This section concentrates on where growth could be focused at a city level. The 3 possible citywide directions are;

- Building upon the foundations
- Resilient centres
- A Compact city with a southern focus

The current planning scheme, CairnsPlan 2016, has capacity within the existing zoning to accommodate anticipated development growth to 2050.

However, the Growth Strategy seeks to strengthen the approach to planning for growth that strategically and carefully considers the impacts of various hazards on development, its viability, and where growth is desired. This will allow us to re-focus growth potential and support resilient, vibrant and prosperous future development in the right locations.

Growth and determining where it should be focused is a complex process of balancing constraints with the opportunity and character of the city. There is no single solution but rather, it is likely to be a combination of a range of initiatives.

The following sections discuss how this growth could be achieved. These options are based around Northern Beaches and Surrounds, Central Cairns and Surrounds, and the Southern Corridor.

Technical studies highlight that large areas of the region are heavily impacted by natural hazards ,while other areas remain largely unaffected. Residents have known this for some time. Areas heavily impacted include some of the city's more important assets, such as the hospital, airport, and CBD. Balancing the desire to place growth in areas that are less impacted by natural hazards against looking to find solutions to ensure those important city areas remain vibrant, accessible, and functional is key to this strategy.

In understanding the various natural hazards and significant vegetation footprint in Cairns beginning with the *Federal Environment Protection and Biodiversity and Conservation Act* (EPBC) and addressing the Matters of State Environmental Significance (MSES), an overall plan has been developed to help illustrate areas that are relatively free of constraints as well as important areas we may need to invest in to ensure long-term suitability (Figure 18). Included within the hazard area on the map are storm water, flood, coastal erosion, storm surge bushfire, landslip and Matters of State Environmental Significance (MSES) that will have an impact on future development.

Once we start to identify areas best suited for growth, we need to consider what this growth looks like at a catchment level, with the following sections showing options across the Northern, Central and Southern Areas of Cairns.

The Growth Strategy needs to determine the focus of growth and development moving forward, understanding the land and its challenges.

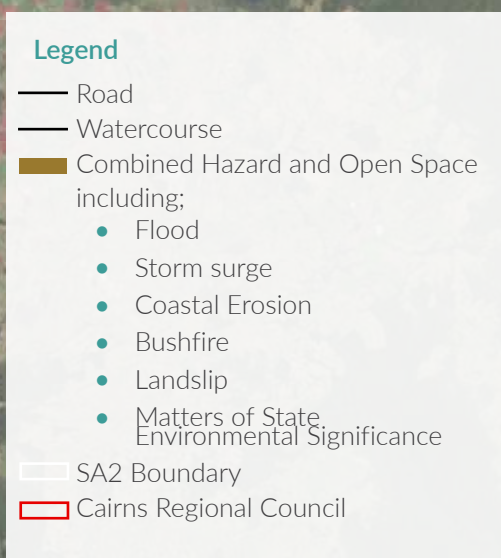


Figure 18: Map showing combined MSES and land impacted by hazards



1

Growth around existing centres

Prioritise road networks

Significant capacity to house new growth within existing inner city suburbs

Mount Peter growth area

Growth Direction 1 - Building upon the foundations

This direction builds on the principles of the planning scheme and is reflected by the general type of development that is occurring within Cairns. The CairnsPlan 2016 identifies two key strategies; concentrating new housing estates and greenfield development in Mount Peter and its surrounds, and plans for higher density in existing residential areas that is spread across the region. This direction looks at retaining this approach.

The CairnsPlan 2016 reflects the current endorsed position for growth within the region and incorporates enough planned capacity to meet the needs to 2050. The focus has been on significant new urban growth within the Mount Peter area, and an approach to remove many of the planning barriers for attracting new higher density living options to its City and other key centres.

Opportunities	Challenges
• Utilise Emerging Community zoned land and Edmonton Town Centre to support future residential growth in Mount Peter. • Southern growth corridor including Mount Peter. • Significant infill growth for the city centre and its surrounds. • Tourism growth in the Northern Beaches. • Further growth potential in Smithfield around JCU.	• Achieving housing diversity and choice in Mount Peter. • Achieving realistic housing targets within and around the city centre due to hazard constraints. • Large areas zoned for increased density, resulting in an oversupply of land for higher density. • Ability to meet infrastructure needs across whole city. • Providing jobs for the Northern beaches to match the residential growth.

Growth Direction 1: A vision to support growth in the Southern Corridor, and increased infill density around Central Cairns. Employment is focused around Central Cairns and strategic port land area.

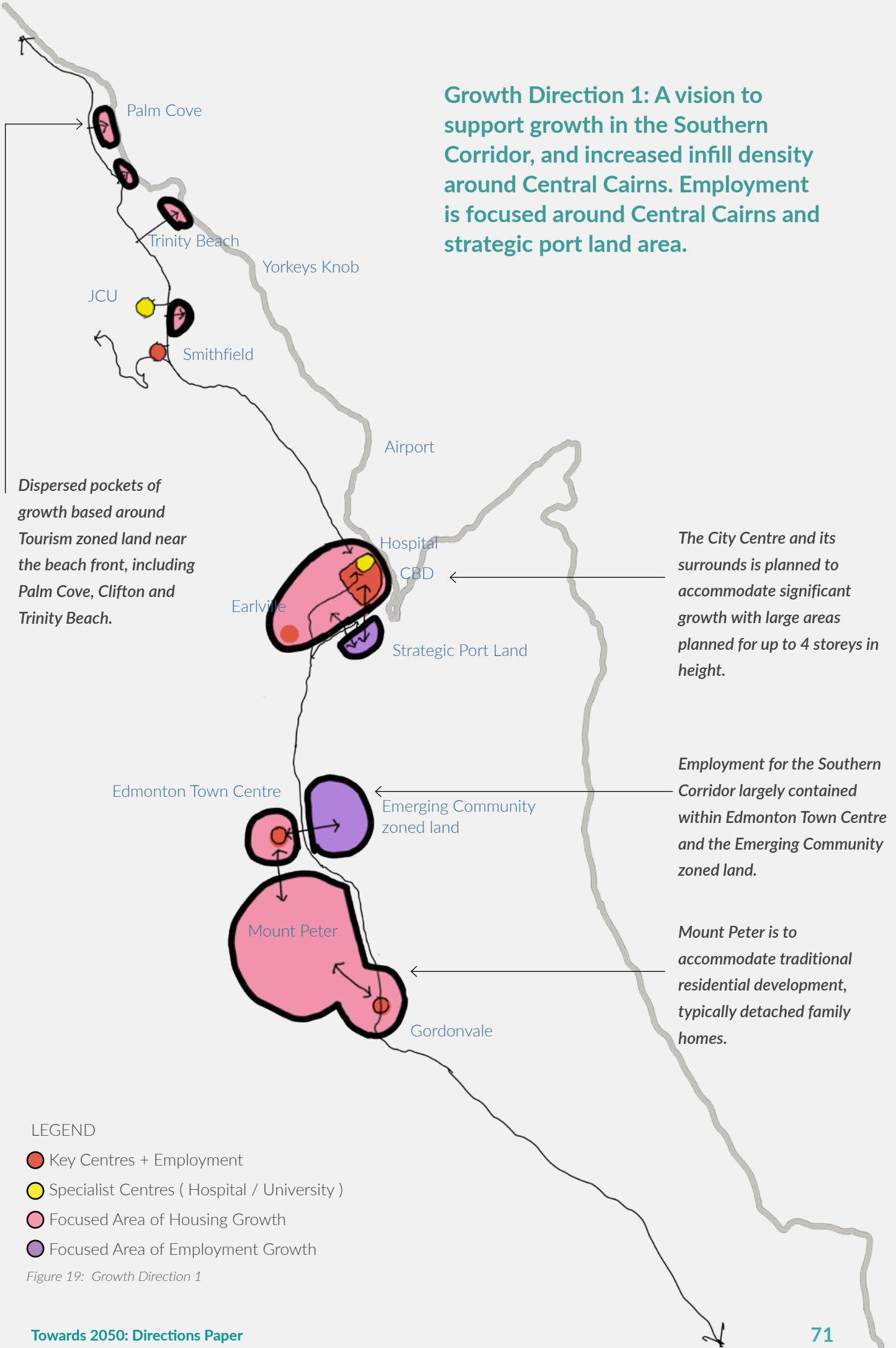


Figure 19: Growth Direction 1



2

Focus development intensity around centres

Establish diverse employment and activities around centres

Support active and public transport

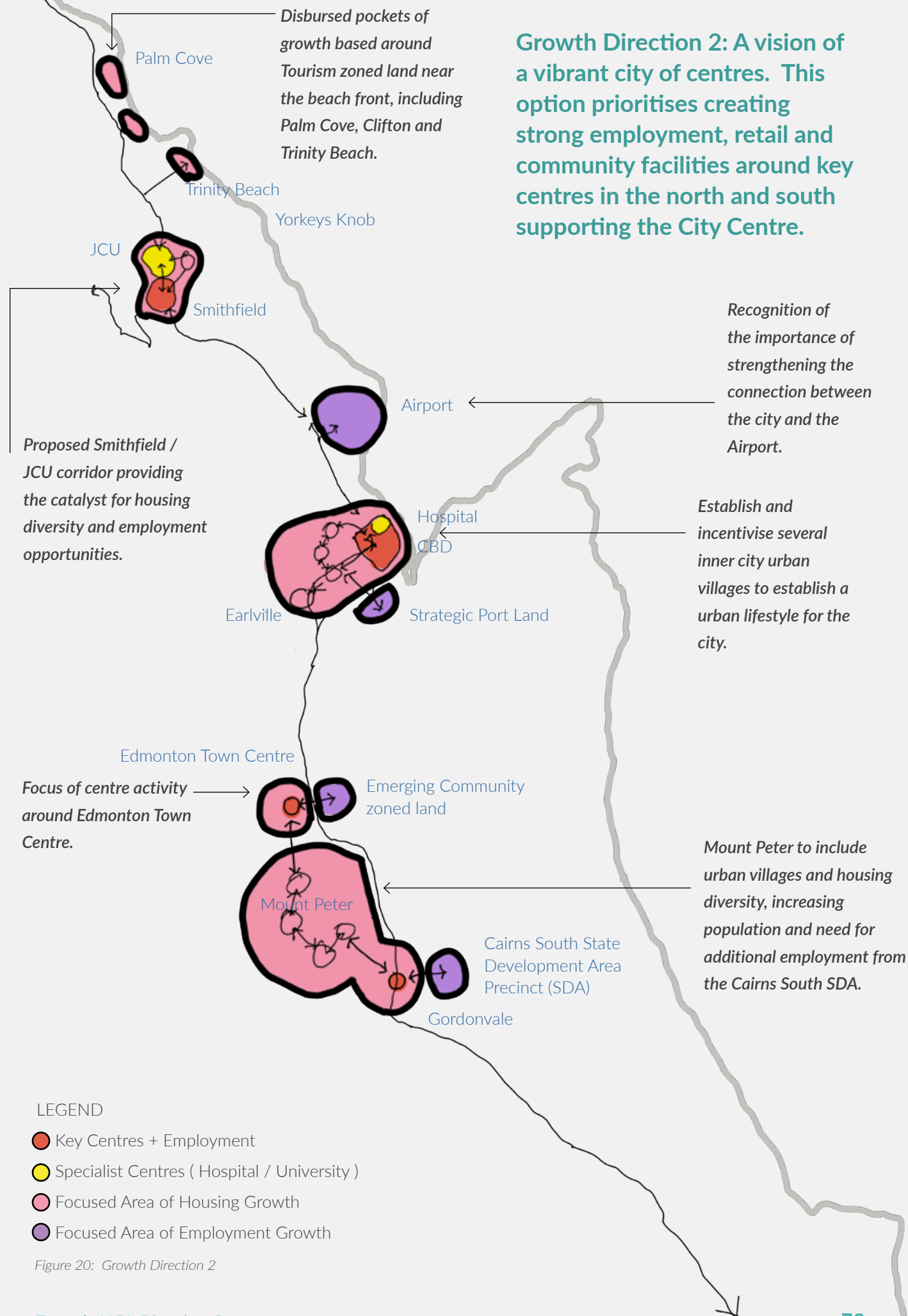
Growth Direction 2 - Vibrant centres

Creating a stronger relationship between centres and growth opportunities will see reduced travel times and a greater desire for housing diversity to accommodate people near places of social interaction, retail and local services.

Although this direction promotes the centres to the north and south, it does not seek to dilute the role of the city centre. However, it acknowledges the challenges the centre has to deliver cost effective growth that is responsive to the impact of various hazards. The centres represent the opportunity for more than just retail, to incorporate diverse employment and housing opportunities, social and cultural facilities, and to become a key driver for self containment within these areas, helping to reduce frequency of trips into the city centre.

Opportunities	Challenges
• Inclusion of urban village concept into Mount Peter to encourage housing choice and diversity, and lifestyle. • Consolidate the city centre and its surrounds creating urban villages to support and activate the city core. • Establish the Smithfield / JCU education corridor that supports employment and housing diversity.	• The ability to attract jobs at an equivalent rate to housing in Mount Peter to avoid placing increased pressure on the highway for local residents to access employment (north). • Ability to prioritise infrastructure • Costs associated with promoting consolidated growth within the city core and its surrounds. • Ability to attract businesses north of the Barron Delta.

Growth Direction 2: A vision of a vibrant city of centres. This option prioritises creating strong employment, retail and community facilities around key centres in the north and south supporting the City Centre.





3

Focus key infrastructure expenditure to growth area

Housing diversity targets

Improved public transport

Strengthen links between key employment and housing

Minimise growth in hazard areas

Growth Direction 3 - Compact city with a southern focus

This direction looks to focus growth on building a stronger relationship between the key economic hubs of the port and the Cairns South SDA and the potential for both new communities and infill opportunities within a compact corridor. Consolidating growth allows for a more efficient investment in infrastructure, community facilities, and public transport. Its compact approach ensures that residents have a diverse range of housing types close to work and schools.

This direction proposes a corridor that contains significant potential for both residential and employment growth. The corridor contains large areas identified for infill, further supported by greenfield sites (i.e. Mount Peter), and employment land located within the declared Cairns South SDA.

Opportunities	Challenges
• Employment opportunities for the residents of Mount Peter Growth Area with focused growth in Edmonton Town Centre supported by Cairns South SDA and the Emerging Communities zoned land. • Consolidate the city centre to support and activate the city core.	• The ability to attract jobs at an equivalent rate to housing in Mount Peter to avoid placing increased pressure on the highway for local residents to access employment (north). • Costs associated with promoting consolidated growth within the city core and its surrounds. • Ability to prioritise infrastructure needs across key centres. • Ability to attract businesses north of the Barron Delta.

Growth Direction 3: A vision of a compact and efficient city, growing new residential communities close to key employment locations, and focusing on diversity of housing.

City to consolidate areas of development and encourage infill housing opportunities.

Recognition of the importance of strengthening the connection between the city and the Airport.

Mount Peter to encourage more housing diversity providing the need to accelerate the employment role of the Cairns South SDA.

Mount Peter to provide a diverse range of housing opportunities.

LEGEND

- Key Centres + Employment
- Specialist Centres (Hospital / University)
- Focused Area of Housing Growth
- Focused Area of Employment Growth

Figure 21: Growth Direction 3

Implementing citywide growth

The previous citywide growth concepts addressed the strategic question of where growth should occur, considering the implications of distributing future growth across the Cairns citywide area.

Implementing this growth, particularly in existing areas, implies significant changes such as new housing, community facilities, infrastructure, and jobs. Many areas identified for growth already have provisions for higher density development in the current planning scheme. However, as discussed in this paper, we must also consider whether promoting development in certain areas might incur costs that could affect the feasibility of further development.

Section 11 explores potential options for accommodating growth at a catchment area level, including the Northern Beaches and Surrounds, Central Cairns and Surrounds, and the Southern Corridor.

At this level, we can begin to consider where our future residents will live, taking into account the diverse housing needs of our community. It is crucial to meet this diversity. *What will our City, Northern Beaches, Mount Peter and its new estates look like in 30 years, and who will be living in them?*

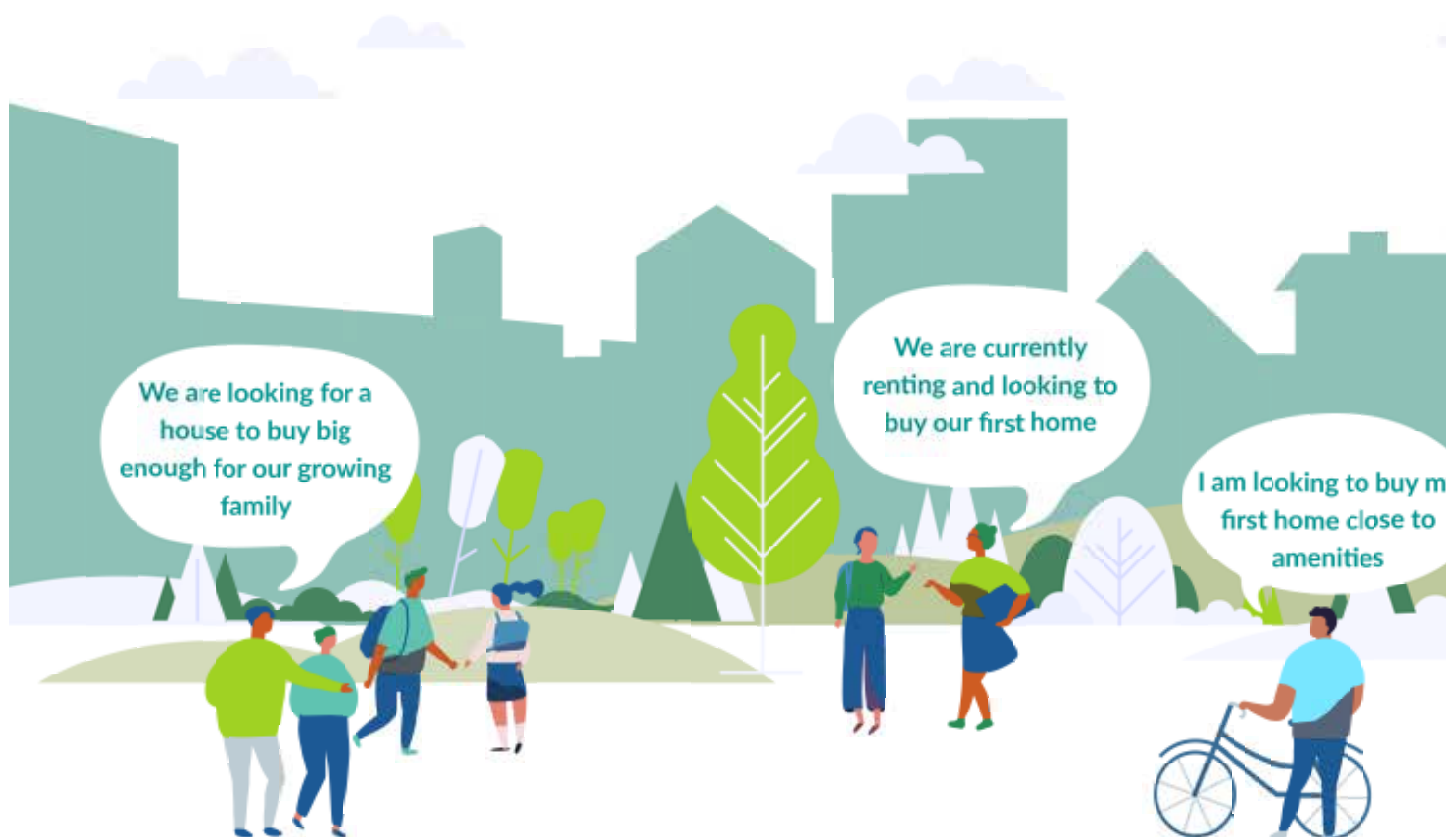


Figure 20: Persona Desired Housing Needs

Blue + Green Corridors

The role of our Blue + Green corridors at the catchment level is essential for preserving environmental values, biodiversity, natural hydrology, and local character.

These corridors, which connect the mountains in the west to the coast in the east, are a critical part of Cairns' identity. Feedback from the T2050 engagement consistently highlights the retention and protection of these Green and Blue elements as a top priority for growth.

Within existing areas of Cairns, these corridors, though sometimes needing rejuvenation, contribute significantly to local character. As we consider future development in the Southern Corridor, it is crucial to integrate these Blue and Green links into the design rather than replacing them with more housing.

The following catchment options ensure that these corridors are preserved and celebrated in all proposed concepts.

Growing well

Each of the 3 catchments of the Cairns Citywide Area has diverse needs. We need to find a strategy to deliver upon these needs of the future community without significantly compromising the aspects that establish Cairns' identity. *How can we grow well?*

Supporting the work of the Growth Strategy was the introduction of a series of 'Growing Well in Cairns' videos on Council's 'Have Your Say' website. The videos explore key concepts that planners are thinking about to deliver social, economic and environmental benefits of growth while protecting the things we love about our city.

- Why is Cairns growing?
- What types of homes do we need?
- How can we improve our economic and social life?
- How can we move people and goods around our city?
- How can we better prepare for natural hazards?
- How can we protect and enhance our natural assets?
- Creating great tropical neighbourhoods
- How does urban change happen?



Section 11: Catchment options

An invitation to have a conversation on what options we should take





Implementing growth at a catchment scale

When considering the various Citywide Urban Growth Directions, it is essential to explore how this growth can be effectively integrated.

Different catchments within Cairns may require tailored approaches. The following options, developed through stakeholder workshops, illustrate how this can be achieved while considering potential constraints.

Thus, options have been provided for:

- Northern Beaches and Surrounds
- Central Cairns and Surrounds
- Southern Corridor

The Southern Corridor requires further master planning to fully explore its potential. However, it is crucial to understand how the various key stakeholders in the corridor can collectively play a strategic role in delivering significant growth to this area.

What options are available for incorporating growth into existing areas, and what factors must we consider in our emerging community areas?



What we have heard

- Better infrastructure, including public transport
- Investment in community assets (parks, footpaths)
- Protection and enhancement of green open spaces and conservation areas
- More diverse local businesses
- Safe public spaces
- Maintenance of the local character

Northern Beaches and Surrounds

Challenges to growth

The Northern Beaches and Surrounds is one of the most iconic areas that reflect the natural beauty of the Cairns Greater Area, consisting of several seaside communities connected by the Captain Cook Highway. However, historical natural events have highlighted the hazard risks in this catchment.

Due to limited vacant urban land and a strong desire to preserve rural and environmental areas, future growth is constrained to existing urban zones. According to predictions from the Queensland Government Statisticians Office (QGSO), the Northern Beaches and Surrounds are expected to accommodate an additional 7,644 dwellings and create approximately 4,000 new jobs by 2050.

Building on current policy directions

The CairnsPlan 2016 Planning Scheme aims to enhance Cairns' natural beauty, biodiversity, and unique tropical lifestyle, which are especially prominent in the Northern Beaches and Surrounds.

Recognising natural hazards and climate change in land use planning and decision-making is crucial for protecting these environmental values and ensuring community safety.

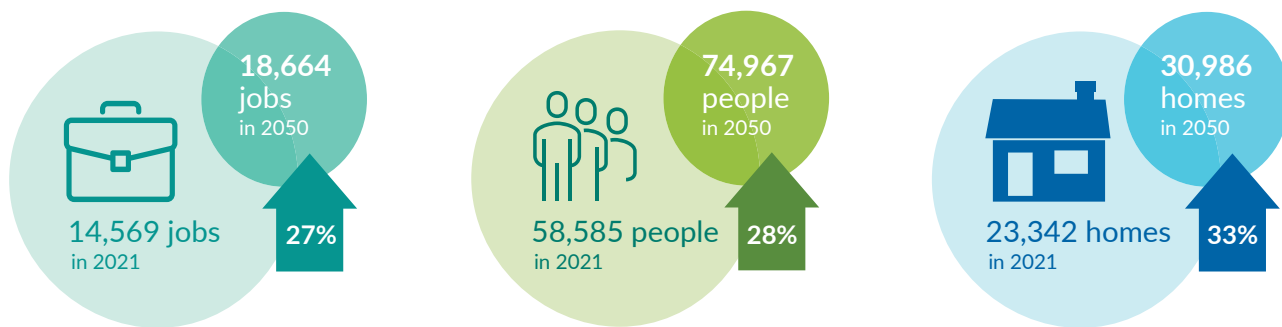
The Northern Beaches and Surrounds offer diverse lifestyles, including coastal villages, rural residential living, and suburban areas nestled between the hinterlands and coast. CairnsPlan 2016 supports a range of housing styles and living options to cater to our diverse community across different life stages and needs.

The Far North Queensland Regional Plan explores the potential for communities supported by public transport in Palm Cove, Smithfield, and Redlynch, facilitating higher density housing and a wider range of housing types. Given the area's high demand, it is essential to consider community needs for these housing types and their optimal locations, particularly regarding employment, entertainment, transport, and community services.

Cairns serves as a regional employment hub, with the Northern Beaches and Surrounds being particularly significant for tourism. The CairnsPlan 2016 continues to prioritise tourism as a leading economic driver and employer while also providing opportunities for new and emerging industries to support growth and economic diversity.

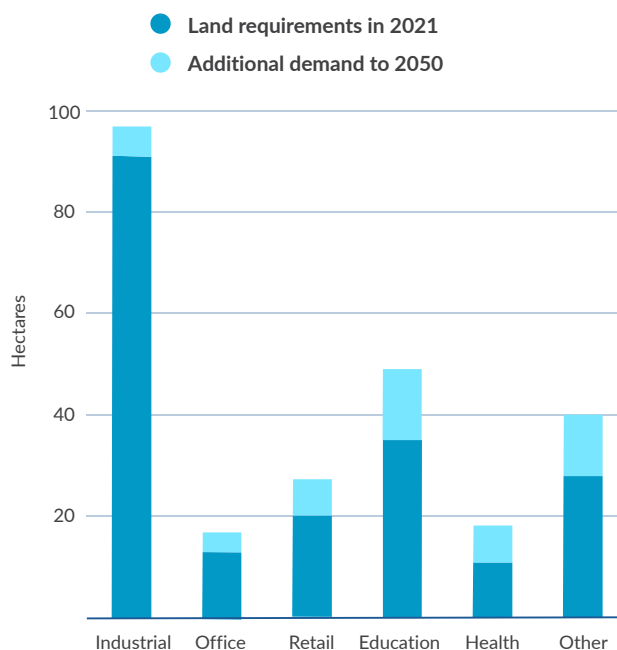
Changes we will see over the next 30 years

Assumptions and predictions based on QGSO growth



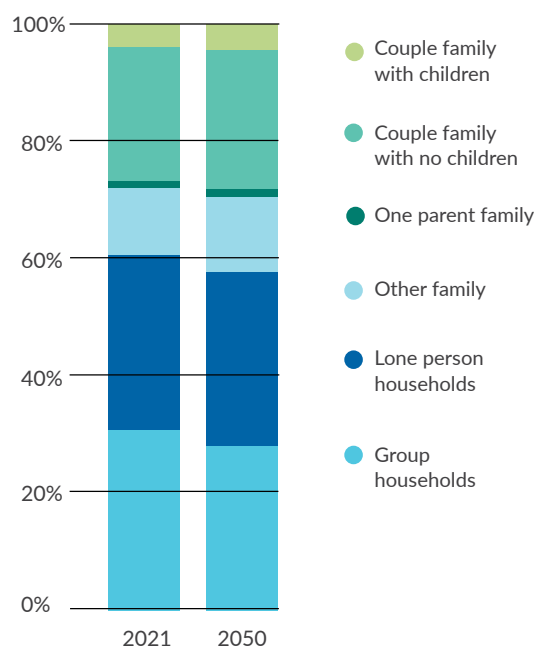
Employment land mix

The Northern Beaches and Surrounds is expecting a demand for 4,095 more jobs by 2050. The requires sufficient employment mix to support job growth and retainment.



Household diversity

The Northern Beaches and Surrounds is anticipating an additional 7,644 new households by 2050. Households will need to accommodate the growing needs of the future community.



Detached



78%
in 2021

73%
in 2050

Semi-detached



9%
in 2021

11%
in 2050

Apartments



13%
in 2021

15%
in 2050



Palm Cove, Clifton Beach and Trinity Beach are less exposed to flood hazard than other beach areas. However, these suburbs are still exposed to coastal erosion and bushfire hazard which will need to be appropriately managed. There is potential for increased development within these areas of reduced hazard.

Areas on the western side of the Captain Cook Highway could incorporate more higher density apartment buildings to accommodate increased housing for the area.

Northern Beaches and Surrounds hazards

When overlaying hazard mapping on the Northern Beaches, we can see how the existing topography, vegetation and waterways have shaped our community. In this environment, what are the opportunities and challenges for growth?

Towards 2050

Opportunities	Challenges
• Ensure Blue + Green corridors are able to provide the hydrological function that is required to reduce flood impacts. • Encourage development west of the highway and around Smithfield. • Reduce the impacts of isolation during flood events by encouraging uses and activities that will reduce the reliance and need to access the city.	• In significant rainfall events Northern Beaches can be isolated from the city to the south. • Settlements within the Barron Delta are at a high risk of damage and potential harm during key events. • Storm surge and coastal erosion remain a key concern for development along the foreshore. • Tourism and the desire to live near the beaches will remain a key driver to development in this area.

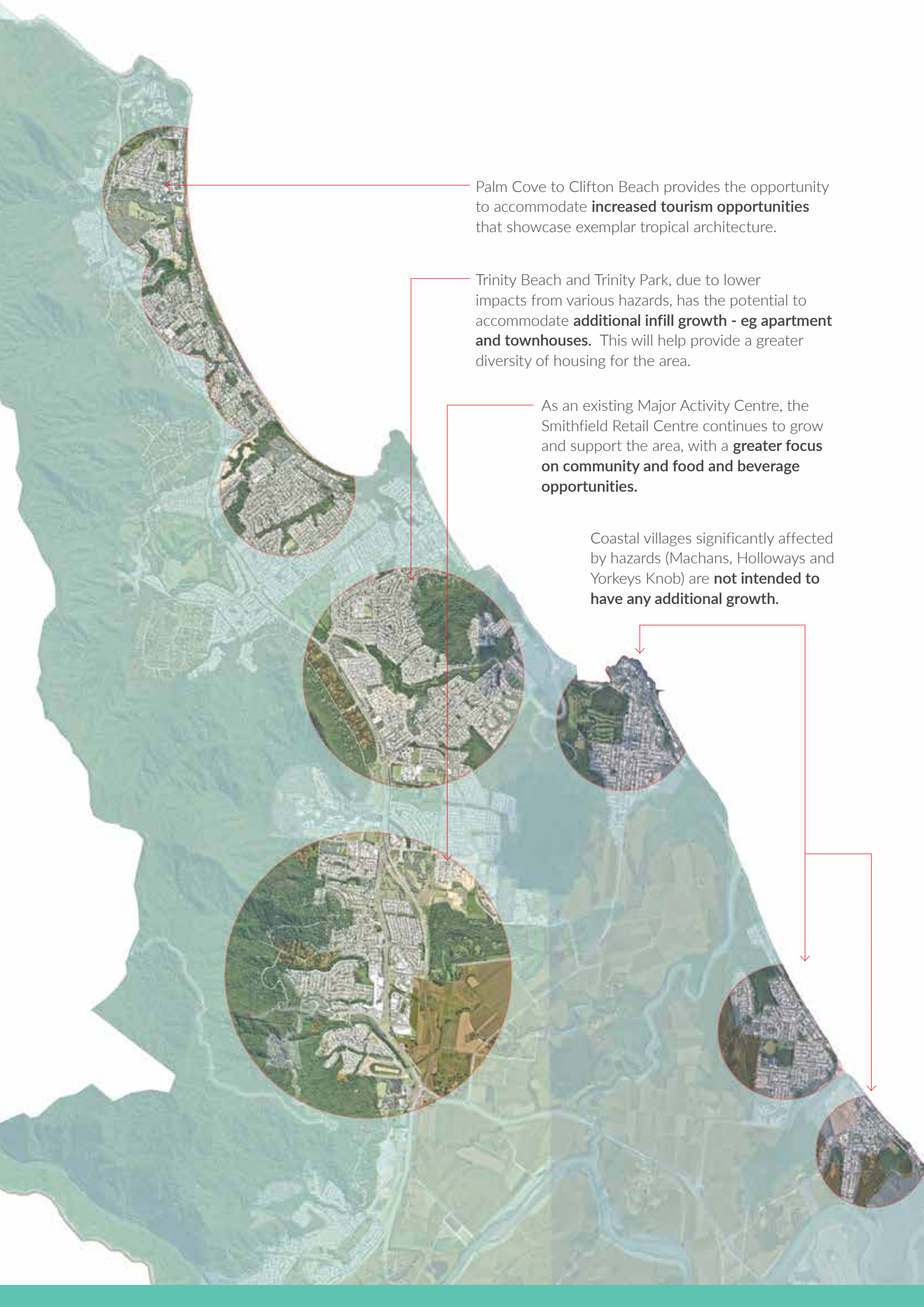
Although Yorkeys Knob is located on higher land and is not immediately impacted by the hazards related to the Barron Delta, access is significantly impacted, resulting in isolation during flood events.

Machans and Holloways Beaches are heavily impacted by hazards, in particular flood, storm tide, and coastal erosion, which can be seen by the mapping over this area.

The Barron Delta is a key landscape element in the scenic amenity for residents and visitors to Cairns. Potential development is limited due to hazards and environmental concerns, providing opportunities for environmental protection and education.

Legend

-  Indicative Blue and Green Link Corridor
-  Land Impacted by Hazards



Palm Cove to Clifton Beach provides the opportunity to accommodate **increased tourism opportunities** that showcase exemplar tropical architecture.

Trinity Beach and Trinity Park, due to lower impacts from various hazards, has the potential to accommodate **additional infill growth - eg apartment and townhouses**. This will help provide a greater diversity of housing for the area.

As an existing Major Activity Centre, the Smithfield Retail Centre continues to grow and support the area, with a **greater focus on community and food and beverage opportunities**.

Coastal villages significantly affected by hazards (Machans, Holloways and Yorkeys Knob) are **not intended to have any additional growth**.

Northern Beaches and Surrounds Option 1: Accommodate tree and sea change lifestyle

This growth option for the Northern Beaches and Surrounds reflects the strong desire to live and/or holiday by the beach - a tree and sea change destination. Continual market pressure will see the areas that are not significantly impacted by natural hazards, continue to intensify.



Seaside density

Increased density and activity along the beachfront catering for the strong desire to live by the ocean, may be appropriate where outcomes can address hazards such as coastal erosion, sea level rise, and storm tide inundation.

Green breaks

A key feature of the area is the numerous blue and green corridors that are critical to local ecology and biodiversity as well as playing a key role in the area's identity.

Proposed changes

- Increased densities and height proposed in Trinity Beach, Kewarra Beach, Clifton Beach, and Palm Cove as multi-storey apartments.
- Establishment of smaller convenience / mixed-use opportunities to support increased density within the villages along the beach front.
- Greater walkability and connectivity between home, local centres, and employment within those areas, accommodating additional development.

Opportunities

- Maximise the amenity potential that beachside villages offer.
- Establish a population size that supports increased facilities and services throughout the area, building on existing opportunities of current community facilities in the Northern Beaches.

Risks

- Potential demand for short-term accommodation may have impact on housing supply.
- Reliance on multi-storey product to accommodate growth has a construction risk due to disruptions in construction, rising costs, and skilled labour market shortage.
- Limited local employment opportunities available.
- Continued reliance on the City Centre for employment, facilities, and services.
- Impacts from coastal erosion, sea level rise, and storm inundation.
- Isolation from the City Centre, hospital and airport in key flooding events.



Increased density focused on clustered tourism opportunities will continue to be located along the key beaches, including Palm Cove, Clifton Beach, and Trinity Beach.



Trinity Beach and Kewarra Beach have the potential to cater for additional **development, focusing on providing greater services and convenience retail.**



A new education corridor that would underpin self containment for the Northern Beaches. This enhanced connection between Smithfield, James Cook University (JCU), and higher density, affordable housing choices, can support the growth within the area, reducing the pressure on development in the coastal village areas and improving the self-sufficiency of the Northern Beaches and Surrounds.

Northern Beaches and Surrounds Option 2: Strengthen the corridor of knowledge

Growth centred around a key employment and education corridor that links JCU campus to Smithfield retail centre. Understanding the existing and future implications on hazards for the city centre has driven an option that looks to minimise intensification in areas impacted by significant hazards.



Knowledge corridor

Potential for the corridor to become a key destination for attracting learning and lifestyle to the area.

Proposed change

- Increased densities proposed around the Smithfield Retail Centre.
- New commercial and mixed use employment opportunities within the corridor.
- Potential to further increase densities and height in Palm Cove, Trinity, and Kewarra Beach.

Opportunities

- Encourage employment and development opportunities between JCU and the Smithfield Retail Centre.
- Encourage development that is based around employment, community facilities, allied health services and open space opportunities.
- Reduce reliance on the City Centre for employment and convenience.
- Diversify the range of housing options - the 'missing middle'.

Risks

- Long-term position of JCU both physical as a land use anchor and as a strategic business position.
- Impacts from coastal erosion, sea level rise, and storm inundation.



Central Cairns and Surrounds

Challenges to growth

With the Barron River Delta to its north and the Trinity Inlet to its east, the impacts of flood and storm tide are critical issues in the growth of Central Cairns and Surrounds. The impact, typically requiring additional development costs to manage, has and will continue to make development economically challenging or simply not economically viable. Other barriers to infill, such as rising construction costs and skilled labour shortages, also has a resounding impact on building within Central Cairns. However, urban regeneration is critical for the growth of the Central Cairns to be economically resilient.

Despite the challenges, there are opportunities to encourage infill development with a series of interrelated supports such as;

- Urban Regeneration, building quality public realm to create desirable neighbourhoods to support increased density.
- Catalyst Projects, facilitate and/or incentivise catalyst projects that showcase infill development, affordable housing, and exemplar design outcomes.
- Targeted planning policy provide a locally responsive approach to attracting investment in infill housing and managing future growth.
- Planning & Financial Incentives for infill, social and affordable housing typologies consistent with good planning outcomes.
- Best Practice Guidelines specific to Cairns, its unique climate and urban character on how to achieve good medium-density residential (MDR) design outcomes.

Building on current policy directions

Central Cairns and Surrounds serve various critical roles for the Cairns Greater Area, as well as the wider Far North Queensland region, Cape York, the Gulf Country, Papua New Guinea, and South Pacific region. The area supports significant regional infrastructure and offers the widest and most diverse mix of activities including employment, retail, residential, health and social services, community and cultural, and recreational and entertainment.

The City, as the primary centre and CBD, is the primary employment and business attractor for the region. Many of these economic opportunities will build upon the existing employment hubs in and around the City Centre, including major infrastructure such as the Port of Cairns, Cairns Airport, Cairns Hospital, and Cairns Private Hospital. Other opportunities for new and emerging industries are strongly encouraged in the CairnsPlan 2016 planning scheme, particularly those that contribute to a 24-hour economy and the vitality of the centre.

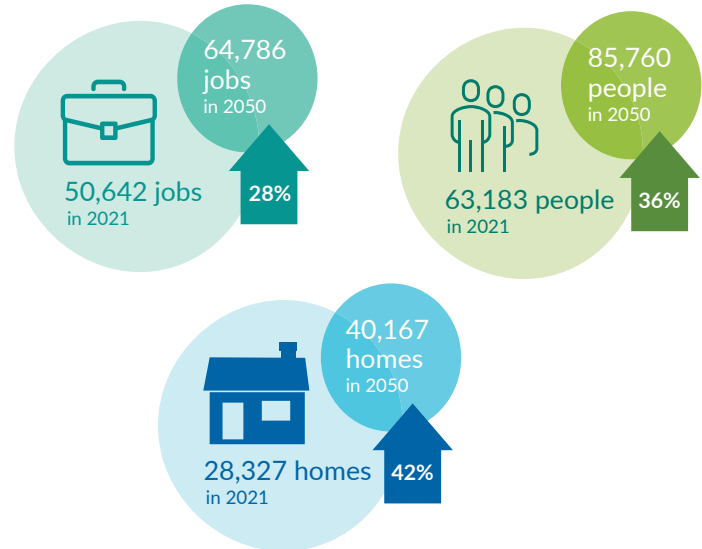
The planning scheme supports higher density living opportunities around well-connected centres, employment, entertainment, transport and community services such as around activity centres in Earlville, Manoora, Manunda, and Westcourt.

What we have heard

- Greening of the City
- Better public and community assets, particularly footpaths and parks
- More diverse local businesses and centres outside of the CBD
- Safe public spaces
- Support for people experiencing homelessness

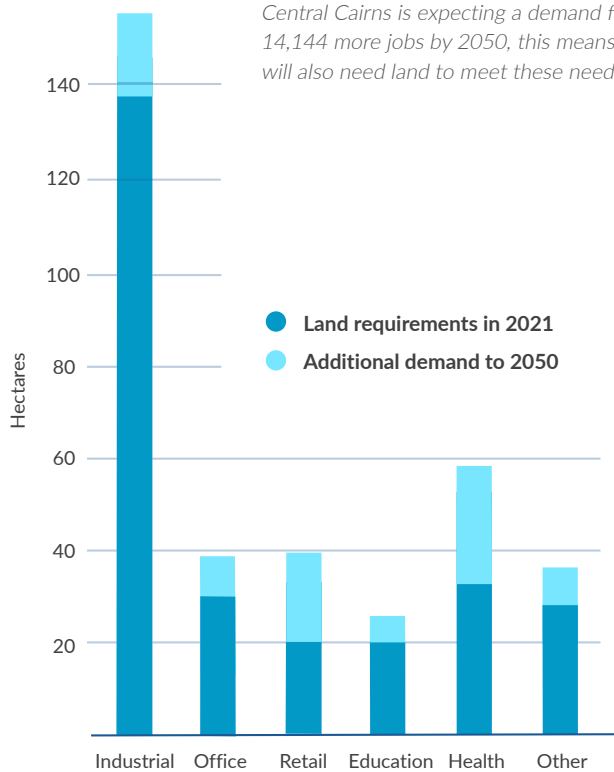
Changes we will see over the next 30 years

Assumptions and predictions based on QGSO growth



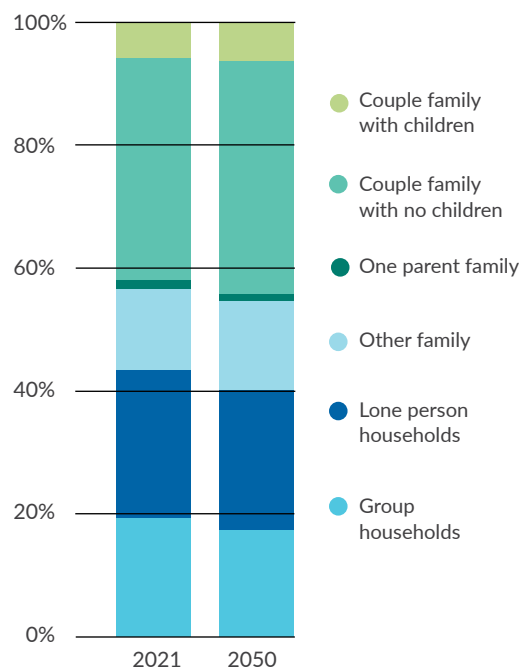
Employment land mix

Central Cairns is expecting a demand for 14,144 more jobs by 2050, this means we will also need land to meet these needs.



Household diversity

The catchment is anticipated to have an additional 11,840 new households by 2050. Product type will need to accommodate diversity of households for the increasingly diverse population.



Detached



50%
in 2021

41%
in 2050

Semi-detached



17%
in 2021

21%
in 2050

Apartments



34%
in 2021

38%
in 2050





Cairns Airport remains vulnerable to flood and storm tide impacts

Central Cairns and Surrounds hazards

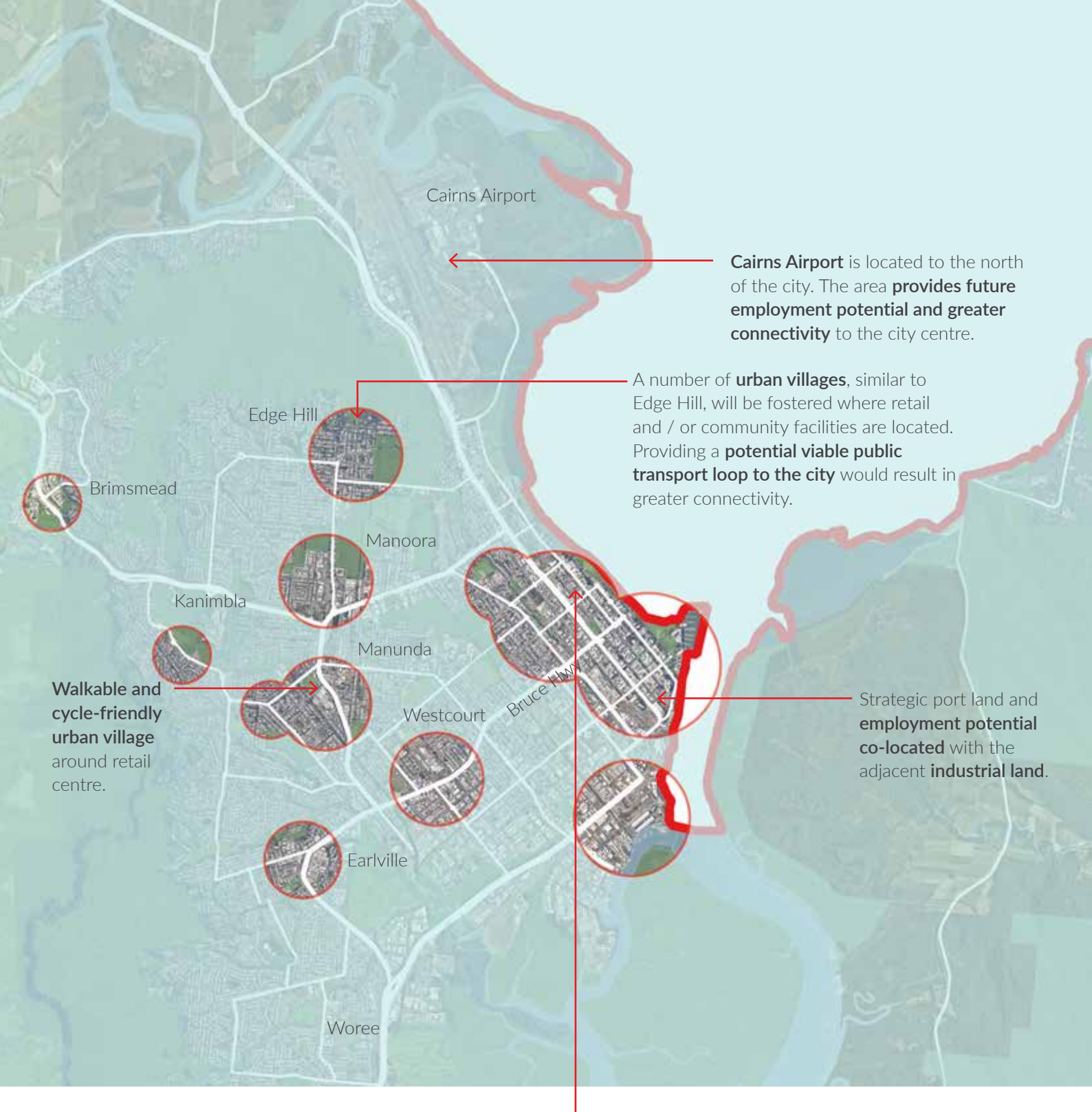
When overlaying hazard mapping on the City Centre and Surrounds, we can see the extent that hazards have in relation to future planning for this catchment. In this environment, what are the opportunities and challenges for growth?

Towards 2050

Opportunities	Challenges
- To promote and re-establish key Blue + Green links to provide hydrological and amenity benefits. - Invest to mitigate flood and storm surge issues around key assets within the city centre. - Consolidate growth and density to limit costs for mitigating hazard impacts. - City surrounds have the potential to accommodate higher densities to support the city centre and reduce the need for infill in hazard affected areas.	- Significant storm surge and flooding impacts. - Key city assets like the hospital are affected by hazards. - Tourism accommodation is impacted by flood and storm surge. - Cairns Airport is significantly impacted with hazards and may be closed in major flood events. - Delivering the current planning intent for housing within the city centre and surrounds based on hazard mapping. - Limited growth potential in Redlynch due to hazards.

Legend

-  Indicative Blue and Green Link Corridor
-  Land Impacted by Hazards



Cairns Airport

Cairns Airport is located to the north of the city. The area **provides future employment potential and greater connectivity** to the city centre.

Edge Hill

A number of **urban villages**, similar to Edge Hill, will be fostered where retail and / or community facilities are located. Providing a **potential viable public transport loop to the city** would result in greater connectivity.

Brimsmead

Manoora

Kanimbla

Manunda

Walkable and cycle-friendly urban village around retail centre.

Westcourt

Bruce Hwy

Strategic port land and **employment potential co-located** with the adjacent **industrial land**.

Earlvile

Woree

Health precinct to be complemented by **surrounding medium-density housing**. Localised mitigation would be required to address known hazards.

Central Cairns and Surrounds Option 1: Site responsive growth

Understanding the existing and future implications on hazards for the city centre has driven an option that looks to focus growth away from areas typically impacted by significant hazards. The option shares the infill targets between the city centre and a range of surrounding opportunity areas.



Activated city core

Opportunity through consolidation of uses and activities within the city core to promote high quality 'leafy green' streetscapes lined with cafes and restaurants promoting walkability and economic activity.

Urban rejuvenation / pilot project

Opportunity to identify potential sites to demonstrate high quality urban living, well-located and providing housing diversity for all sectors of the community.

Inner urban rejuvenation

Opportunity to create housing diversity, focused around a key community facility, retail centre and / or open space through place based planning ie Local Area Plans.

Proposed changes

- City centre, focusing on mitigation for hazards.
- Focus on creating a number of urban villages in the city fringe areas.
- Encourage a health precinct that builds upon existing opportunities within the CairnsPlan 2016 including future workers' housing immediately surrounding the hospital.

Opportunities

- Consolidated and well connected city centre.
- Consolidating effective infrastructure provision for trunk and hazard mitigation.
- Opportunities through place based planning to identify urban rejuvenation within the city and surrounds.

Risks

- Introducing and implementing higher densities in existing residential areas (fragmented ownership) may make this difficult to achieve.
- Need to prioritise the delivery of urban villages over time, and establish desirable outcomes through pilot projects.
- Current barriers to infill including hazards and areas outside of the identified villages already zoned for high densities .



Cairns Airport is located to the north of the city. **Future employment potential and greater connectivity** to the city centre.

Several areas are identified as potential opportunities for **urban villages with housing choice** creating a ring of urban villages that could **create a viable high frequency public transport loop** linking the city centre, airport, Edge Hill, Manooora, Manunda.

Potential to connect **transit supportive urban villages with high frequency public transport** conceptually shown

Strategic port land and **employment potential co-located** with the adjacent **industrial land**.

The **consolidation of the city centre** is focused around the **key elements of the city**, each connected through the **high frequency public transport loop network** made viable by **consolidated densities of housing**. Greater **concentration of key worker housing** needs to be co-located with the hospital precinct.

Central Cairns and Surrounds Option 2: Focused growth and consolidation

This growth option identifies a range of strategically located opportunities that enable the demand and delivery of a high frequency bus service. This transit supportive option establishes a framework for growth for the city beyond 2050.



Transit supportive

Locating housing options along existing movement corridors, creating potential for greater synergies between transport and land use.

Walkability

Promotion of high-quality urban environments that respond to tropical conditions and promote walkability (connected to high-frequency bus networks).

Airport link

Promotion of a high-frequency bus network that services the City and neighbouring urban villages and key destinations. Creating a connected City for residents and tourists alike.

Proposed changes

- Consolidated city centre, focusing on addressing risk for hazards by significantly reducing the footprint to allow for increased intensification and viable public transport networks.
- Focus on several key urban villages within the city fringe.
- Adoption of a settlement pattern that supports a higher frequency public transport loop system that links the airport, city centre and its attractions with city fringe urban villages.

Opportunities

- Focused hazard and built form outcomes and delivery of consolidated infrastructure.
- Creation of new community hubs / focal points that include more housing diversity, convenience, and food and beverage opportunities
- To create focused areas of housing densities that makes a high frequency public transport system more viable.
- Encourage CQ University to expand.

Risks

- Combination of small lots and fragmented land ownership as a barrier to achieving multi dwelling housing options.
- Existing zoning intents outside these identified focus areas may dilute the opportunity.



The Southern Corridor

Challenges to growth

The Southern Corridor, with its large areas of undeveloped, predominantly hazard-free future community land, holds significant potential. However, it also presents several challenges.

Delivering infrastructure in new urban areas effectively and efficiently is difficult. The numerous key land holdings within the area, each with its own infrastructure challenges, could collaboratively address these issues to potentially deliver a cost-effective infrastructure solution for the catchment.

Providing a diverse range of housing is challenging, particularly as key community facilities and infrastructure that support diversity, such as schools and public transport, are often delivered too late in the process. Fragmented land ownership further complicates the delivery of these essential community elements and housing diversity.

Blue + Green corridors are frequently sacrificed to create efficient new urban communities. Retaining these corridors, along with their ecological and hydrological functions, is often challenging.

Integrating various uses to ensure employment and activities beyond residential needs is often difficult due to the pressing need to provide housing. Achieving long-term affordability requires avoiding dormant residential communities where residents must constantly drive outside their community to meet basic needs.

Building on current policy directions

The Southern Corridor will play a significant role in Cairns' growth. The CairnsPlan 2016 identifies the need to protect communities from natural hazards and climate change, and avoid building out into our natural and rural areas. The Southern Corridor is largely unaffected by hazards and has been designated as a 'Future Growth Area'. It will be critical for accommodating future communities.

The delivery of the Southern Corridor is guided by the vision set out in the CairnsPlan 2016 for urban communities to "be reflective of the tropical character and identity of the region" and to "provide a range of housing styles and living options for diverse communities". These future communities will need to be supported by public transport networks in addition to vibrant and well-connected centres providing employment, entertainment and community services. The future growth within the Southern Corridor is to occur sequentially with consideration for existing communities, such as Edmonton and Gordonvale.

Diversity of employment and industries will be critical to achieving a self-sustaining catchment in which residents can live, work and play without having to commute to the city centre. This will require the development of activity centres adjacent to housing development, further supported by transport options and community services.

The Southern Corridor will support emerging industries located within the Cairns South SDA. These industries will provide regionally significant industrial development and long-term opportunity for the Cairns Greater Area.

The FNQ Regional Plan also speaks to the Southern Corridor's importance in meeting the shortfall of industrial land across Cairns, ensuring we can support the Greater Area's future workforce and economic growth.

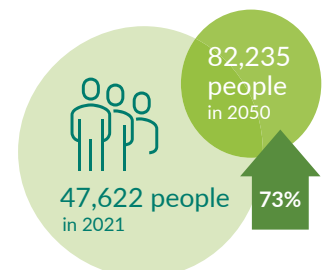
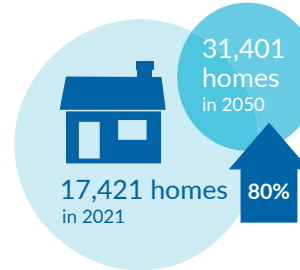
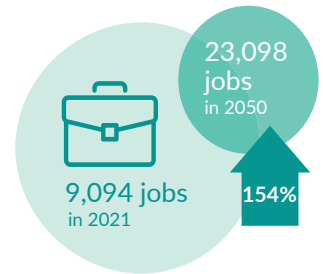
Throughout the development and delivery of the Southern Corridor, we must ensure that natural areas and resources are protected for their environmental value. These areas support diverse ecological communities, and provide enjoyment and amenity to the Cairns community. Being on the fringe of the Cairns Greater Area, the inclusion of these Blue + Green corridors provide the opportunity for inter-urban breaks and transitional uses to neighbouring rural and natural areas will be key to retaining the character of the catchment.

What we have heard

- New and diverse businesses in local centres
- Connected communities through active and public transport
- More community assets (halls, parks)
- More greenery, particularly along footpaths and parks
- Appropriate new development
- Safe public places

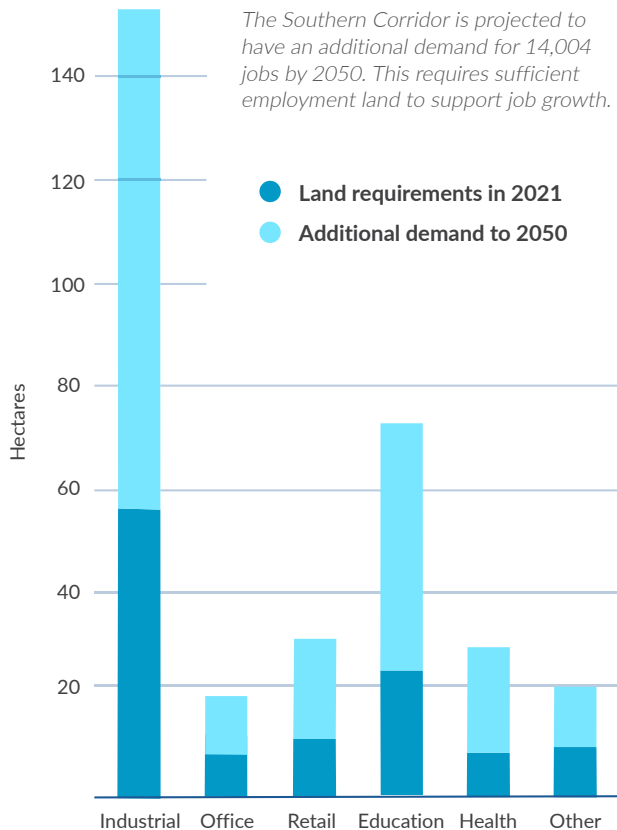
Changes we will see over the next 30 years

Assumptions and predictions based on QGSO growth



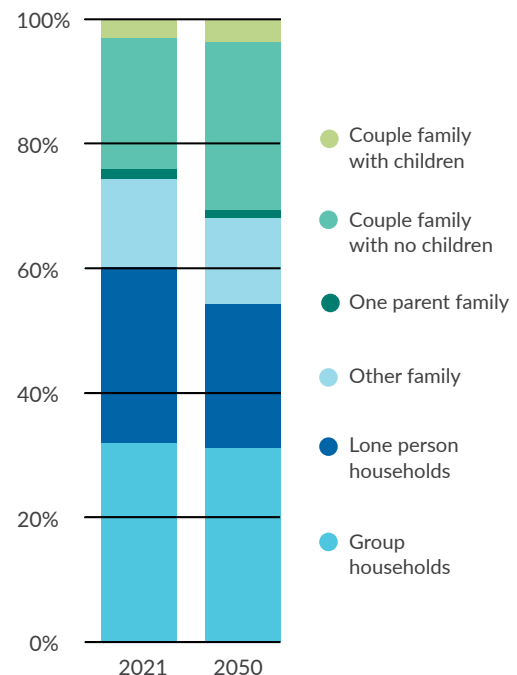
Employment land mix

The Southern Corridor is projected to have an additional demand for 14,004 jobs by 2050. This requires sufficient employment land to support job growth.



Household diversity

The Southern Corridor is anticipated to welcome an additional 13,980 new households by 2050. Outcomes from the supporting technical studies highlight the growing issue of housing not meeting community needs in relation to size, location and cost.



Detached



93%
in 2021

88%
in 2050

Semi-detached



3%
in 2021

6%
in 2050

Apartments



4%
in 2021

6%
in 2050



Woree

Mt Sheridan

Edmonton

Mount Peter

Gordonvale



The Southern Corridor hazards

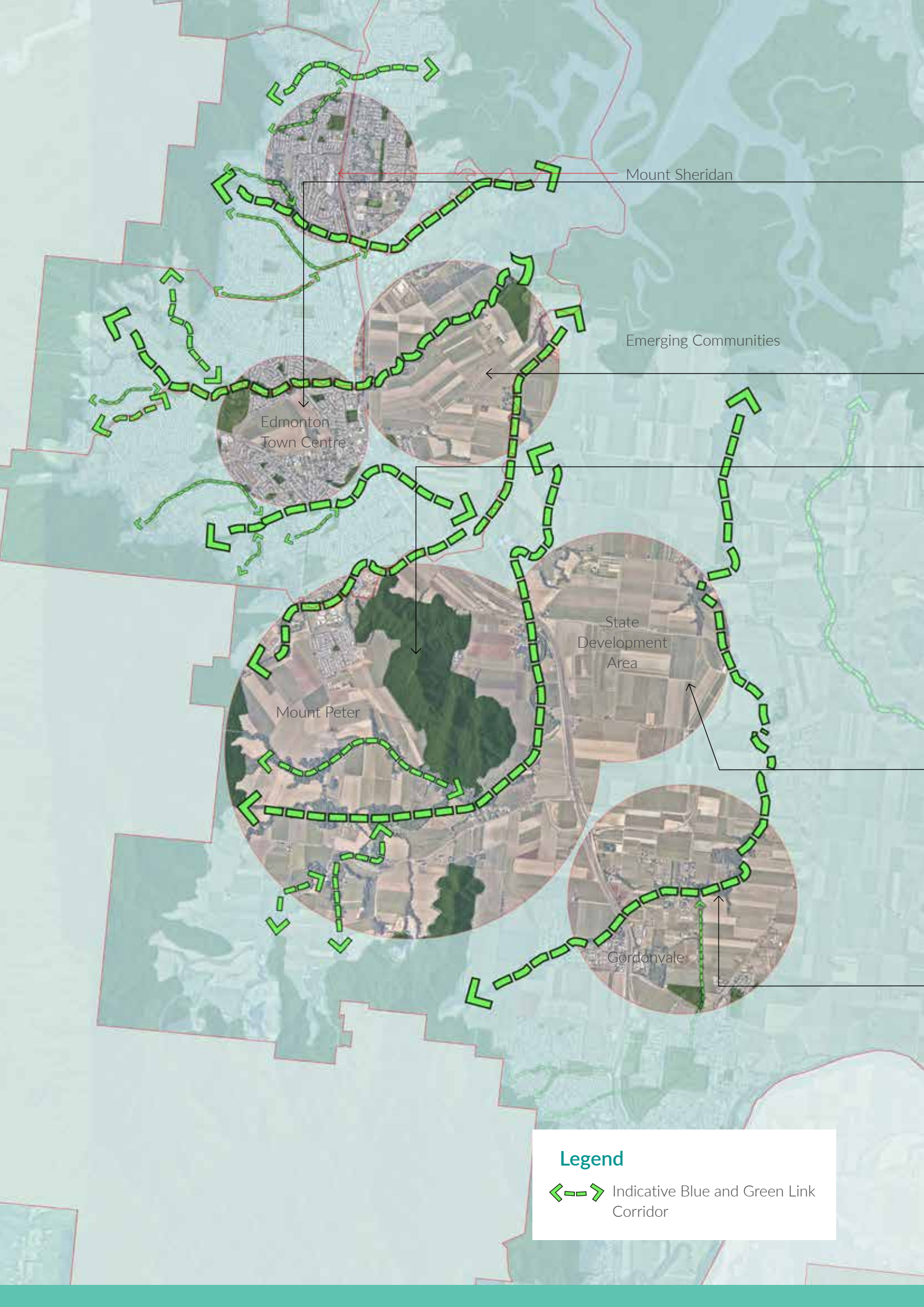
When overlaying hazard mapping on the Southern Corridor, we can see that the existing topography, vegetation and waterways need to have a key role in shaping our future community. In this environment, what are the opportunities and challenges for growth?

Towards 2050

Opportunities	Challenges
• Mount Peter as an area identified to focus future growth has been planned already to be responsive to hazards. • Large growth areas to accommodate a significant amount of the growth needed for Cairns. • Celebrate and create functional and attractive Blue + Green corridors within the new urban areas.	• Employment land on the eastern side of the highway is impacted by hazards. • Ensure new development reduces the potential heat impacts and potential to increase fire risk by creating new communities environments that incorporate significant tree coverage and lower heat absorbing materials.

Legend

-  Indicative Blue and Green Link Corridor
-  Land Impacted by Hazards



Mount Sheridan

Emerging Communities

Edmonton
Town Centre

State
Development
Area

Mount Peter

Gordonvale

Legend

←--→ Indicative Blue and Green Link
Corridor

The Edmonton Town Centre and nearby Emerging Community zoned land along Thomson Road provides a range of opportunities for town centre activities, employment and housing choice and affordability. The increased pressure in providing a more diverse range and higher densities of housing products co-located with new community facilities provides a strong incentive to focus infrastructure spending in this area.

Potential to consider the long term use for the Emerging Community zoned land is dependant on the where growth is to be focused. Currently the land is predominantly planned for employment uses.

The Mount Peter Area provides the largest single area of greenfield development for the Cairns Greater Area. Although the original master plan was based on sound design and development principles, the future growth for the Southern Area will require a new master plan to effectively plan for its development. This master plan will need to investigate a whole of catchment approach, incorporating Edmonton Town Centre, the adjacent Emerging Community zoned land, Gordonvale and the Cairns South SDA.

With a large supply of industrial land already identified in the CairnsPlan 2016, there is potential for the State to develop this site as a catalyst for economic growth for the Cairns Greater Area. This opportunity could be aligned with industries that can promote future green initiatives, such as circular economy activities.

Gordonvale, as an existing centre with cultural and local heritage features will continue to play an important role for the Southern Corridor.

Southern Corridor potential

The Southern Corridor has the potential to become a sought after place to live, work and play. Living amongst the abundance of green, this area will be a place our future residents will choose to live, offering a variety of housing choices to meet their lifestyle and stage of life.

The initial Masterplan for Mount Peter, developed in 2008, outlined a variety of outcomes, including diverse housing options, retail centres, employment opportunities, open spaces, and community facilities. While this plan was considered exemplary at the time, it now needs to be updated challenging some of its basic assumptions on growth. Factors such as projected population growth, our changing climate, and the role of surrounding strategic sites offer new opportunities to plan this area for the future.

A key assumption in the early master planning for the catchment was to incorporate a range of densities and housing options around local centres, open space and key community facilities. Typical assumptions around density and housing lots will require further consideration to ensure desirable diversity is achieved.

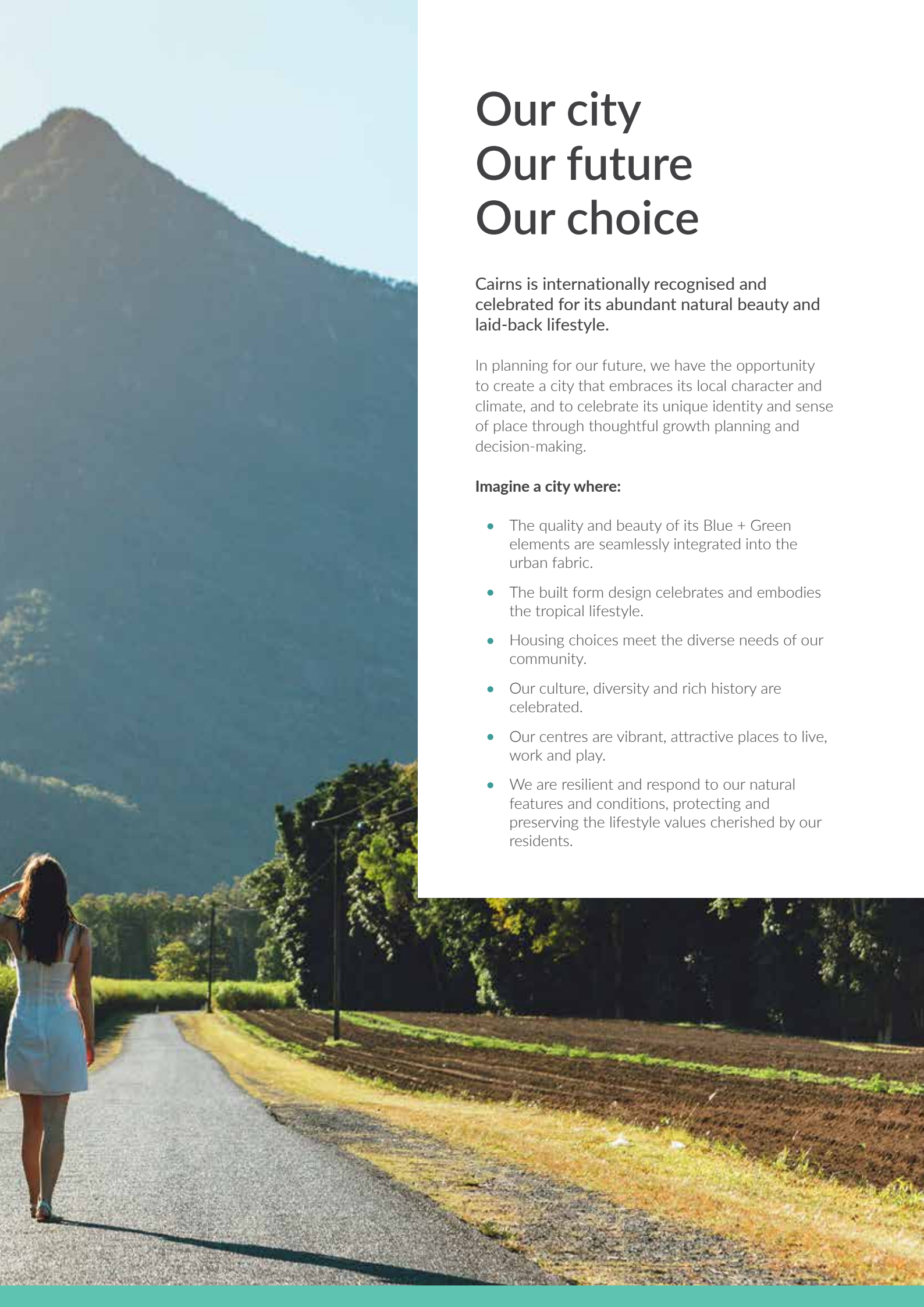
There is also a need to contemplate climatic sensitivities in housing design, as discussed in Section 6 'Creating great tropical neighbourhoods'. Recent residential development in greenfield areas has not generally met the Tropical Urbanism outcomes established in the CairnsPlan 2016 and its policies.

A key area of change will be to ensure that future greenfield developments are designed to their climate and location.

The Southern Corridor needs to become the essence of Cairns-ness into the future. The Growth Strategy is the opportunity to make the change required to ensure this is an outcome..

T2050 Consortia



A woman with long brown hair, wearing a white sleeveless dress, is walking away from the camera on a paved path. The path leads towards a large, steep mountain with a prominent peak. The sky is clear and blue. The foreground shows some dry grass and a gravel shoulder.

Our city Our future Our choice

Cairns is internationally recognised and celebrated for its abundant natural beauty and laid-back lifestyle.

In planning for our future, we have the opportunity to create a city that embraces its local character and climate, and to celebrate its unique identity and sense of place through thoughtful growth planning and decision-making.

Imagine a city where:

- The quality and beauty of its Blue + Green elements are seamlessly integrated into the urban fabric.
- The built form design celebrates and embodies the tropical lifestyle.
- Housing choices meet the diverse needs of our community.
- Our culture, diversity and rich history are celebrated.
- Our centres are vibrant, attractive places to live, work and play.
- We are resilient and respond to our natural features and conditions, protecting and preserving the lifestyle values cherished by our residents.

Have your say

We need to continue to work together to ensure that Cairns in 2050 is the best it can be.

We invite you to have your say on the growth directions and options described in this Directions Paper.

Your feedback will help shape the drafting of the Cairns Growth Strategy.

Community engagement has been at the centre of every step we have taken so far on the Growth Strategy journey. Over the next few months we will be capturing community input on the growth opportunities through an online survey, Growth Summits, First Peoples Gathering, and pop-ups at key community events across the Cairns Greater Area.

We will also be continuing to liaise with the State Government as we undertake further work and community engagement, realising the importance of a shared vision for the region.

To stay updated and receive notifications about future engagement opportunities, please register on the project website:

www.haveyoursay.cairns.qld.gov.au/towards2050

Contact details

Email: towards2050@ Cairns.qld.gov.au

Call us toll-free: 1300 692 247

Photo credits

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Towards 2050

Directions Paper

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