Shaping Cairns

Towards 2050 Growth Strategy:
Explanatory guide and consultation paper



Cairns
REGIONAL COUNCIL

Enticed by opportunity
Live for lifestyle
Embrace the future
Cairns, the tropical capital of Australia

Acknowledgement of Country

Cairns Regional Council acknowledges and pays our respects to the Traditional Custodians of our region, the Djabugay; Yirrganydji; Buluwai, Gimuy Walubara Yidinji; Mandingalbay Yidinji; Gunggandji; Dulabed and Malanbara Yidinji; Bundabarra and Wadjanbarra Yidinji; Wanyurr Majay; Mamu and NgadjonJii peoples.

We extend this respect to all Elders past, present and future, and other First Peoples within our region.



Photo courtesy Tourism Tropical North Queensland, copyright Brad Newton



Message from the Mayor



We've recently released two vital documents for our city's future: the Shaping Cairns Towards 2050 Explanatory guide and consultation paper, and the more detailed Towards 2050 Draft Growth Strategy.

Together, these documents map out a tropical, vibrant vision for how Cairns will grow and develop in the decades ahead.

Read and explore

Take a moment to review the documents. This explanatory guide and consultation paper provides a straightforward summary, making it easier for everyone to understand Council's goals and vision. If you'd like to dive deeper, the detailed Draft Growth Strategy outlines the specific policies and plans guiding future decision making.

Share your feedback

Your input matters. Please share your thoughts, ideas and concerns through Council's Have Your Say platform. Look for the clearly marked green circles in the explanatory guide document - these contain targeted questions designed to help us refine the strategy based on your responses.

Spread the word

Encourage friends, family, neighbours and colleagues to participate. The more perspectives we receive, the stronger our final plan will be.

Together, we can shape a thriving sustainable Cairns we'll all be proud to call home.

Warm regards,
Amy Eden
Mayor of Cairns

Introduction

Over the past few years, Cairns Regional Council has been working to understand what we want the future of our region to look like - not just for ourselves, but for generations to come.

As custodians, we will make sure that the natural and unique beauty of our region is maintained for future residents and visitors to enjoy.

We have listened to the community, tested outcomes and studied influences. We understand Cairns' values - both from the community and environmental perspectives, and we have embedded these into the Draft Growth Strategy for the future.

This Explanatory guide and consultation paper presents the foundational elements and key initiatives of the Draft Growth Strategy, and invites community feedback on decisions and priorities for achieving sustainable growth within the city of Cairns.

Each document prepared for the Towards 2050 Growth Strategy project demonstrates a growing understanding of the challenges and opportunities, incorporating community feedback and further developing ideas. This iterative process has led to the evolution of each document. The Shaping Cairns Towards 2050: Explanatory guide and consultation paper, and the Towards 2050 Draft Growth Strategy document represent the culmination of this work.

For more detailed understanding of the overall strategy and the journey we have taken to get here, please refer to previous Towards 2050 documents 1-3 shown below:



1

Growth Strategy Framework

Identifies why a growth plan is needed, and introduces guiding principles for growth.



2

Youth & Community Summits Summary

Summarises input and feedback from the Community and Youth Summits held in 2023.



3

Directions Paper

Details each of the guiding principles for growth.



+



4

Explanatory guide

Community facing document presenting foundational elements and key initiatives.

T2050 Growth Strategy

Builds on the guiding principles and technical input to develop place-based strategies for growth.

Engagement with stakeholders and the community

You can find the engagement reports at www.cairns.qld.gov.au/towards2050

Establishing the path forward

The Draft Growth Strategy has been informed by community input and a range of technical studies. You can find the full Towards 2050 Draft Growth Strategy at www.cairns.qld.gov.au/council/towards2050



How engagement and technical inputs have come together to form the Draft Growth Strategy

What does growth look like?
Engage with the community regarding growth, understanding the opportunities as well as the concerns.

Take the time to understand the issues
Examining the drivers of growth, and reviewing the economic, social and environmental trends for Cairns.

Can we handle the growth?
Understanding our current planned capacity for growth and understanding how this will be achieved.

Possible impats of natural hazards?
Overlaying up-to-date hazard and constraints mapping to understand possible future impacts.

Where should we foas growth?
Identifying areas suitable to promote growth to deliver on community expectations.

Setting the direction forward
Guided by community and technical analysis to establish the growth statement and strategies.

Develop the plan
Spatial allocation for growth including key focus areas and regional economic clusters.

Bringing it all together
The Growth Strategy is finished



What we heard...

What do you love about living in Cairns?

We asked, and you answered. We identified the top things you love about 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

We brought Traditional Custodians and First Peoples together to discuss the future direction of the region. This engagement revealed key priorities for First Peoples:

- First Peoples voices in planning and development
- Housing
- First Peoples-led cultural tourism
- Connection to country.

How this has shaped our approach

Our engagement process has captured feedback from residents, visitors, individuals, groups, stakeholders, First Peoples and young people. Over the last two and a half years, we have captured over 200,000 interactions between our project team and the Cairns community.

As part of the project, we also established a randomly-selected community panel of 350 people that reflect the demographic make-up of Cairns. We have included the Community Panel's 'vision' for different areas across Cairns in this document. We developed these statements from the feedback we captured on the Directions Paper.

Reflecting on the insights shared by community members, the community panel, stakeholders, young people and First Peoples, it is clear that there is a strong vision for the future of Cairns.

It is also clear that we are planning for the future of our young people, and they have clear expectations of the future.

Our community demands better outcomes. So, it is essential that we challenge current practices and processes to meet these expectations.

We recognise the importance of being mindful of our environment, landscapes, and cultural values as we plan for growth. Embracing design that considers the place and the legacy of our actions will be important in changing how we go about planning for growth, development and how live, work and play in Cairns.

Key focus areas raised by young people during consultation

- Better range of housing types and prices.
- Better public transport.
- More connected with community wildlife habitats and green open spaces.
- More investment in community services, facilities and essential infrastructure.
- Stronger and more diverse economy with greater employment opportunities.
- Better access to services and facilities within local neighbourhoods.
- More social, cultural and sporting activities and facilities.
- Better planned local neighbourhoods.
- New buildings are designed to be sustainable and suit our tropical climate.
- Better understanding of and resilience to natural hazards.
- New development that complements our unique heritage character and lifestyle.


STREETSCAPES


COASTAL


URBAN


WATERWAYS


SUGAR CANE LANDS


WATERFALLS


SUBURBAN





Adopting a Blue + Green Framework

Throughout our work on the draft Growth Strategy, the community has consistently told us how much they value the blue and green elements of our region – the elements that make Cairns unique.

These elements include watercourses, water bodies, beaches, natural habitats, green spaces, trees and landscaping.

Shaping the future of Cairns involves a comprehensive framework that emphasises these blue and green elements, making sure development respects the tropical climate, natural environment, and cultural heritage. This framework is about harmonising with our landscape and culture to preserve the values we cherish.

The Blue + Green Framework guides six foundational elements that each help manage growth across Cairns.

For millennia, the blue and green elements in Cairns have been cared for by our First Peoples. By focusing on these elements, the growth strategy aims to carry this care forward.

Foundational elements

Delivering the Blue + Green Framework

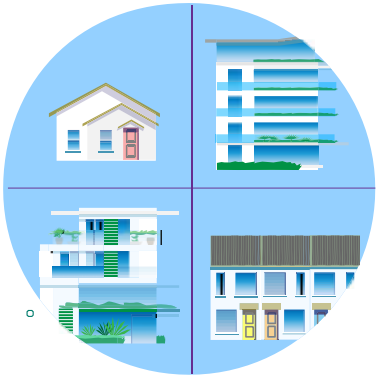


Protect & celebrate our blue, green tropical landscape

Cairns and its immediate surroundings are unique.

Technical studies have reinforced that we must prioritise infill development in our existing urban areas. Infill development occurs where new buildings are built on land in existing urban areas that is vacant or underused. This development allows us to use this land more efficiently.

These studies also emphasise that further outward urban expansion, or greenfield development outside those areas that already identified for development and or investigation, should be avoided to make sure we protect and celebrate the tropical qualities of the region.



Diverse housing for our changing community

Housing in Cairns is increasingly not meeting the changing needs and budget of our growing community. Many cities and regions across Queensland are experiencing this problem too.

Whether urban development occurs in a new greenfield community or an existing urban area, we need to make sure that there is a diverse range of housing sizes, types and affordability. Providing this diverse range of housing requires a shift in our approach to planning and development.

Housing diversity that meets community needs and is designed for the tropics is critical for the future of Cairns.



Proactively plan for natural hazards

Studies into the risks associated with natural hazards have highlighted the need to avoid exposure in new urban areas and respond carefully to the nature of the hazards affecting our existing urban areas. These studies have also highlighted the need to examine the feasibility for wider region scale mitigation or adaptation solutions beyond what is already planned for at an individual house scale.

Planning for hazard resilient infrastructure can also act as a catalyst for future growth, particularly around the city centre and key economic precincts.



Consolidated, focused growth

Cairns is defined by its mountains to the north and west, its reef to the east, and Trinity Inlet and extensive cane lands to the south. This means that our growth must occur within the part of our region that has already been identified for urban development. The background studies show there is capacity for development in this area. Increasing the uptake of infill development opportunities in the well-serviced central areas of our region is an important part of this equation. Infill development occurs where new buildings are built on land in existing urban areas that is vacant or underused. Infill development also supports the efficient provision and use of infrastructure such as roads, sewer and water, as well as community infrastructure and services.



Create great tropical neighbourhoods

All future development needs to create buildings and neighbourhoods that are better designed for the tropical climate. This development also needs to enhance the character the Cairns community and visitors value so highly.

Our urban areas, spaces and streets make an important contribution to the tropical character of Cairns. They will complement new development and connect places through design that responds to the climate.



Support a thriving economy

Population growth in Cairns needs to be matched by a growing and diverse economy that provides competitive job opportunities. Attracting growth in established and new key industry sectors, and supporting the development of strongly performing centres industry precincts and connected economic clusters, will drive business and employment opportunities that are critical to the region's growth and prosperity.

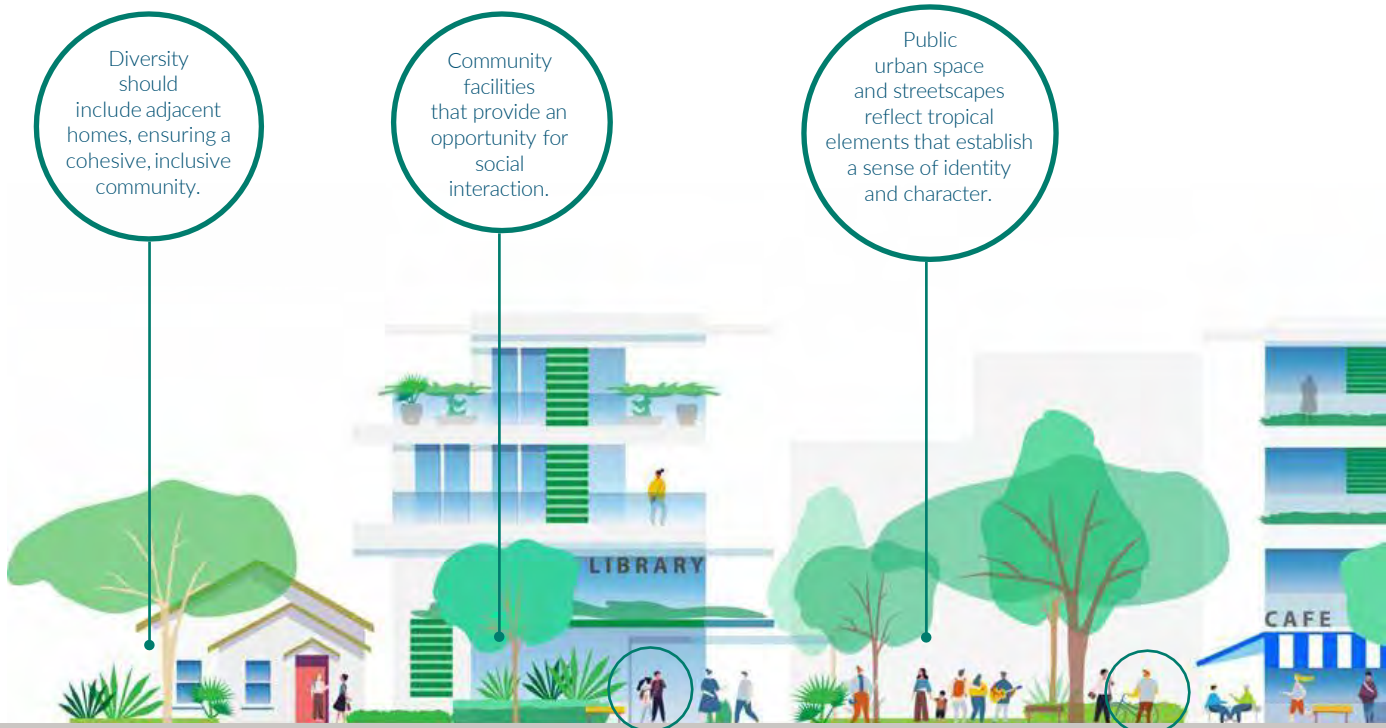
Tropical Urban Villages: a place-based approach to planning and a key initiative to deliver on the foundational elements

As Cairns is located in Australia's wet tropics region, we need to consider the impacts of the climate and design outcomes that respond to this climate. We also have to manage the impacts of the continued outward expansion of urban development.

As a result, it is crucial to make better use of our well-serviced infill areas, creating sustainable urban communities with high amenity that focus on housing diversity, connectivity and lifestyle.

These areas of focus are known as **Tropical Urban Villages.** Their defining features are:

- A strong community focus
- Walkable, shady environments with high-quality public spaces
- A range of housing options, focused in Manunda, Manoora, Earlville, Edge Hill, Westcourt and Bungalow
- Opportunities for Tropical Urban Villages integrated within new infill developments and greenfield areas such as those new communities within Mount Peter.



Who could live in a Tropical Urban Village?

Salonee & Jayden, 30's

Job: Shift work
Hobbies: Gym, eating out, walking
Values: Walkable community, proximity to work / public transport
Lives: 2 bedroom unit, with entertainment deck.

Kingston, 28

Job: Electrician
Hobbies: Run club, cycling, not cooking
Values: Low maintenance living, being close to restaurants and entertainment
Lives: 1 bedroom unit above a licensed cafe where he meets with friends after work on a Friday.



Cindy, 60+

Job: Medical assistant
Hobbies: Entertaining, community centre
Values: Low rent and long-term stability, close to facilities and public transport
Lives: 1 bedroom unit

Destiny, 20's

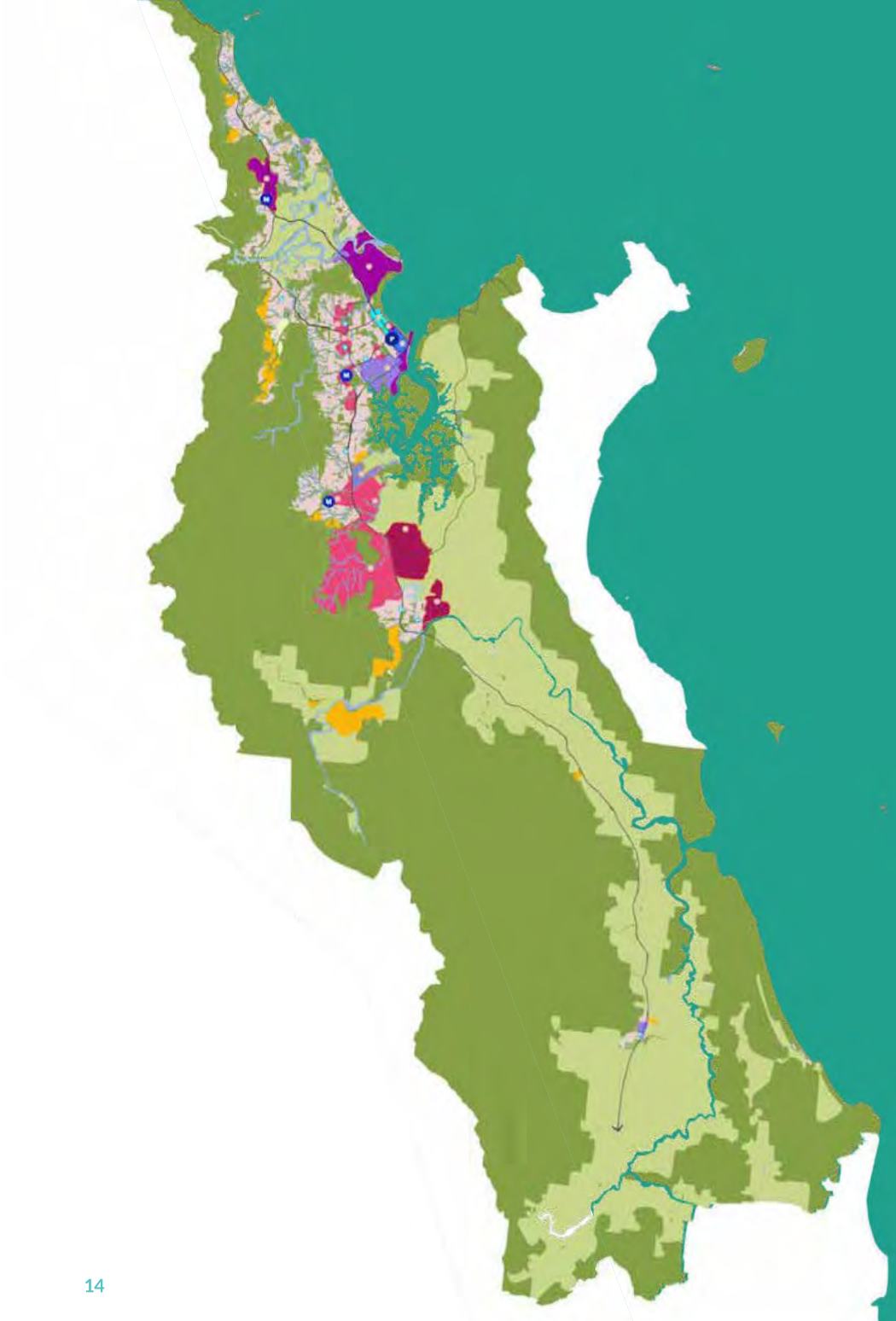
Job: Single parent / nurse
Hobbies: Mums club, local sports
Values: Safe with local parks nearby
Lives: 1 bedroom townhouse unit on ground floor with small garden

Cameron Family

Job: Engineer
Hobbies: Family outings
Values: Multiple-generational home, close to cafes and shops
Lives: Duplex

Singrid and Anna, 50's

Job: Professional
Hobbies: Entertaining, travel, beach
Values: Low maintenance apartment with views
Lives: 3-bed top floor apartment with mountain and water views



Establishing a future urban pattern

A key deliverable of the Towards 2050 Growth Strategy is a growth pattern that spatially reflects the existing urban pattern but incorporates focus areas for future growth needs.

A primary focus for infill growth will continue to be the City Centre and its surrounding inner-city communities.

Medium-densityhousing (typically multi-storey) and mixed use development will be a focus in and around major centres (Smithfield and Edmonton).

Incremental dwelling diversity will be introduced across the city, through 'gentle density' forms of housing. This means creating more opportunities for a range of housing within the current residential areas such as secondary dwellings (granny flats).

The Northern Beaches, Babinda, smaller townships and rural residential living areas will continue to provide additional lifestyle and housing choices. Appropriate and well-located community, education, sport and recreational facilities will be provided in these areas to support residents and create complete and sustainable communities.

Understanding how we will deliver these outcomes is crucial for achieving a Growth Strategy that will guide the region's development over the next 25 years and reflect our foundational elements.

Cairns has distinct sub-regions that have differing opportunities and challenges. To address this, the growth pattern has been based on the identification of three sub-regions:

- Economic coast + inner city tropical living
- Cairns lifestyle coast + innovation corridor
- Growth and opportunity corridor.



City-wide strategies

By 2050, Cairns will be home to about 72,000 more people than today and will be an inclusive, sustainable, safe and prosperous city.

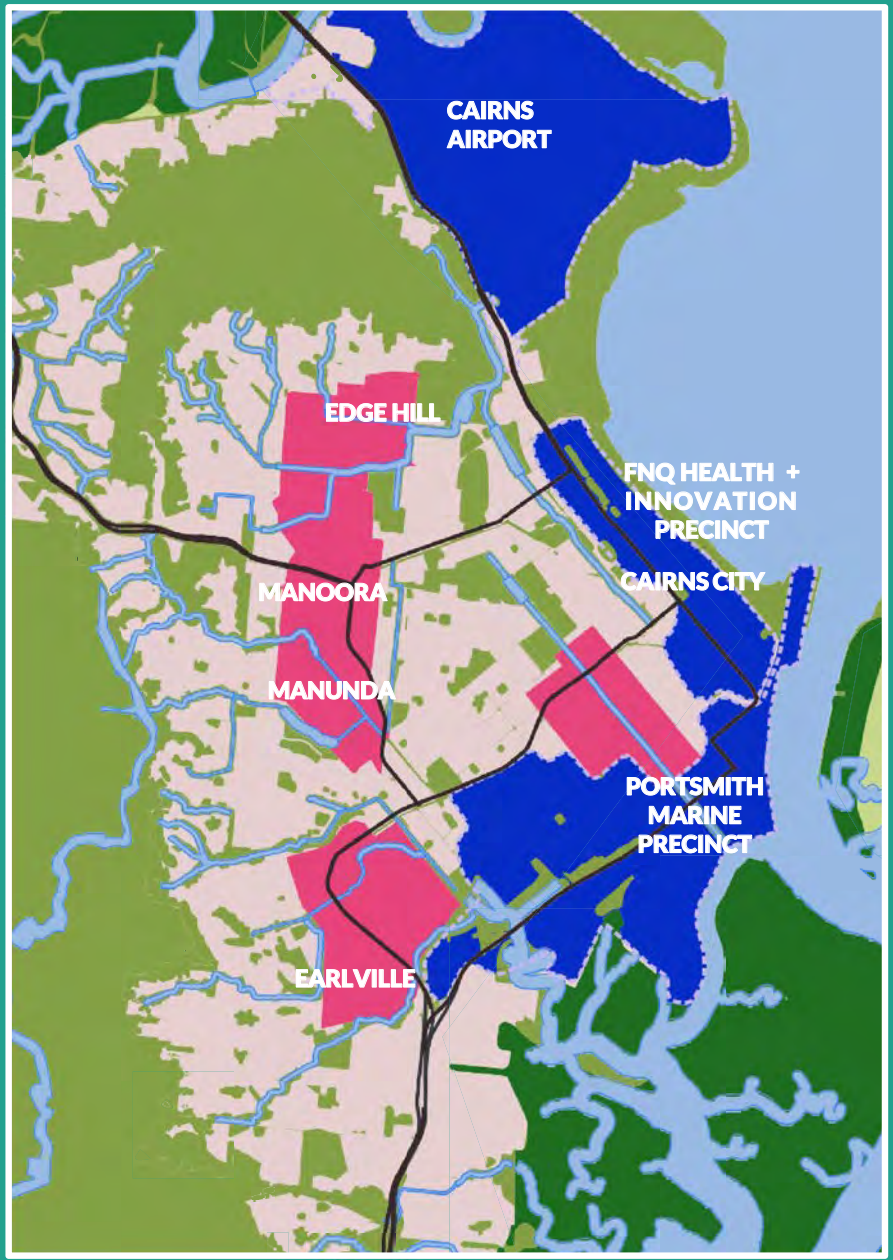
We will cater for this growth by making sure that we:

- Have a sufficient supply of land for development in greenfield or new urban development areas,
- Promote focus areas for infill development in central areas that are already well serviced by transport, infrastructure, services and jobs,
- Work to increase the diversity of housing types in both our greenfield and infill development areas which will give people more choice about how they live (e.g. in a house, a townhouse or an apartment).

Central Cairns
The economic coast + inner city tropical living

Cairns City Centre, as the primary destination in the region for residents and visitors, will be a key focus for growth and improved connectivity. Central Cairns will continue to play a critical role as the economic core of the region and broader Far North Queensland. It will continue to evolve and drive growth through its key precincts and regional economic clusters, including the City Centre, Dugurrdja Far North Queensland Health and Innovation Precinct, Cairns Airport Precinct, and Portsmith Marine Precinct.

Central Cairns will also play an increasingly important role in catering for population growth, where more people can benefit from access to a range of key employment opportunities and high-order community services and facilities.



Community response

Prioritising spending on urban villages in areas with less risk of natural hazard supported by great public transport.

Directions Paper feedback

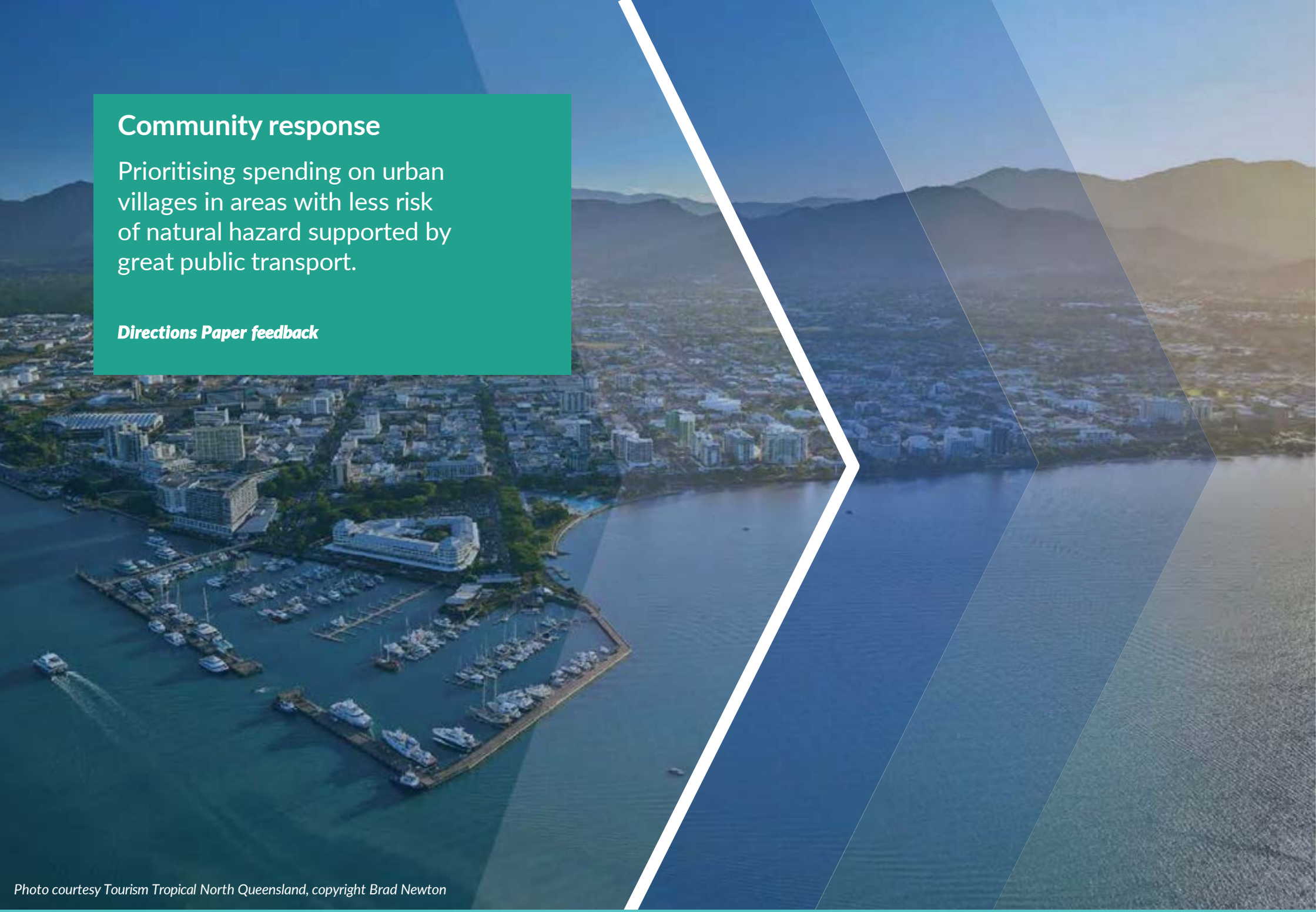


Photo courtesy Tourism Tropical North Queensland, copyright Brad Newton

Central Cairns
The economic coast

The Cairns city centre is the region's hub for diverse economic activity and growth.

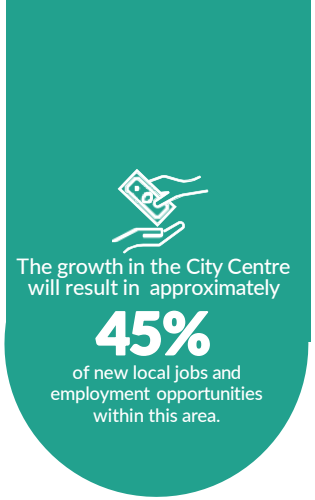
Driven by the strong physical and economic connections of key precincts and regional economic clusters, the city centre will support strong employment growth for the region.

Key facilities and precincts including the Dugurrdja Far North Queensland Health and Innovation Precinct, Portsmith Marine Precinct, and the Esplanade will serve as major attractors for employment and tourism.

These well-established precincts will give Cairns and the city centre a strong foundation for urban development and revitalisation. This includes supporting housing diversity, investment in community facilities, and diversity in services and worker amenities.

The city centre will enhance its role as a premier tourist destination, supported by tropical design responses and the creation of 'greenway' connections between key destinations in the city. Supporting both a day- and night-time economy in the city centre will further enhance Cairns' tourist and employment appeal.



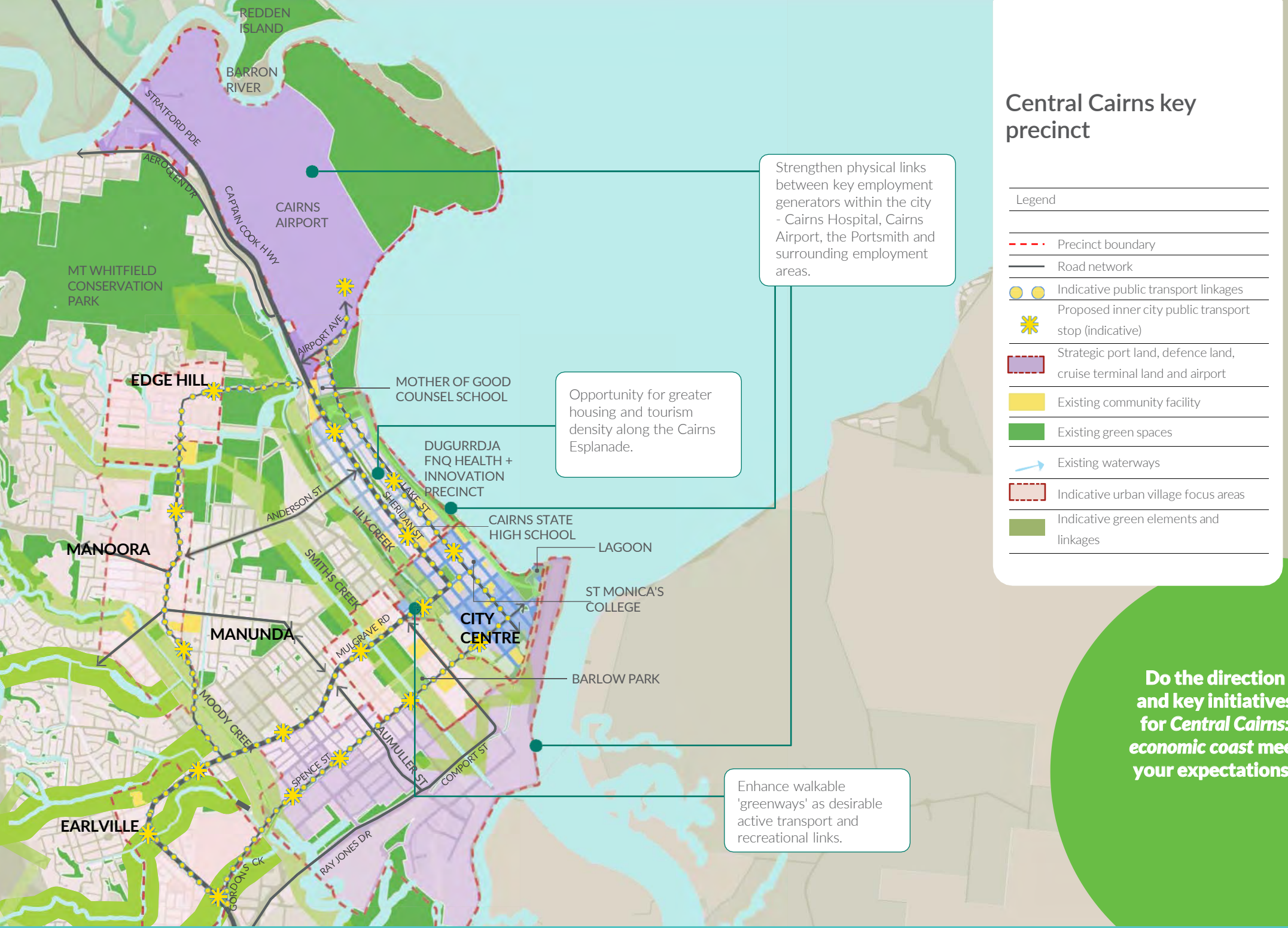


Key initiatives

Strengthened regional economic clusters within Central Cairns, around or anchored by established key facilities including the Cairns Hospital, Cairns Airport, Portsmith Marine Precinct and surrounding employment areas. These clusters will leverage opportunities for specialisation, innovation and economic growth by fostering a mix of development compatible with the facilities, and improved connections within and between the clusters.

Enhanced role as a tourism destination, supported by a wide range of accommodation options and well-connected entertainment and cultural facilities, with high-quality infrastructure and services for visitors. Tourism initiatives will leverage the significant cultural tourism economy within the region, further benefiting Traditional Owner-led tourism and communities.

Enhanced blue-green links within Central Cairns, with targeted creek and waterway rehabilitation and the creation of walkable 'greenways' featuring extensive tree cover along key streets, creeks and waterways.



Central Cairns key precinct

Legend

- Precinct boundary
- Road network
- Indicative public transport linkages
- Proposed inner city public transport stop (indicative)
- Strategic port land, defence land, cruise terminal land and airport
- Existing community facility
- Existing green spaces
- Existing waterways
- Indicative urban village focus areas
- Indicative green elements and linkages

Do the direction and key initiatives for *Central Cairns: economic coast* meet your expectations?

Central Cairns
Inner city tropical living

Despite the impact of flooding and storm tide inundation on the inner suburbs of Cairns, mapping these natural hazards and other constraints has identified key areas for growth with little hazard risk. Development in these areas will enhance connections to:

- Public transport and active travel
- The numerous creek lines, which are a feature of our blue-green networks
- Current community assets such as sports and local community centres

Redeveloping or intensifying land uses on appropriate properties in designated infill focus areas will be prioritised and incentivised. This new development will help to deliver Tropical Urban Villages that provide a mix of housing choices and high amenity.

Planning for greater connectivity between infill focus areas, regional economic clusters in the city centre, and the rest of the region, is essential for driving and encouraging growth in the inner suburbs.



The inner city will provide around

10%

of the city's required new housing by 2050.



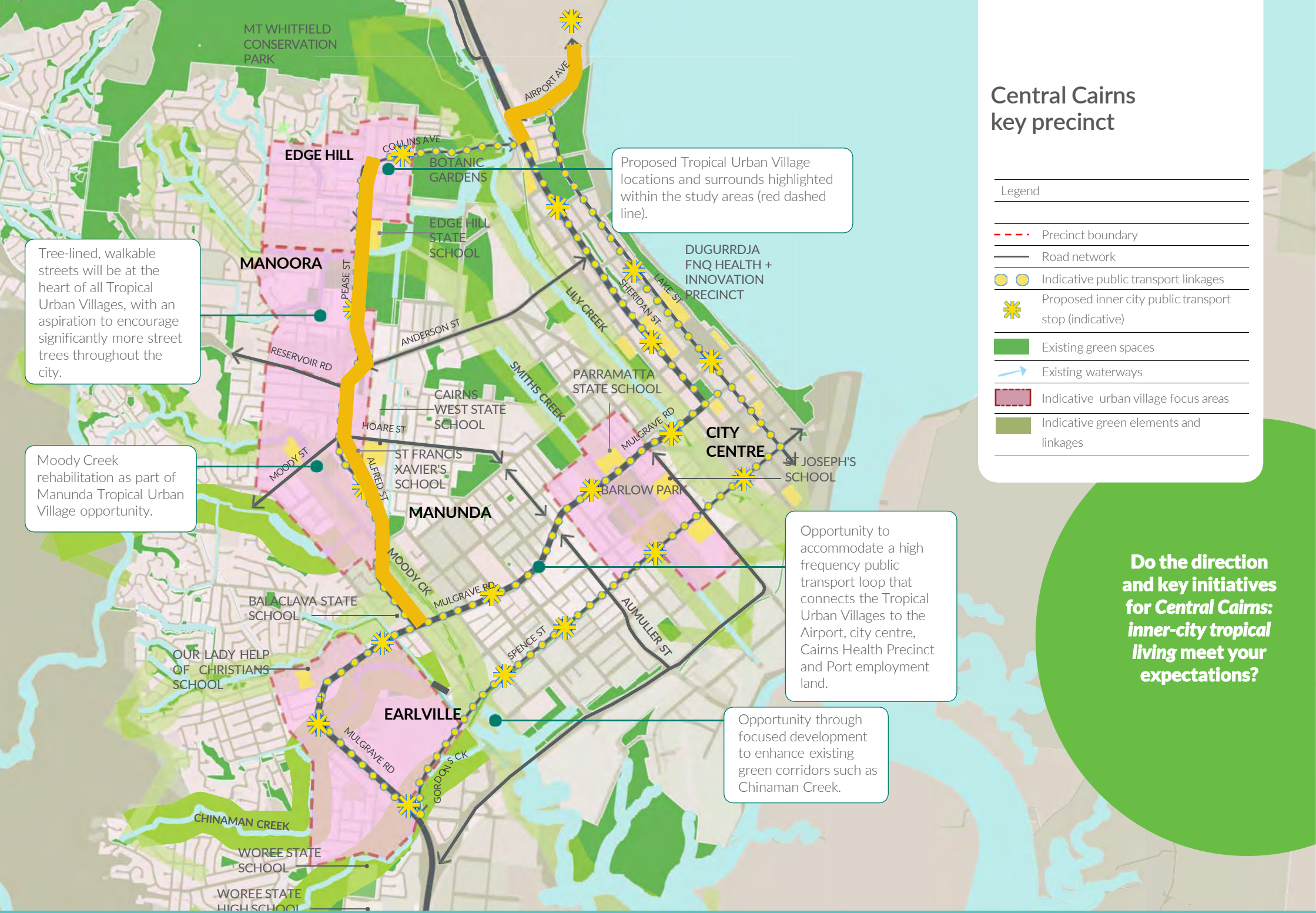
More diversity within the inner city will continue to support existing centres. New Tropical Urban Villages will create more destination-based retail opportunities.

Key initiatives

Guided by local planning and design processes, invest in public spaces, street planting and streetscape works. Create walkable and comfortable spaces with high amenity, especially at the centre of Tropical Urban Villages and along key connections to community destinations including Edge Hill, Manunda, Manoora, Earlville and the Barlow Park/Showgrounds community facilities.

Work with the State Government to prepare and implement the Cairns Transport Study and improve public transport, bike riding and walking options and infrastructure.

Transform Chinaman Creek, Smiths Creek and Moody Creek by reinstating natural features and ecological values that will create vibrant blue-green corridors for people and wildlife.



Tree-lined, walkable streets will be at the heart of all Tropical Urban Villages, with an aspiration to encourage significantly more street trees throughout the city.

Moody Creek rehabilitation as part of Manunda Tropical Urban Village opportunity.

Proposed Tropical Urban Village locations and surrounds highlighted within the study areas (red dashed line).

Opportunity to accommodate a high frequency public transport loop that connects the Tropical Urban Villages to the Airport, city centre, Cairns Health Precinct and Port employment land.

Opportunity through focused development to enhance existing green corridors such as Chinaman Creek.

Central Cairns key precinct

Legend

- Precinct boundary
- Road network
- Indicative public transport linkages
- Proposed inner city public transport stop (indicative)
- Existing green spaces
- Existing waterways
- Indicative urban village focus areas
- Indicative green elements and linkages

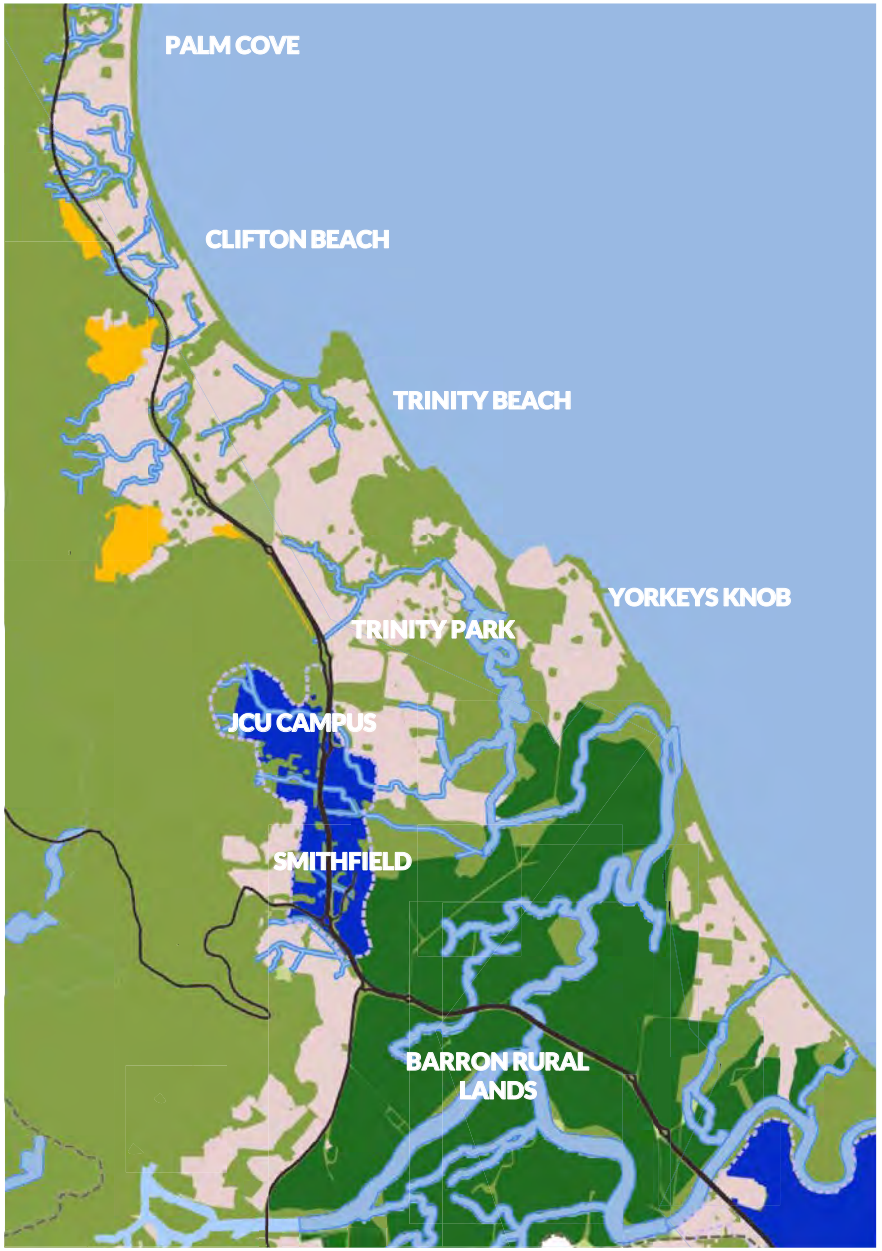
Do the direction and key initiatives for *Central Cairns: inner-city tropical living* meet your expectations?

Northern Cairns
Cairns lifestyle coast + innovation corridor

The northern parts of Cairns will continue to play a vital role in the Far North Queensland tourism industry, supporting a range of visitor accommodation options, tourist attractions, and dining, recreation and entertainment facilities. This area will also continue to accommodate medium and higher density permanent residential opportunities in and around the tourism nodes from Palm Cove to Trinity Beach.

The management of natural hazards will be critical for many communities in the northern parts of Cairns, particularly coastal and hillside communities and the Barron Delta. Exposure to hazards limits the opportunities for further expansion of urban development in this area. This exposure to hazards will also limit further intensification of building density, especially in the exposed and isolated communities at Yorkeys Knob, Holloways Beach and Machans Beach. Where new development occurs within existing urban areas, measures will need to be implemented to protect development from natural hazards, including coastal protection works such as revetment walls in some locations.

The northern parts of Cairns will continue to be a major contributor to the blue-green functions and character of the region, accommodating direct and important links between the mountains and rainforests of the Wet Tropics and the Coral Sea and Great Barrier Reef.





Community response

Urban village in Smithfield/James Cook University with diverse housing options supported by active transport.

Develop in areas with less risk of natural hazard.

Directions Paper feedback

Northern Cairns
Cairns lifestyle coast + innovation corridor

A greater mix of housing types is needed across the northern parts of Cairns to accommodate continued growth and to increase housing opportunities that are more affordable and meet the needs of different households (including older people, young people, students and smaller families). This greater mix of housing will be encouraged through a new focus on diverse housing in and around the James Cook University (Nguma-bada) campus and throughout the Smithfield corridor. This area also has opportunities for gentle density housing in all areas, and low-medium and medium-density housing in and around local and district centres.

Increased local employment options in the northern parts of Cairns will be promoted through diversified economic activities and mixed-used development in a regional economic cluster based on the corridor between James Cook University (Nguma-bada campus) and the Smithfield major centre. This northern economic cluster will provide for growth in employment opportunities, in service enterprises and, increasingly, in innovation, knowledge and technology-based enterprises.

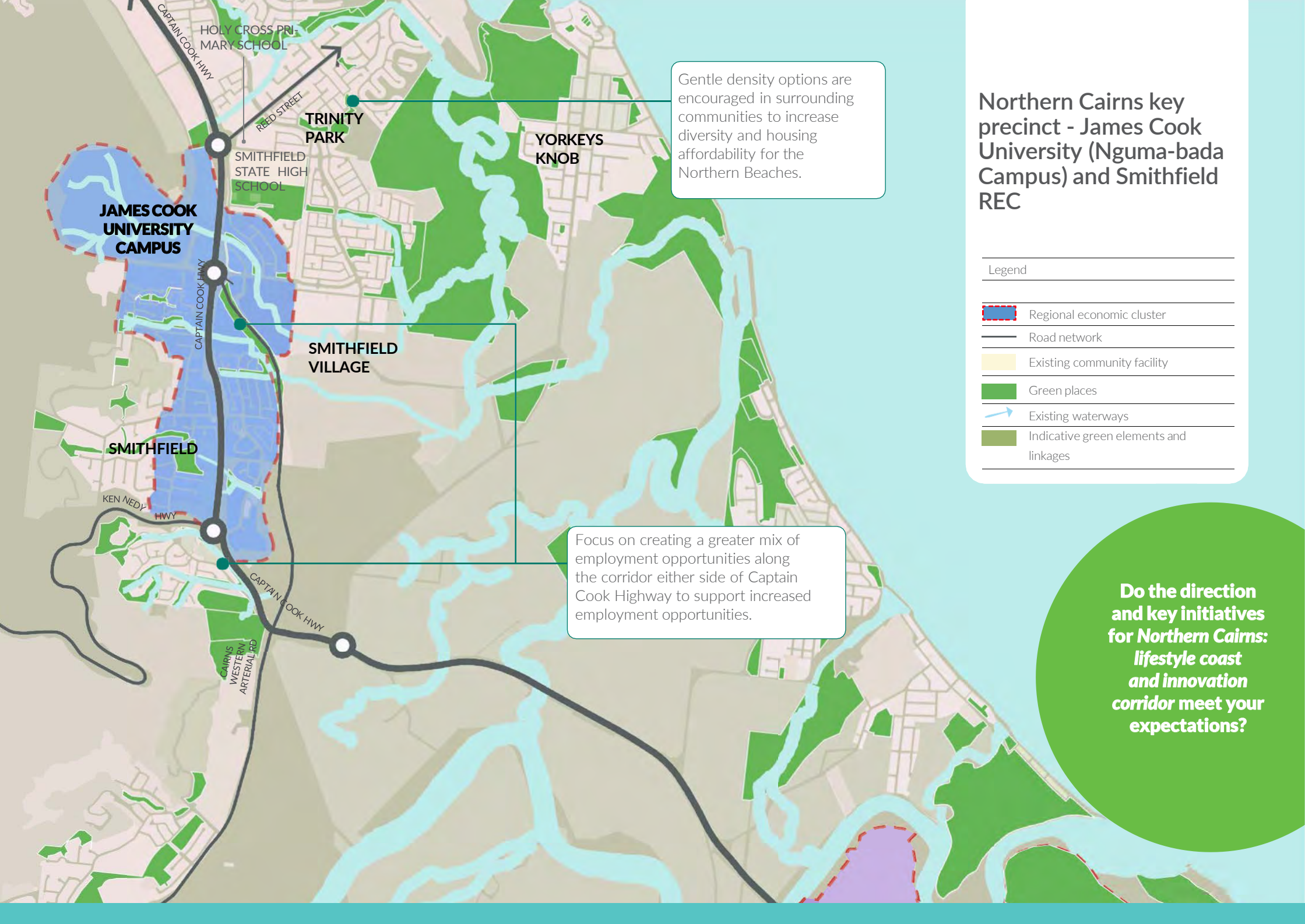




Key initiatives

Foster a regional economic cluster within the James Cook University (Nguma-bada) campus and Smithfield by encouraging a compatible mix of development and incentivising specialisation in knowledge corridor, innovation, health and allied services and supporting housing mix.

Continue to support medium and higher density housing and accommodation and lifestyle-supportive development in Palm Cove and Trinity Beach, and introduce gentle density to increase housing diversity and more affordable housing options within Northern Cairns.


HOLY CROSS PRI-
MARY SCHOOL
CAPTAIN COOK HWY
REED STREET
TRINITY
PARK
YORKEYS
KNOB
SMITHFIELD
STATE HIGH
SCHOOL
JAMES COOK
UNIVERSITY
CAMPUS
CAPTAIN COOK HWY
SMITHFIELD
VILLAGE
SMITHFIELD
KEN NEDY
HWY
CAPTAIN COOK HWY
CAIRNS
WESTERN
ARTERIAL RD
Gentle density options are encouraged in surrounding communities to increase diversity and housing affordability for the Northern Beaches.
Focus on creating a greater mix of employment opportunities along the corridor either side of Captain Cook Highway to support increased employment opportunities.
Northern Cairns key precinct - James Cook University (Nguma-bada Campus) and Smithfield REC
Legend
Regional economic cluster
Road network
Existing community facility
Green places
Existing waterways
Indicative green elements and linkages
Do the direction and key initiatives for *Northern Cairns: lifestyle coast and innovation corridor* meet your expectations?

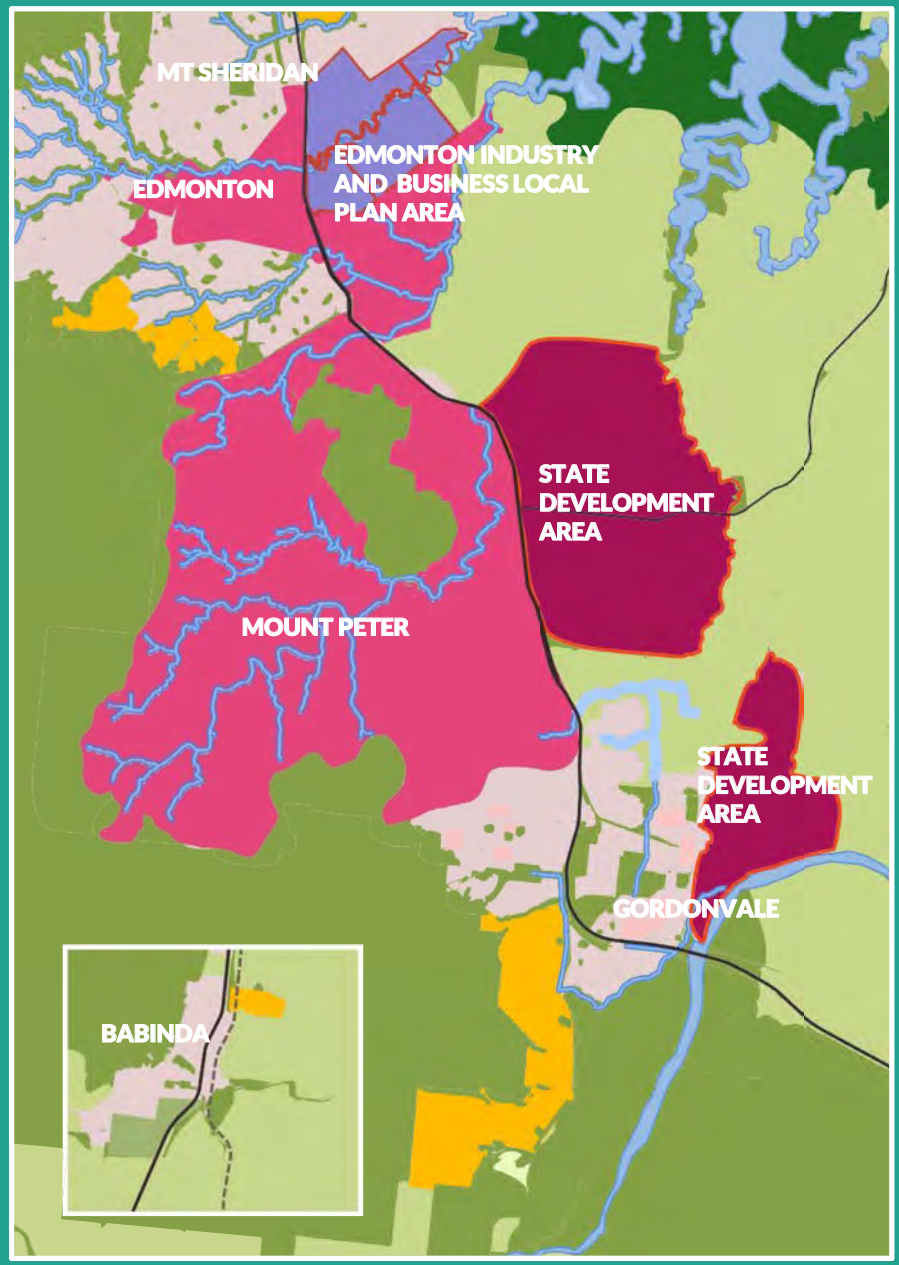
Southern Cairns growth and opportunity corridor

Southern Cairns will play a significant role in the growth of Cairns to 2050. Urban development will continue, with designated greenfield land at Mount Peter providing a significant land supply for new housing.

It is increasingly important that this land is developed efficiently to make the best use of high-cost infrastructure investments, and to reduce the pressure for further outward urban expansion that may undermine the cane industry. It is also increasingly important that greenfield urban development provides more diverse and better-designed housing to meet the needs of the future population.

The new communities of Mount Peter will need to be supported by additional centres, community facilities and social infrastructure, and more extensive local employment opportunities. The Edmonton Town Centre will evolve into a critical hub for the south, and a focus for higher density housing.

Emerging major industrial areas will also be facilitated in the Edmonton industrial zoned precinct and the Cairns South State Development Area. These industrial areas will accommodate a wide range of activities for advanced technology, clean industries and higher impact industries. An area within the existing Edmonton industry and business zone is being considered for residential development based on the surplus of industrial land and the existing residential community already located there.



Community response

Urban villages connected by existing blue and green spaces, new community infrastructure, active transport links and local employment.

Directions Paper feedback



Southern Cairns growth and opportunity corridor

Cairns will continue to work with the State Government to have a Priority Development Area (PDA) declared for Mount Peter. This coordinated approach to development will see a holistic approach to the timely and efficient delivery of infrastructure.

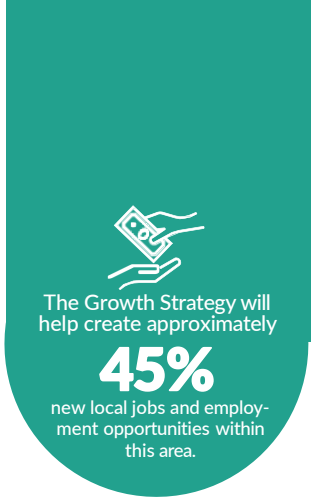
Transport networks (including commuters, local walking and cycling facilities, and public transport) will need to improve connections between communities and employment areas east and west of the Bruce Highway. These transport networks will also need to improve access to the city centre and the regional economic clusters that have been identified for the southern corridor communities.

Significant investment in hard infrastructure (eg. sewer and water pipes and roads) and soft infrastructure (eg. community facilities and schools) will be required to support the significant growth in both residential development and employment within the broader growth corridor.

Babinda and Gordonvale will continue to serve their local communities as traditional town centres for services, retail, community facilities and employment. While they will not accommodate significant growth, they will continue to serve Cairns with their unique lifestyle and character housing offerings, and through their importance as service centres for rural communities and in supporting tourism.

The important sugar cane industry and substantial natural values (and the various natural hazards that are associated with them) in Southern Cairns are to be protected. In particular, this is to be achieved by avoiding further pressure for outward urban expansion.



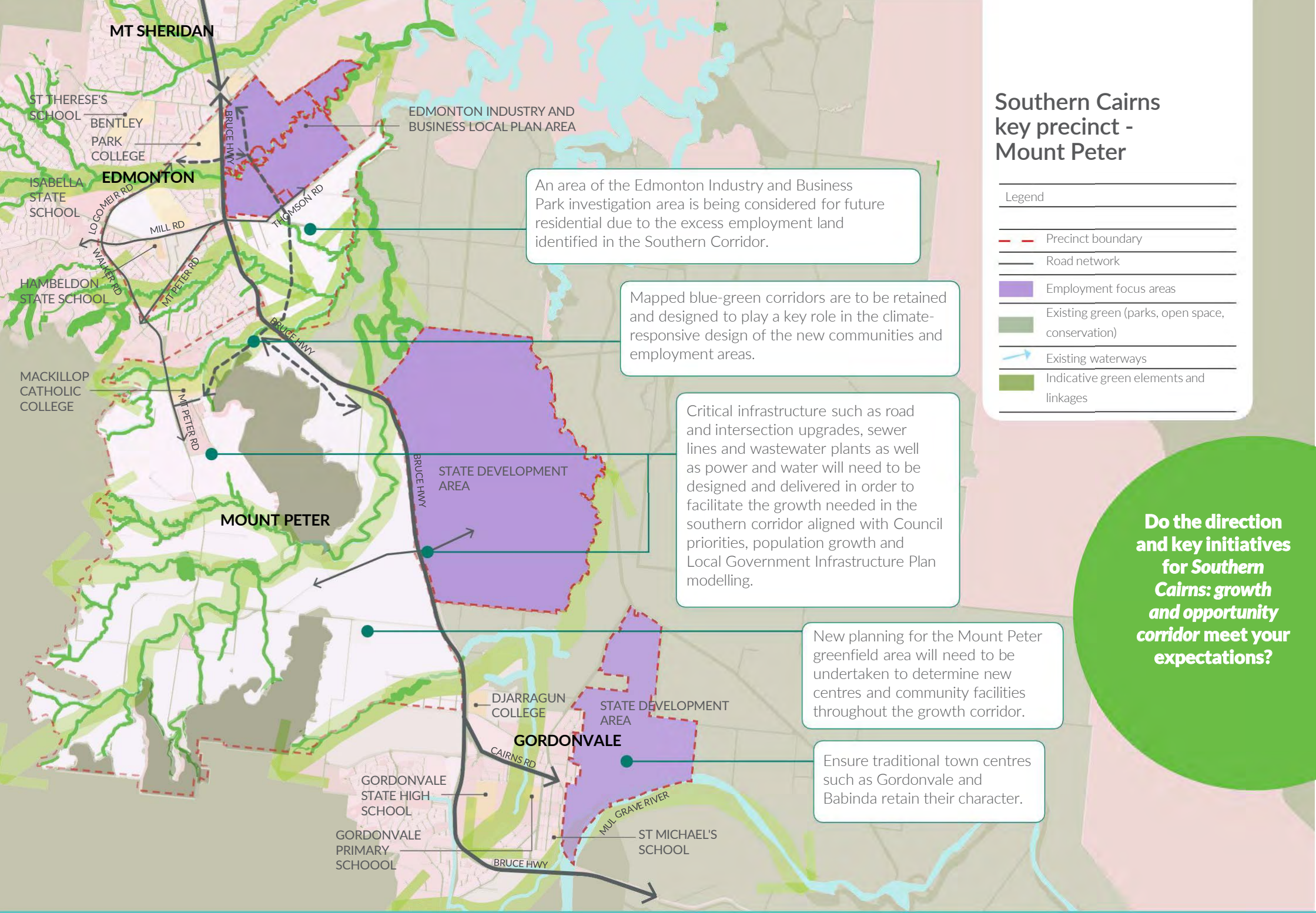


Key initiatives

Work with the State Government to have a PDA declared which will allow Council and the State to plan for, and deliver, the necessary transport, water supply and sewerage infrastructure to support the timely release of greenfield residential land and to unlock the Cairns South State Development Area.

Facilitate well designed, accessible local and district centres, as well as the longer term emergence of a major centre in Edmonton. These centres will accommodate mixed use development opportunities and meet the needs of their catchment populations.

Ensure traditional town centres in Gordonvale and Babinda continue to meet the retail, employment and services needs of their local communities and allow an incremental increase in housing supply that is in keeping with existing scale and character.


MT SHERIDAN
ST THERESE'S SCHOOL
BENTLEY PARK COLLEGE
EDMONTON
ISABELLA STATE SCHOOL
LOGOMEIR RD
MILL RD
WALKER RD
MT PETER RD
BRUCE HWY
THOMSON RD
EDMONTON INDUSTRY AND BUSINESS LOCAL PLAN AREA
HAMBELDON STATE SCHOOL
MACKILLOP CATHOLIC COLLEGE
STATE DEVELOPMENT AREA
MOUNT PETER
DJARRAGUN COLLEGE
GORDONVALE
CAIRNS RD
GORDONVALE STATE HIGH SCHOOL
GORDONVALE PRIMARY SCHOOOL
MULGRAVE RIVER
ST MICHAEL'S SCHOOL
An area of the Edmonton Industry and Business Park investigation area is being considered for future residential due to the excess employment land identified in the Southern Corridor.
Mapped blue-green corridors are to be retained and designed to play a key role in the climate-responsive design of the new communities and employment areas.
Critical infrastructure such as road and intersection upgrades, sewer lines and wastewater plants as well as power and water will need to be designed and delivered in order to facilitate the growth needed in the southern corridor aligned with Council priorities, population growth and Local Government Infrastructure Plan modelling.
New planning for the Mount Peter greenfield area will need to be undertaken to determine new centres and community facilities throughout the growth corridor.
Ensure traditional town centres such as Gordonvale and Babinda retain their character.
Southern Cairns key precinct - Mount Peter
Legend
Precinct boundary
Road network
Employment focus areas
Existing green (parks, open space, conservation)
Existing waterways
Indicative green elements and linkages
Do the direction and key initiatives for Southern Cairns: growth and opportunity corridor meet your expectations?

Have your say

We invite you to have your say on this Explanatory guide and consultation paper, and on the Draft Growth Strategy. Your insights and observations are vital to help us as we plan for the future of Cairns.

Community engagement has been at the centre of every step we have taken on the Growth Strategy so far. During this next phase, between 2 May and 24 June 2025, we want to capture community input on the Draft Growth Strategy. We invite you to have your say through an online survey, stakeholder workshops, First Peoples gathering, and pop-ups across the Cairns area.

We will then review and analyse community feedback on the Draft Growth Strategy. We will also continue 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 have your say, and to stay updated on the project, please visit the project website:

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

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Cairns
REGIONAL COUNCIL

