

# CAIRNS GALLERY PRECINCT

 Cairns Regional  
COUNCIL



CONNECTING OUR PAST WITH OUR PRESENT THROUGH ART & CULTURE

# VISION

*The Cairns Gallery Precinct will transform three existing heritage-listed buildings within the Cairns city centre to create a dynamic and world class gallery precinct.*



## THE OLD COURT HOUSE

CIRCA 1919

Constructed from 1919-21, the Court House building, fronting Abbott Street, was utilised as the city's court house until 1992. The Cairns Court House was renovated thereafter as the Cairns Courthouse Hotel in 1998 and acquired by Cairns Regional Council in 2016.



## THE CAIRNS ART GALLERY

CIRCA 1936

The Cairns Art Gallery building was designed in 1933 and completed in 1936. The original principal tenant of the building was the Public Curator's Office. Refurbishment started in September 1994 to transform the building into an art gallery space, with the Cairns Regional Gallery opened to the public on 15 July 1995.



## FORMER MULGRAVE SHIRE COUNCIL OFFICES

CIRCA 1912

The former Mulgrave Shire Council Chambers was constructed in 1912. Further internal alterations have occurred after this time. In 2016, the building became the Cairns and Tropical North Visitor Information Centre.

*I became aware of the huge number of tourists that would be drawn to an iconic visual arts institution. The City has all the ingredients to provide this and is showing great vision and belief in wanting to create facilities for expanding opportunities ahead.*

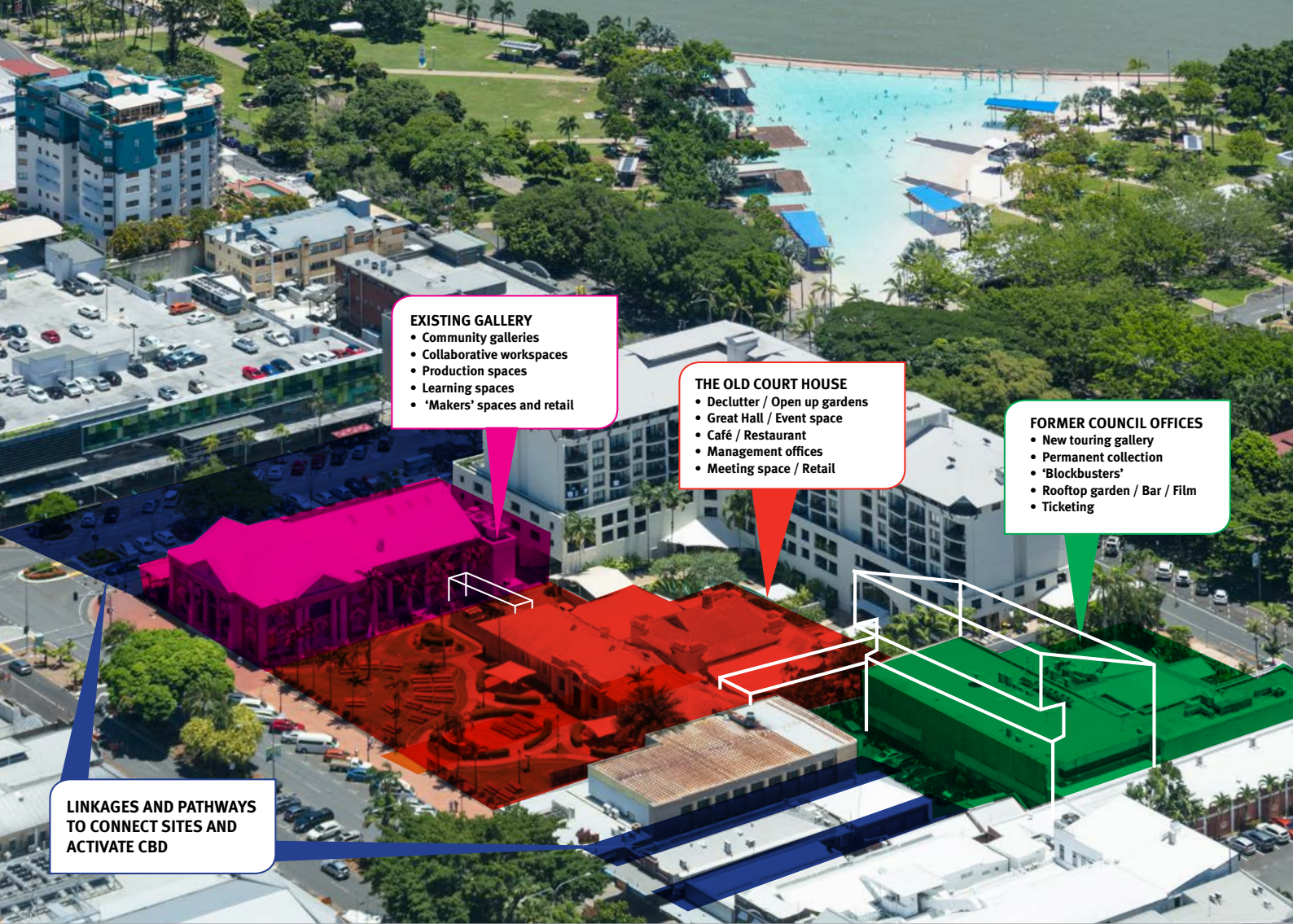
### Jim Cousins AO

Emeritus Trustee and Former Deputy Chair, National Gallery of Victoria. Former Chair, The Australian Ballet

The project aims to connect the three regionally significant buildings – the existing Cairns Art Gallery, the Old Court House, and the former Mulgrave Shire Council offices. This initiative will play a key role in the emergence of Cairns as the Arts and Cultural Capital of Northern Australia, providing a vibrant and expansive arts precinct showcasing international and domestic touring exhibitions as well as contemporary local and indigenous art.

This vision not only aims to build economic outcomes through tourism and community engagement in the arts, but is a celebration of the distinctive arts and culture created in Far North Queensland which contributes to our city's reputation as one of Australia's key destinations for a unique cultural experience. The precinct will be a bold and iconic statement that values and supports the arts for the benefit of residents and visitors.

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**EXISTING GALLERY**

- Community galleries
- Collaborative workspaces
- Production spaces
- Learning spaces
- 'Makers' spaces and retail

**THE OLD COURT HOUSE**

- Declutter / Open up gardens
- Great Hall / Event space
- Café / Restaurant
- Management offices
- Meeting space / Retail

**FORMER COUNCIL OFFICES**

- New touring gallery
- Permanent collection
- 'Blockbusters'
- Rooftop garden / Bar / Film
- Ticketing

**LINKAGES AND PATHWAYS TO CONNECT SITES AND ACTIVATE CBD**

# BUILDING THE VISION

**C**airns Regional Council is dedicated to supporting a rich and diverse cultural environment through the provision of accessible public facilities that raise the awareness and recognition of Cairns's artistic community and meet the needs of the region's abundant creative and cultural organisations and individuals. The precinct will have strong connections with other key arts and cultural infrastructure in the city including:

- the new Cairns Performing Arts Centre
- the Centre of Contemporary Arts
- School of the Arts heritage building which houses the new Cairns Museum
- the Tanks Arts Centre (a unique facility that utilises World War 2 oil tanks for gallery and performance space); and
- the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair, a showcase and celebration of Queensland's Indigenous culture



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ECONOMIC BENEFITS  
CONSTRUCTION IMPACTS

**\$63.8 M**

IN OUTPUT FOR CAIRNS BUSINESSES

**167** FULL-TIME  
equivalent jobs paying  
\$12.6 million in wages  
and salaries

**\$25.1 M**

IN GROSS REGIONAL PRODUCT

POST-CONSTRUCTION IMPACTS

**179** Full-time jobs paying  
\$10.9 million in wages and salaries

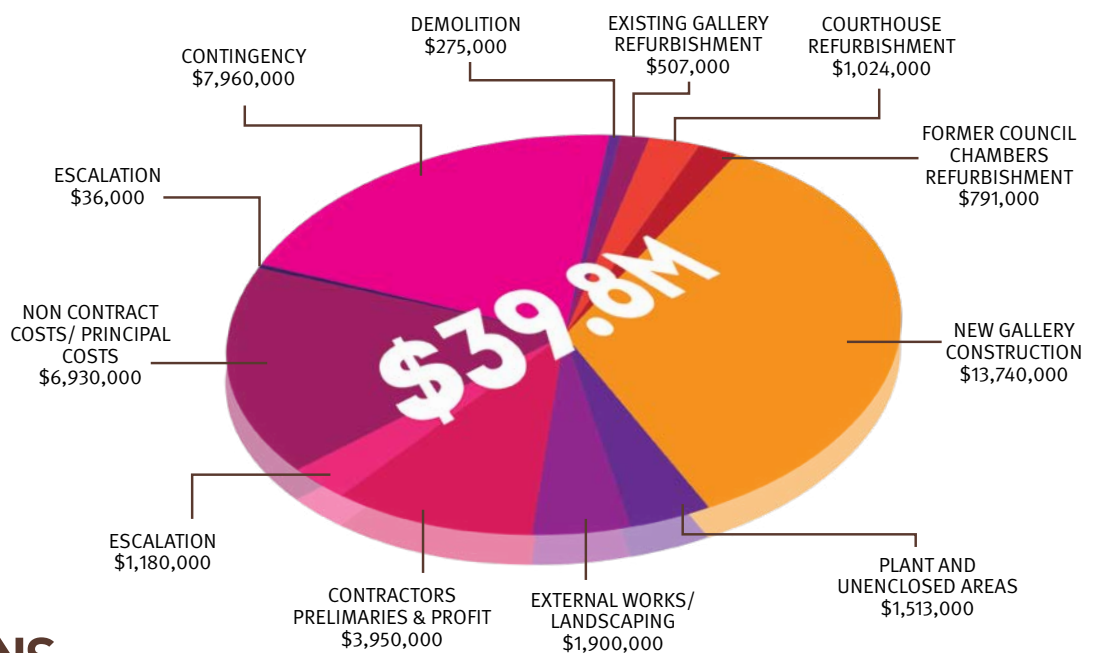
**\$12.5 M**

VISITOR SPEND EACH YEAR

**\$19.4 M** CONTRIBUTION TO GROSS  
REGIONAL PRODUCT

COSTS

Council engaged an independent cost consultant to provide an assessment of project capital costs for the Cairns Gallery Precinct based on preliminary concept design. Total estimated costs are \$39.8 million which includes all professional services, escalations, contingency and builder's margins





*With a specific focus on celebrating and supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts The Cairns Gallery Precinct is an opportunity to re-think the traditional nature of “galleries” and consider a new model that supports the night time economy of our CBD*

## FUNDING

**Council is seeking a tripartite funding model for the projects’s \$39.8 million capital cost with the Federal, State and Local (Council) Governments each contributing \$13.3 million.**

Council is seeking a tripartite funding model for the project’s \$39.8 million capital cost with the Federal, State and Local (Council) Governments each contributing \$13.3 million. Formal requests have been made by Council to the Federal Government and Queensland State Government for each to provide

\$13.3 million in funding towards the project’s capital cost. The timing of when funding contributions would be required/made is yet to be determined and will be clarified during the business case phase of the project. The business case is currently being undertaken and is due to be finalised in March 2019.

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