CAIRNS
GALLERY
PRECINCT
ART

CONNECTING OUR PAST WITH OUR PRESENT THROUGH ART & CULTURE
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.

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
Cairns 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.
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.

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

DEMOLITION $275,000
EXISTING GALLERY REFURBISHMENT $507,000
COURTHOUSE REFURBISHMENT $1,024,000
FORMER COUNCIL CHAMBERS REFURBISHMENT $791,000
NEW GALLERY CONSTRUCTION $13,740,000
PLANT AND UNENCLOSED AREAS $1,513,000
EXTERNAL WORKS/ LANDSCAPING $1,900,000
CONTRACTORS PRELIMARIES & PROFIT $3,950,000
NON CONTRACT COSTS/ PRINCIPAL COSTS $6,930,000
CONTINGENCY $7,960,000
ESCALATION $36,000
ESCALATION $1,180,000

ECONOMIC BENEFITS

FULL-TIME jobs paying $10.9 million in wages and salaries

Visitor spend each year $12.5 M

Full-time jobs paying $12.6 million in wages and salaries

CONTRIBUTION TO GROSS REGIONAL PRODUCT $19.4 M

CAIRNS GALLERY PRECINCT

Cairns Regional Council
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.

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.