

YOUR GUIDE TO INVESTING IN THE POWERHOUSE OF TROPICAL NORTH QUEENSLAND

INVEST CAIRNS

OCTOBER 2016

EDITION 3: SUSTAINABILITY IN THE TROPICS



Cairns Post

SPECIAL PUBLICATION

AGRICULTURE // MINING // REAL ESTATE // TOURISM // AVIATION // EDUCATION + MORE





WHEN YOU'RE **SERIOUS** ABOUT DOING **BUSINESS** IN OUR STUNNING LOCATION



As the peak economic development agency for Tropical North Queensland, Advance Cairns works collaboratively with all levels of governments, business and industry, promoting trade, inward investment and coordinating the delivery of the 20 year vision for the Region.



Our members share a common concern and interest in the development of our region and an understanding that the collective efforts of agencies and organisations to a common purpose will deliver benefits to us all.

Join us at Advance Cairns and lend your voice to helping direct the future of the TNQ region and securing sustainable prosperity for generations to come.

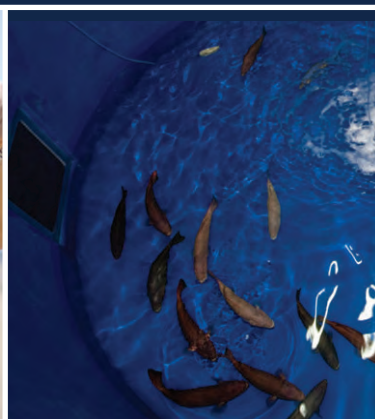


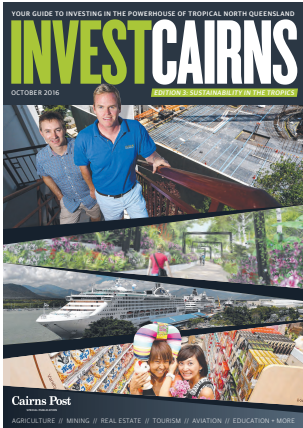
Membership applications are available online.



OUR REGION • ONE VOICE

advancecairns.com





EDITORS
Jennifer Spilsbury; Sian Jeffries

WRITERS
Rowan Sparkes, Alicia Nally

DESIGNERS
Jay Tweedie, Evolet Hill

HEAD OF SALES
Patricia O'Neill

ADVERTISING
For advertising inquiries; contact:
Ph: 4052 6912
Email: keyaccounts@ Cairnspost.com.au



REGIONAL SNAPSHOT **6-7**
 ADVANCE CAIRNS **8**
 MAYOR'S MESSAGE **10-11**
 MAJOR PROJECTS **12-13**
 AVIATION **14-15**
 WIND POWER **16-17**
 FINFISH ENTERPRISE **18**
 CRUISE INDUSTRY **20-21**
 CAIRNS AQUARIUM **22-23**
 KUR-WORLD **24-25**
 MT PETER ESTATE **26-27**
 BUILDING **28-29**
 AGRICULTURE **30-31**
 CONSTRUCTION **32-33**
 HEALTHCARE SERVICES **34**
 ARTS, CONFERENCES **36-37**
 EDUCATION **38**



REGION ON THE MOVE

CAIRNS IS THE GATEWAY TO ASIA AND OFFERS LUCRATIVE OPPORTUNITIES ACROSS A RANGE OF INDUSTRIES.

CAIRNS is at the forefront of a rapidly growing Northern Australia economy.

Tourism is experiencing highs not seen since pre-GFC, construction has been buoyed by two new cranes on the city's skyline and retail is holding steady.

With a regional population of 250,000 set to grow quickly in coming years, Cairns is being identified as a region on the move.

The Cairns region features the Great Barrier Reef and world heritage rainforests and is therefore generally regarded as both the champion and guardian of some of the country's most loved natural assets.

With that comes great responsibility and demands innovation.

This edition of Invest Cairns is dedicated to the theme of sustainability.

Invest Cairns aims to highlight the tremendous economic potential of the region as well as celebrate the exciting projects and plans in the pipeline.

We wanted to shine the spotlight on the efforts and commitments to making our region sustainable, which are protecting our great assets and providing long-term business and employment opportunities.

The wider Cairns region's economy is worth almost \$13 billion each year with a key sea port and successful international and domestic airports.

We are the gateway to Asia and feature lucrative opportunities across a range of industries.

There are great rewards for those who invest financially and emotionally in our rich region.

Jennifer Spilsbury
Cairns Post Editor

SUPPORTING TRADE SUPPORTING REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Ports North's ports are critical to the regional economy, representing \$1.8 billion gross value added and 17% of the gross regional product.



- Ports North works closely with business and regional development organisations to grow trade and increase exports and imports from the region.
- Our customers include those in the tourism sector, agriculture, mining, coastal trade, marine industry support, navy and fishing.

Growing trade and tourism through our ports contributing to regional economic growth.



PERFECTLY POSITIONED

A STRONG AND DIVERSE ECONOMY WORTH ALMOST \$13 BILLION EACH YEAR IS PAVING THE WAY FOR THE CAIRNS AND FAR NORTH REGION TO LEAD THE ALREADY RAPID GROWTH OF NORTHERN AUSTRALIA, WRITES SIAN JEFFRIES.

PRIME FOR INVESTMENT

CAIRNS, located in Tropical North Queensland, is a perfectly positioned city for those who want to do serious business in one of the most naturally beautiful and economically diverse regions in Australia.

Along with natural wonders and world-renowned tourist attractions including the Great Barrier Reef, beautiful beaches and tropical rainforests, Cairns is also Australia's northern gateway to Asia and beyond and a major service provider into northern Australia.

With an estimated population of 160,285 within the Cairns Regional Council boundaries alone, the city has a strong and diverse regional economy.

Taking in the Cairns Regional, Cook, Douglas, Mareeba, Tableland and Cassowary Coast local government areas, Cairns has a regional population of 250,000 and the region has experienced an average annual growth rate of 2.3 per cent over the past 10 years.

Cairns Regional Council's website predicts that two-thirds of tropical north Queensland's population growth (about 70,000 people) will be accommodated within the Cairns region, with up to 50,000 people ultimately accommodated within the new Mount Peter residential estate on the southside of the city.

According to economic profiling website economy.id, the Cairns Regional Council area's



The Great Barrier Reef is a major tourist attraction.

Picture: BRENDAN RADKE

economy is worth more than \$7.82 billion annually, which represents 2.7 per cent of the state's Gross State Product.

The wider Cairns region's economy is worth almost \$13 billion each year, and by 2031, will be one of the top 10 regional economies in Australia.

Retail trade is the largest industry in Cairns, generating 8625 local jobs across the city in the 2014/15 financial year, according to the website.

FUTURE OF THE NORTH

The northern Australia economy is growing quickly.

According to the Federal Government's first

15-year Australian Infrastructure Plan, which was released in February, places like Cairns, Townsville and Rockhampton will dominate the North in coming decades, largely because of the population growth rates in these areas, which are some of the highest in the country.

These regions are also home to key sea ports, airports, major roads, railways and logistic centres that are gateways to Asia, which, according to the plan, is likely to represent around two-thirds of the global middle-class population and consumption by 2031. There are more than 23,000 registered businesses in the area, generating employment for 117,000 people.

The region's diverse economy features tourism, retail, agriculture, construction and

THE WIDER CAIRNS REGION'S ECONOMY IS WORTH ALMOST \$13 BILLION EACH YEAR

mining industries, among others, and the strong regional economy continues to grow by about 3 per cent annually.

At the first North Queensland Economic Summit, held in Cairns in November, state premier Annastacia Palaszczuk said that north Queensland was continuing to diversify its



Staff members Yukiko Power and Mayumi Nakamura try out some of the products at the Daiso Japan store at Cairns Central Shopping Centre. Retail trade is the largest industry in Cairns.

Picture: JUSTIN BRIERTY

economy.

"If you want to Invest in northern Australia, then Queensland is the place to start," she said.

Ms Palaszczuk said North Queensland "ticked every single box".

"We have a shared time zone with most of our partners; we have a highly-competitive taxation environment; we have the lowest payroll tax rate in mainland Australia," she said.

"We have a resilient workforce that is highly skilled and we boast leading educational research facilities.

"And we are blessed with abundant natural resources, fertile land and a well-earned reputation as a clean, green and reliable producer of high-value agricultural produce.

"We also have the biggest population base in the northern tropics.

"We have great export ports, the international airports and well-established infrastructure so necessary for expansion.

Highlighting the increased number of direct and daily flights to international destinations, including Silk Air's Cairns to Singapore flights, Ms Palaszczuk said tourism was another area of immense opportunity for the North.

"We want to promote more because we have not only some of the best natural attractions in the world on our doorstep here in Queensland but we also have the great food and wine to go with it - we want to promote



Agriculture is a key industry for the wider Cairns region.

that to the rest of the world," she said.

There were also other opportunities beyond the global demand for the food and agribusiness sectors, she said, highlighting projects such as roads, rail and ports.

"Infrastructure, with the potential for attractive returns including emerging areas such as purpose-built student accommodation, urban renewal and health and knowledge precincts," she said.

"While we build on our traditional strengths, it is imperative we diversify into high growth sectors.

"And speaking of diversification of our economy, I am determined to see a biofuels industry kickstart here in Queensland."

TOURISM

Annually, more than two million domestic visitors and international guests visit the region, while more than four million passengers travel through the Cairns Airport.

Cairns Airport is listed alongside Gold Coast Airport as being predicted to have the highest level of passenger growth of any airports in Australia in coming years.

According to a Cairns Watch report published by Herron Todd White in August, the Cairns economy continues to experience positive tourism activity indicators.

Overall passenger numbers at the Cairns Airport grew by 5.6 per cent in the year to July.

OTHER INDICATORS

The report also showed that the unemployment rate was hovering around the 10 per cent mark, although job advertisements had increased by 5.6 per cent in the year to July.

"Median house prices in Cairns showed a mild increase in June, with the median price trend coming in at \$402,300," the report states.

Building approvals for the 2015-16 year as a whole totalled 743, of which 667 were for houses and 76 for units.



Thursday Island & Hammond Island

Weipa

Cooktown

Mareeba

Dimbulah

Atherton

Herberton

Ravenshoe

Tully

Mossman

Cairns

Babinda

Innisfail

Sth Johnstone

Silkwood

Leaders in Education in the Far North

- ✓ **Approximately 11,000 students & 1,700 staff in our 29 schools and colleges**
- ✓ **2 Prep-Y12 colleges, 20 primary schools and 7 secondary colleges, including 1 special assistance school**
- ✓ **For a full list of primary, secondary, co-educational, all-boys, all-girls and boarding schools, go to www.cns.catholic.edu.au/our-schools**



Catholic Education Diocese of Cairns

Learning with Faith and Vision

Follow us on Facebook 

Join Us! 1300 CATH ED

www.cns.catholic.edu.au



Picture: MARC McCORMACK

CITY OPEN FOR BUSINESS

FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS, CAIRNS IS NOW RECOGNISED AROUND THE WORLD AS A VIBRANT AND DYNAMIC DESTINATION. ONCE A QUIET AND LAIDBACK REGIONAL CENTRE, NOWADAYS THERE IS NO AMBIGUITY IN KNOWING WHO WE ARE OR OUR PLACE IN NORTHERN AUSTRALIA, ACCORDING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCY ADVANCE CAIRNS.

ONCE a quiet, laidback regional centre that played host to celebrities on the back of their annual pilgrimage for some big game fishing and some holiday making along the way, there is no ambiguity now in knowing who we are or indeed our place in Northern Australia.

From humble beginnings 140 years ago where early development centred around pioneering souls opening up opportunities in our hinterland growing crops, harvesting timber and myriad other opportunities, Cairns has now grown into a cosmopolitan, confident and vibrant city known as Australia's premier northern gateway and a service centre for tropical north eastern Australia.

Unashamedly, our focus is north and north-east and our activities are increasingly geared to our international neighbours and the many and varied opportunities that this engagement will bring.

Our economic growth pillars are increasingly centred around the developments in our airport and seaport infrastructure, the growth in our education assets to include two university campuses offering tertiary education excellence, the development of our primary production and agriculture sectors (including fishing and aquaculture) and the continuing growth and expansion of our world leading tourism industry which underpins much of our regional economic activity.

In every respect we are recognised now as a

dynamic, confident destination comfortable in our ability to perform with the very best.

Our education institutions are ensuring that our students are getting the best of educational outcomes and that the workforce and training standards to meet the changing future industry demands are met.

Our local governments are rolling out wonderful infrastructure to meet community, cultural and sporting needs across the region attracting people to migrate to live and play here and of course we are doing all of this in a wonderful tropical environment.

Key to the success of this region is our location and connectivity.

Our Cairns airport is the busiest of Australia's regional airports handling in excess of 5 million passengers a year and with its current plans of a phased \$1 billion investment will position the region as the gateway to the Asia Pacific for both passengers and freight.

Plans exist to increase the number of international destinations from the current nine to a possible 12 by year's end.

The recent Australian Government interventions in rolling out infrastructure as part of the developing Northern Australia initiative is timely and welcome.

The future will bring improved IT capacity and connectivity, improved road and port access as well as construction of water assets

including the Nullinga Dam giving rise to the capacity of opening up further large tracts of arable land for broad scale irrigation.

These activities alone have the potential to revolutionise economic development opportunities in the communities of Northern Australia and further enhances the opportunities for additional investment.

Additionally, the recently announced defence industry plans for the enhancement of

UNASHAMEDLY, OUR FOCUS IS NORTH AND NORTH-EAST AND OUR ACTIVITIES ARE INCREASINGLY GEARED TO OUR INTERNATIONAL NEIGHBOURS AND THE MANY AND VARIED OPPORTUNITIES THAT THIS ENGAGEMENT WILL BRING.

maritime assets in the North will include expansions at HMAS Cairns amounting to \$500 million over the next eight years, providing a much needed boost to the manufacturing base of Cairns. Cairns is a "Tropical World City" perfectly positioned for the future.

Contact Advance Cairns today to find out how Cairns will work for you.

LOCATION TICKS ALL BOXES

AS TROPICAL NORTH QUEENSLAND'S PEAK DEVELOPMENT AGENCY, ADVANCE CAIRNS IS PASSIONATE ABOUT IMPROVING THE ECONOMICS, SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL WELLBEING OF OUR CITIZENS, WRITES TRENT TWOMEY.



TROPICAL North Queensland has many strengths, particularly our unique location.

Cairns is perfectly located, with its close proximity to Asia and the Pacific via our international airport.

This validates our claim as being Australia's premier "Tropical World City".

We are blessed with pristine natural wonders and a lifestyle that is the envy of Australia and the world.

We have a range of robust and innovative industry sectors, including our iconic tourism industry; a pioneering and resourceful agricultural sector; an emerging manufacturing and construction specialisation and a rapidly growing research and education portfolio.

We have experience and expertise in sustainable design and construction suited to building climate resilient cities. Adding our specialisation in tropical health and medicine, addressing tropical infectious diseases, and international bio-security challenges, our tropical knowledge is extensive.

Our success stems from a collaborative and unified approach of our business leaders.

Advance Cairns is Tropical North Queensland's peak economic development agency.

We unite key stakeholders and business leaders within our community to bring a unified, apolitical and objective voice to shape strategic priority issues for our future.

In collaboration with other key regional agencies, including the Cairns Regional Council, Cairns Chamber of Commerce, FNQ Regional Organisation of Councils, Regional Development Australia and Tourism Tropical North Queensland, we have identified a list of regional priorities that are critical to the continued economic development of the Far North. Known as the "8+8", this list provides a unity of focus that allows all the above agencies to formulate and present united advocacy to the three tiers of government.

Advance Cairns' commitment to collaboration can also be seen across the entire country, with our economic alliances across Northern Australia.

The Northern Australia Alliance, established in 2015, brings together key regional economic development organisations in Cairns, Darwin, Broome, Karratha, Townsville and Rockhampton.

Together we actively research, validate and build community support for concepts and ideas that will significantly improve the economic, social, cultural and environmental wellbeing of businesses, communities and citizens.

We passionately believe that investment in Cairns and TNQ is an investment into a bold and unified vision that spans the entirety of Northern Australia and contributes directly to the national growth agenda.

We are focused on championing thoroughly researched policies that bring growth and prosperity to all.

Trent Twomey
Advance Cairns Chairman



IN Cairns, we are lucky to live in a tropical paradise.

That is particularly clear at this time of year, with the season bringing warm days, allowing the beauty of our region to be well and truly on display.

The natural beauty of the Far North is a factor behind many who have chosen to call Cairns home. We appreciate and highly value our proximity to two world heritage features: the Wet Tropics Rainforest and the Great Barrier Reef. Ours is the only region in the world to have two such features.

Those natural attributes are the cornerstones for Tropical North Queensland's healthy tourism industry which is experiencing excellent growth from both the international and domestic markets - growth that outstripped that of Queensland and Australia for 2015-2016.

FOR OUR REGION TO CONTINUE TO ATTRACT MILLIONS OF VISITORS EACH YEAR, WE NEED TO ENSURE THAT IT LIVES UP TO ITS CLEAN AND GREEN REPUTATION

For our region to continue to attract millions of visitors each year, we need to ensure that it lives up to its clean and green reputation and that it has the infrastructure to

SUBSCRIBE TODAY NEW DIGITAL OFFERS



	WEEKEND Paper Delivery + Digital Print Edition	WEEKEND Paper Delivery + Unrestricted Digital Access
Cairns Weekend Post paper home delivery on Saturday	✓	✓
The Sunday Mail paper home delivery	✓	✓
Access to the Cairns Post Digital Print Edition	✓	✓
Unrestricted digital access to The Courier-Mail on all your devices	✓	✓
A foxsports.com.au digital subscription included	✓	✓
Full access to SuperCoach Gold with extra info, analysis, stats & player projections	✓	✓
Access to The Courier-Mail +Rewards worth \$100s a year	✓	✓

\$2.00 / WEEK FOR THE FIRST 12 WEEKS ONLY*
MIN. COST \$8
BILLED 4 WEEKLY FOR THE FIRST 12 WEEKS ONLY*

\$3.00 / WEEK FOR THE FIRST 12 WEEKS ONLY*
MIN. COST \$12
BILLED 4 WEEKLY FOR THE FIRST 12 WEEKS ONLY*

50% OFF
FOR THE FIRST 12 WEEKS*

Subscribe today cairnspost.com.au/subscribe 1800 051 104

Cairns Weekend Post Cairns Post

*Introductory offers for the first 12 weeks to be billed 4 weekly as per the following - Weekend Paper Delivery + Digital Print Edition \$2/wk, \$8 billed 4 weekly; Weekend Paper Delivery + Unrestricted Digital Access \$3/wk, \$12 billed 4 weekly. At the end of the initial 12 weeks, memberships will automatically renew as follows - Weekend Paper Delivery + Digital Print Edition \$4/wk, \$16 billed 4 weekly; Weekend Paper Delivery + Unrestricted Digital Access \$6/wk, \$24 billed 4 weekly. For all Paper Delivery offers, Saturday deliveries are of The Cairns Weekend Post and Sunday is of The Sunday Mail. All Paper Delivery offers have access to The Cairns Post Digital Print Edition. A Digital Print Edition subscription provides access via a secure login to view an exact digital replica of the printed edition of The Cairns Post. A Digital Print Edition subscription is for a period of time and not a specified number of downloads. All Paper Delivery + Unrestricted Digital introductory offers have access to The Cairns Post Digital Print Edition and unrestricted digital access to The Courier-Mail, The Daily Telegraph, The Advertiser and the Herald Sun. Payment in advance by credit/debit card or PayPal (when available) only. Renewals occur unless cancelled. On and from 4 July 2016, each payment, once made, is non-refundable, subject to law. Offers are only available where normal same day home delivery exists for QLD residents and not where additional freight is ordinarily charged. New customers only. Not in conjunction with any other offer. Full offer terms and conditions apply - see www.cairnspost.com.au/subscriptionterms for full details.

PROTECTING OUR ASSETS

THE FAR NORTH'S NATURAL BEAUTY IS A FACTOR FOR MANY WHO CHOSE TO CALL THIS REGION HOME. CAIRNS REGIONAL COUNCIL IS FOCUSED ON SHOWCASING OUR TROPICAL ENVIRONMENT AND LEADING BY EXAMPLE WHEN IT COMES TO SUSTAINABILITY AND PROTECTION OF OUR ENVIRONMENT, WRITES MAYOR BOB MANNING.

sustain a rapid increase in tourists, particularly from the Chinese market.

Our tourism industry is mature and highly experienced, has quality infrastructure, an established service culture, and superior marketing expertise but to capitalise on the potential before us, we need to aggressively encourage investment in regional epi-centres of tourism growth – for example, we know that in peak times, demand for accommodation is rapidly exceeding supply.

As a council with an emphasis on showcasing our tropical environment, we would encourage any new accommodation assets to be of sustainable design and ones that reflect our rainforest backdrop through tropical urbanism. We expect vertical greening, whereby plantings create a natural façade on the outside of buildings, to become the norm in coming years.

Cairns Regional Council is leading by

example when it comes to sustainability and protection of our environment, choosing to retrofit many of our buildings with solar energy systems and new assets such as the \$65 million Cairns Performing Arts Centre, currently under construction.

This emphasis on sustainability certainly has not slowed investment in our region. For the first time in many years, there are presently two tower cranes visible on the Cairns skyline, with more expected in the very future.

One of the cranes is on the site of the soon-to-be-completed Cairns Aquarium, which will no doubt become an icon of our city, further educating both visitors and residents on the reef and wet tropics and its inhabitants.

Hopefully it will not be long until a third crane graces the skyline on the Cairns Esplanade as Rydges Tradewinds embark on a

\$20 million expansion of the existing hotel by some 60 rooms. The much-anticipated \$550 million Nova City project in Spence Street is also poised for a start with the company launching its \$1.8 million marketing campaign that will precede construction.

Council will also continue to work with the State Government and proponents of the proposed \$2 billion Aquis development at Yorkeys Knob to make this important project a reality. The future looks bright for Cairns and Council will do everything within its power to ensure the city continues to grow and prosper. Importantly, this must be done in conjunction with proper strategic planning and an emphasis on the environment to ensure that the lifestyle our residents and visitors embrace does not diminish with that future growth.

Bob Manning
Cairns Mayor

LET'S GET SOCIAL   



WE CAN HELP YOUR BUSINESS FIND MORE CUSTOMERS ONLINE

LET NEWS XTEND SHOW YOU HOW

Work hand in hand with Australia's leading provider of digital marketing solutions and build a customised campaign to achieve your business goals. Specialists in display, search, social, video, email and landing page development.

Contact News Xtend to speak to your Cairns Digital Specialist

1300 935 848 | info@newsxtend.com.au | www.newsxtend.com.au



MORE GROWTH ON THE HORIZON

WITH TWO NEW CRANES VISIBLE ON THE CAIRNS CITY SKYLINE AND A GROWING LIST OF MAJOR PROJECTS BOLSTERING THE REGION'S ECONOMY, CAIRNS AND THE FAR NORTH ARE ON TRACK FOR CONTINUED GROWTH, WRITES SIAN JEFFRIES.

MAJOR PROJECTS

KUR-WORLD

A \$650 million eco resort earmarked for a 626ha site at Myola near Kuranda will take seven years to complete, creating 1830 jobs during the construction phase.

Once the resort is fully operational, it will need 600 staff and developer Ken Lee estimates it will receive about 550 day visitors on top of about 1000 overnight guests.

The development will include a luxury five-star 200-room resort, an 18-hole golf course, another three or four star 270-room resort, retail and dining outlets, about 380 residential villas, a tertiary education campus and sports facilities. The project will also have a health and medical retreat, adventure park, rainforest education centre, equestrian farm and farm theme park.

Work on the construction phase of the project is scheduled to start in mid-2018.

CAIRNS AQUARIUM

Work is under way on the \$50 million Cairns Aquarium, which is due to open in April next year. When it opens its doors, the aquarium will house 15,000 fish and animals and 69 live exhibits, including a Great Barrier Reef tank, a deep reef tank and a river monsters tank. It will be the only public aquarium in the world to simulate the habitats and ecosystems of Tropical North Queensland. It will feature a Great Barrier Reef research facility, equipped with researchers and laboratories. Once operational, the project is expected to attract 722,000 visitors through its doors in the first year and add around \$300 million a year to the local economy.

NOVA CITY AND C3 TOWERS

More cranes should soon be dotted along the Cairns skyline when construction begins of two of the region's most anticipated high-rise developments. Approvals for the three-tower C3 and seven-tower Nova City buildings are a good indication that 2017 will be the year major headway is made on the two \$550 million projects. Aspiat's Nova City development will be located on Spence St across the road from Cairns Central Shopping Centre. The Nova City towers will feature more than 1100 residential units and almost 18,000sq m of office space. The three-tower C3 development will be located on Sheridan St, opposite the Cairns Convention Centre. The 796-unit complex includes one 24-storey tower and two 23-level towers, with a mix of residential and holiday accommodation as well as office and shopping spaces. The towers will be the tallest buildings in the city, reaching a maximum 72m above ground level.



AQUIS

While Hong Kong tycoon Tony Fung has ended his six-year bid to build an \$8 billion integrated casino resort in Cairns, he is now pushing ahead with plans to develop a \$2 billion luxury hotel, apartment and villa complex at the Yorkey's Knob site. In August, Mr Fung said he was in "positive" negotiations with the State Government and Cairns Regional Council for land development approvals, was no longer applying for a casino licence, and had withdrawn from the Integrated Resort Development process. His decision spells the end of the \$8.15 billion Aquis casino resort project touted to transform Cairns, attract one million visitors a year, pump billions of dollars into the economy and deliver thousands of jobs. Mr Fung has spent more than \$40 million on the Aquis GBR project as part of \$200 million he has invested in Queensland and is now awaiting approval on an amended Environmental Impact Statement.

ELLA BAY RESORT - INVESTMENT-READY

The Ella Bay Integrated Resort Development is proposed as a sustainable, master-planned community, 88km south of Cairns. Proposed to be developed in five stages over 10 to 15 years, the development will be a new eco-resort location for Far North Queensland and includes five resorts, 540 residences, a village precinct,

18-hole golf course and swimming lagoon.

Backers are adamant Ella Bay will one day join Port Douglas as one of Australia's leading tourist destinations and the project requires \$60 million investment.

THE PRECINCT

The Precinct is a major project that will deliver a purpose-built performing arts centre and welcoming new parklands in the heart of Cairns.

It involves two components; construction of the Cairns Performing Arts Centre on the site of the existing Cairns Civic Theatre and the transformation of Munro Martin Park into the tropical Munro Martin Parklands, creating an attractive community gathering space with an outdoor performance space.

The new dedicated performing arts venue is aimed at meeting the needs of the Cairns community for the next 50 years, by providing a new theatre which will address the shortfalls of the existing facility while creating a lush parkland on the fringe of the CBD for residents to enjoy. The cost of the overall project is estimated at \$76.5 million and will be funded from Cairns Regional Council's capital works budget over three years. The parklands section of the project is now open to the public and equipped to host a wide range of shows, from full orchestras to music concerts and theatre performances.



Silk Air flies its inaugural flight from Singapore the Cairns, a direct service that flies between the two destinations three days a week. Inset: Crowds at the official opening of the new Munro Martin Parklands - part of The Precinct entertainment and arts development in the city.

MT PETER

Work is progressing on the \$1 billion Mt Peter residential development located between Edmonton and Gordonvale on the southside of Cairns. Kenfrost Pty Ltd general manager Adam Gowlett says titles will soon be issued for stages 1 and 2, which will create 95 lots, with a further 34 lots in stage 3 to be completed by the end of the year. Engineering design work is underway on the next two stages and they will add another 93 lots. A number of homes are currently under construction with those first homes likely to be ready around Christmas.

It is expected the first homes will be available for sale early in 2017. The project will include about 1000 lots in its lifespan, expected to be about 10 years.

MT EMERALD WIND FARM

This clean energy project, located halfway between Mareeba and Atherton in the Cairns hinterland will generate enough electricity to power 75,000 homes each year.

Construction on the \$360 million project will start in December with minor works including upgrading sections of the access road and establishing on-site construction facilities. Full construction is likely to begin in March 2017, after the region's wet season has finished. The construction process is expected to take two years to be completed.

INFRASTRUCTURE SNAPSHOT

ROADS

Main roads include the Bruce Highway, which connects coastal population centres from Brisbane to Cairns, the Captain Cook Highway, the Kennedy Highway, the Mulligan Highway, the Palmerston Highway and the Peninsula Developmental Rd. With Queensland's freight task set to double in the next 20 years, progressive and priority road upgrades will be needed.

AIRPORTS AND SEA PORTS

The 24/7 no-curfew Cairns International Airport services the region, along with several smaller airports and the ports of Cairns, Mourilyan, Cooktown and Cape Flattery.

WATER

The Federal Government's first 15-year Australian Infrastructure Plan, released in February, highlighted that Cairns needs another water supply to keep up with population growth and notes the Australian Government's white papers on developing Northern Australia and Agricultural Competitiveness also committed to a new \$500 million National Water Infrastructure Development Fund, which included economic feasibility of the \$586 million Nullinga Dam, west of Cairns.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Public transport in the Cairns region is largely centred around Sunbus services which cover the region from Palm Cove in the north to Gordonvale in the south, however discussions around the city's need for light rail and an inner-city electric bus loop have ramped up in line with the local government elections in March.

COMMUNICATIONS

The NBN Network, Australia's new landline phone and internet network, is currently being rolled out in parts of the Cairns region.

POWER

Stanwell operates the Barron Gorge Hydro, which is located 20km northwest of Cairns and underwent a \$28 million refurbishment in 2011. It sources water from the Barron River to produce electricity, before releasing the water back into the river.

Meanwhile, the Federal Government has awarded the developers of a \$300 million solar farm west of Cairns \$8.85 million towards construction costs. The grant is to be used by Genex for construction costs of the 50 megawatt project at the former Kidston gold mine site, 411km southwest of Cairns.

The solar farm is to be built alongside its proposed \$282 million 330MW Kidston pumped storage hydro-electricity project.



PASSENGERS FLY THROUGH GATES

RIISING PASSENGER NUMBERS AT THE CAIRNS AIRPORT HAVE COMBINED WITH INCREASED CRUISE SHIP ARRIVALS AND A LOW DOLLAR TO CREATE A "PERFECT STORM" FOR THE TOURISM INDUSTRY, WRITES ALICIA NALLY.

PASSENGER numbers through Cairns Airport's domestic terminal reached an August high while international arrivals are the best in six years.

The airport numbers are combining with increasing cruise ship passenger arrivals and the school holidays to create a "perfect storm" in the region's tourism industry.

A low Australian dollar, the city's attraction as a cruise ship destination and new international airline routes have started to usher in a new era for Cairns.

Tourism Tropical North Queensland chief executive Alex de Waal says the region has "high potential for long-term growth".

"Tropical North Queensland is enjoying a perfect positive storm," he says.

When Australians consider travelling to the

region they are predominantly considering international alternatives like Fiji, Bali, Hawaii, Phuket, etc," he says.

"We are not compared to the Gold Coast or Sunshine Coast. As such, a comparative devaluation in the value of the Australian dollar against competitor destination currencies profoundly benefits Tropical North Queensland as a destination."

Airport domestic passenger figures showed a 2.7 per cent increase, up 10,220 to 383,145 compared to August 2015, while 65,380 passengers were recorded through the T1 international terminal, an 11.3 per cent increase compared to last year.

The numbers are the highest international passenger figures since August 2010.

Airport aeronautical general manager Janice Antonson says the organisation is on track to surpass a five million passenger record set in June this year.

"This has been boosted by a huge rise of almost 90 per cent in the number of Chinese people travelling to and from Cairns on direct services which now include Cathay Pacific Airlines and also Hong Kong Airlines, operating direct flights from Hong Kong," she says.

"Passengers from Japan have also shown sound growth with an 8 per cent increase.

"We have also seen growth continue in T2 domestic terminal where we welcome both Australian and international travellers at a ratio of around three to one.

"With results like this Cairns Airport looks set



**FILIPINO HOLIDAYMAKERS
JUMP ON FLIGHTS TO FAR NORTH**

DIRECT flights between Manila and Cairns on Philippine Airlines are behind a 313 per cent increase in Filipino nationals crossing through immigration at Cairns Airport.

The South-East Asian airline started flights in December last year. More than 8500 Filipinos were recorded at Cairns Airport in the past 12 months.

Passengers from India were the next highest, with 78 per cent annual growth, and Singapore came in third at 63 per cent. Passengers from Papua New Guinea and North America declined by 2 per cent.

Cairns Airport general manager aeronautical Janice Antonson says growth in international figures is "good news".

"We continue to work with airlines and tourism partners to secure new direct routes to support ongoing growth in international passenger numbers," she says.

"We would like to see direct flights from mainland China become a reality."

Tourism Tropical North Queensland chief Alex de Waal says the results from Japan and China have been "particularly pleasing".



Passengers checking in their luggage at Cairns International Airport and (inset) the airport's five millionth passenger for the year arrives in June.

to quickly surpass the five million passengers in one year milestone that we reached earlier this year, particularly as we look forward to new airline arrivals such as Jin Air coming here from

global financial crisis. "It's taken nine years to get back to where we were," he says.

Quicksilver Group marketing and sales director Michael Healy says the firm's recent tourist numbers were "very, very positive".

"We have seen significant growth particularly in the Japanese market," he says. "The

Chinese market continues to perform above last year's figures and our domestic numbers are showing slight increase on last year."

DOMESTIC PASSENGER FIGURES SHOWED A 2.7 PER CENT INCREASE, UP 10,220 TO 383,145, WHILE 65,380 PASSENGERS WERE RECORDED THROUGH THE T1 INTERNATIONAL TERMINAL, AN 11.3 PER CENT INCREASE

Seoul in December." Ochre Restaurant head chef Craig Squire says this year's trade at the city establishment has been the best since the

PASSENGER STATISTICS

- 11.3% T1 international terminal growth
- 33.5% transfer and transit traffic increase due to more international flights
- 37 ports can be reached by scheduled flights from Cairns
- 21% International Visitor Survey growth

WHERE THEY CAME FROM

- August 2015-August 2016:
- Japan 208,088 + 8%
 - Europe 71,352 + 57%
 - China 48,422 + 52%
 - PNG 31,938 - 2%
 - North America 19,556 - 2%
 - Philippines 8559 + 313%
 - India 3810 + 78%



HARNESSING THE POWER OF WIND

WITH CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULED TO START IN DECEMBER, THE MT EMERALD WIND FARM WILL GENERATE ENOUGH CLEAN ENERGY TO POWER 75,000 HOMES EACH YEAR ONCE IT IS OPERATIONAL, WRITES ROWAN SPARKES.

A CLEAN energy project halfway between Mareeba and Atherton in the Cairns hinterland will generate enough electricity to power 75,000 homes each year.

Originally a joint venture between energy provider RATCH-Australia and property developer Port Bajool, the Mt Emerald Wind Farm is now fully owned by RATCH-Australia, following the acquisition of Port Bajool's 50 per cent stake earlier this year.

RATCH-Australia's business development manager Anthony Yeates says the Cairns region is "a good place to do business".

"It has a vision to be the world's most sustainable tropical region and for this reason is very supportive of renewable energy development," he says.

Construction on the \$360 million project will start in December with minor works including upgrading sections of the access road and establishing on-site construction facilities.



RATCH-Australia's business development manager Anthony Yeates.

Full construction is likely to begin in March 2017, after the region's wet season has finished.

Mr Yeates says the construction process is expected to take two years.

"The final three to six months of this term

should see the erection of the wind turbines completed and blades turning while final checking and testing of all the systems is undertaken. We will be fully operational by the end of 2018," he says.

During construction, particular care will be given to environmental factors such as erosion, sediment and dust control, as well as minimising the impact on plant and animal species.

The Environmental Impact Statement completed for the project and approved by both the State and Federal Governments involved 8000 man-hours of on-site survey effort.

A wide range of environmental impacts were taken into account and addressed, including areas such as traffic, flora and fauna, visual, shadow, noise, electromagnetic interference, aviation, culture and heritage.

"The project has a negligible footprint and



**PROJECT SNAPSHOT:
MT EMERALD WIND FARM**

- \$360 million project
- 63 wind turbines
- 80-90m high towers with 50m blades
- 150 jobs during construction
- 189 megawatts of renewable energy for the state
- 25-year project life
- 75,000 homes powered each year



The proposed site of the \$360 million Mt Emerald Wind Farm - Oaky Valley with the rise to Mt Emerald on the right. Inset: An artist's impression of part of the project.

we will try to optimise the design during the final design phases to reduce any disturbances to identified species," says Mr Yeates.

"RATCH is also committed to establishing a designated "offset area" to compensate for any environmental impacts arising from the project."

Community surveys have shown that around 90 per cent of respondents agree that wind farms are a good option for Australia's energy needs and a good option for the environment, he says.

"The major area of concern observed was in regard to noise, but noise levels are unlikely to exceed a level of 35 decibels at night at any residence outside the wind farm," Mr Yeates says.

A level of 35 decibels is somewhere between a quiet bedroom and a quiet library, with normal conversation being around 60 decibels.

"To further reduce visual and auditory

impacts, the number of turbines was reduced while some turbines were re-sited," says Mr Yeates.

Of the 3500 megawatts of wind generation capacity currently in the country, Queensland only supplies around 12 megawatts from its wind farms at Ravenshoe and on Thursday Island.

Once the Mt Emerald Wind Farm is up and running, wind energy in Queensland will increase by 15 times.

RATCH, which also owns Ravenshoe's Windy Hill Wind Farm, has more wind power stations in its project development pipeline, including additional sites identified within the Far North Queensland region.

"It's no secret Australians want more renewable energy, not less, because they are

drawn to the benefits of cutting greenhouse gas emissions, reducing air pollution and greater energy security," says Mr Yeates.

"Clean energy generation also assists Australia as a nation to meet its commitments under the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Convention to limit the impacts of climate change and reduce carbon emissions by 2030."

ONCE THE MT EMERALD WIND FARM IS UP AND RUNNING, WIND ENERGY IN QUEENSLAND WILL INCREASE BY 15 TIMES

It is hoped that the Mt Emerald project will encourage a positive investment environment for future projects in Cairns and the Far North that will help grow a local renewable generation network, he says.



GROWING OUT GROUPEERS

FINFISH ENTERPRISE IS THE ONLY GROUPE HATCHERY AND GROW-OUT OPERATION IN AUSTRALIA AND ONE OF ONLY A HANDFUL IN THE WORLD, WRITES ROWAN SPARKES.

AN innovative aquaculture project based in Cairns is looking to expand its facilities in the hope of becoming a leading producer and supplier of tropical finfish to Australian and overseas markets.

Finfish Enterprise general manager Dr Richard Knuckey (pictured above) says the project aims to commercialise research and development efforts of a previous grouper aquaculture program by the Queensland Government.

"Since the government pulled out of doing research in 2013, we've taken it through and commercialised it. We are now growing the fish on the farm in Cairns, which are being sold to another branch of our company called Tropical Finfish, and most of that product is going down into Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne."

Finfish Enterprise is the only grouper hatchery and grow-out operation in Australia and one of only a handful in the world.

"It is done elsewhere in South East Asia," says Dr Knuckey. "Taiwan has been the main producer previously, but not many countries or facilities do the pure-bred giant grouper because it's much more difficult."

The enterprise now commercially breeds four species from the grouper family - giant grouper, estuary cod, flowery cod and coral trout - at Ponderosa farm, its 17-acre pond grow-out facility located on Cairns' northern beaches. The Finfish Enterprise team is hoping that investors will help expand the program.

"Ideally we'd like to build a commercial recirculating aquaculture system, or RAS, here in Cairns," Dr Knuckey says.



The RAS would see Finfish harvest almost three times as much fish product per annum, he says.

"At the moment our primary production is going into the Australian domestic market, and we've been building that market. We figure that production from Ponderosa farm would probably max out at about 350 tonnes and that could easily be absorbed into the Australian market."

"If we build the RAS, that would add another 600 tonnes of production on top of that," he says. Finfish Enterprise is also looking at partnering and exploring ventures in South East Asia and possibly the Middle East, where the estuary cod is one of the main species harvested in the wild.

Mr Knuckey says investment in the program is "progressing" and "looking good".

"We're in negotiations at the moment with a couple of different, interested parties from overseas," he says.

"Last week we sent our first shipment of fingerlings to Hong Kong, in conjunction with one of the interested parties."

"It's quite interesting, even though they've

been doing grouper aquaculture for a long time in South East Asia, they are trying to source better quality juveniles from here."

The program, predominantly involved in the breeding and grow-out of tropical finfish, is based around sustainability, Mr Knuckey says.

"Queensland groper is a fully protected species so this is the only way the species can come into the marketplace, through aquaculture. We adhere to very strict environmental discharge permits and standards relating to the quality of fingerlings and sourcing broodstock."

Mr Knuckey says it's been "really encouraging" to see how much Finfish has expanded over the last three years.

"It's really great to see the culmination of the research effort go into a full commercial production," he says.

Finfish Enterprise's giant grouper is also being recognised as a great product. Last year, the gourmet fish was entered in the Sydney Royal Fine Food Show, where it took out the Champion Fresh Fish division.

It was also picked up when the much-hyped Noma restaurant came to Sydney.

"Our giant grouper was the only fish on their menu, and then it was only on the VIP menu, not the general menu," says Dr Knuckey.

In the future, as stocks are fully allocated for the wild fishery, Dr Knuckey says Finfish Enterprise would be the increase in any production. "For example, if the coral trout takes off and the wild fishery is fully allocated, then expansion will occur within an aquaculture operation," he says.

CAIRNS. A CITY IN DEMAND

INVESTOR ADVANTAGES

- Significant investment opportunities in tourism, education, healthcare, marine and aviation
- \$3.4 billion tourism industry driven by strong domestic and international growth (China, USA, India, Japan)
- Direct air access into China, Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore, Indonesia, the Philippines, NZ, PNG and all Australian capitals
- Two top ranking universities and world-leading industry training centres
- Affordable housing. Median house price \$388,000 and 1.6% trend rental vacancy rate (Aug 2016)

INVESTMENT INCENTIVES & ASSISTANCE

- Pro-business local government
- Investment incentives for strategically significant projects
- Development-friendly planning scheme and fast-track development application process
- Strong local government investment in infrastructure
- Specialist local support on business and investment opportunities
- Facilitated connections to industry, supply chains and other government bodies



To share in our exciting property, infrastructure and business opportunities, contact us for confidential business facilitation, incentives and assistance.

■ www.investcairns.com.au ■ economicdevelopment@cairns.qld.gov.au ■ Ph: +61 7 4044 3044



CRUISING ON A WAVE OF SHIP SPENDING

THE P&O CRUISE SHIP PACIFIC EDEN OFFICIALLY MADE CAIRNS ITS HOME PORT IN SEPTEMBER, SETTING THE SCENE FOR THE CITY'S ECONOMY TO REAP BENEFITS TO THE TUNE OF \$6 MILLION OVER A TWO-MONTH PERIOD, WRITES ALICIA NALLY.

THE Cairns economy is set to reap benefits to the tune of \$6 million in a two-month period after P&O Cruises ship Pacific Eden officially made the city its home port in September.

The move will make Queensland the only Australian state to have two cruise ship home ports.

Brisbane is home to the Pacific Dawn and Pacific Aria.

Pacific Eden will be based at the Cairns Cruise Liner Terminal until November.

P&O Cruises marketing, sales and public relations vice president Simon Cheng says the company has had the city in its sights for some years.

"It's in great proximity to Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands, which are very popular destinations," he says.

"Our estimates are the two-month season is going to deliver \$6 million to the economy.

"That includes 40 per cent of our passengers flying in to Cairns Airport and each passenger



The Pacific Aria and Dawn Princess ships docked in Cairns. Picture: MARC McCORMACK

spending \$480 a day on shopping and food.

"The retail industry better get ready, basically."

Tourism Tropical North Queensland chief executive Alex de Waal says he was delighted Pacific Eden was "taking up residence" in Cairns.

"Tropical North Queensland is one of Australia's most aspirational and compelling tourism destinations," he says.

"Growth in Australian and international guests to Tropical North Queensland over the past 12 months is well and truly above Australia's growth in tourism numbers."

Mr Cheng says P&O had made 62 stops at PNG since the route started last year.

Ports North operations manager David Good says planning and testing at the Cairns Cruise Liner Terminal site had been conducted over several months in preparation.

"As a result we had to increase staffing numbers, source extra services and the layout of the terminal had to adjust," he says.

New baggage scanners, tables, and screens and signs were installed and further training undertaken by staff.

Mulgrave MP Curtis Pitt says the number of ships visiting the Port of Cairns was up by more than 70 per cent compared to last year.



Bob and Lynne Wilmott of Brisbane after the Pacific Aria cruise ship arrives at the Cairns Cruise Liner Terminal.

Picture: JOSH WONING

SNAPSHOT: THE CAIRNS SHIPPING DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

What is the Cairns Shipping Development project?

- The Cairns Shipping Development project includes a range of upgrades to the Port of Cairns.
- The aim of the project is to improve port access for larger shipping, including cruise ships.
- Barron River MP Craig Crawford says the Cairns Shipping Development Project would allow more cruise ships to call Cairns home. The \$120 million project involves the dredging of Trinity Inlet, in order to allow cruise ships up to 300m long to dock at the city's port.
- Operator Ports North is preparing a revised draft Environmental Impact Statement for the plan, which will slash the amount of dredging from 4.4 million cubic metres to 1 million cubic metres with all spoil to be dumped on land.
- Current aspects of the project include:
 - Widening the existing 90m channel to 130m;
 - Increasing the depth from 8.3m to 9.4m;
 - Upgrading the outer channel and extending the northern channel by 1km;
 - Expanding the Crystal Swing Basin, which is the principal swing basin used by cruise ships to access Wharves 1-5;
 - Upgrading of wharf berths;
 - Upgrading of landside infrastructure;
 - Relocation of navigational aids;
 - Relocation of the Main Swing Basin, which is primarily used by cargo ships and vessels berthing at the Cairns Naval Base (HMAS Cairns), to a new location adjacent to Senrab Point. This relocation will enable future expansion and development of HMAS Cairns and will also provide a wider and deeper inner channel for the full length of the inner port. It will also provide safer access for the new Landing Helicopter Dock Class ships, with reduced operational restrictions. The larger US Navy Carriers that cannot currently berth at the Port of Cairns could also be accommodated by the proposed channel upgrade.

What's involved by the numbers

FORTY ground handlers, 27 security guards, 10 forklift drivers, eight refuellers, 10 lines people and a team from Sydney were on hand as cruise ship Pacific Eden docked into its new home port for the first time.

The ship arrived at the Cairns Cruise Liner Terminal around 6am.

By 10am, 1500 passengers disembarked and another 1500 boarded by 3pm, ready for a seven-night cruise to Papua New Guinea.

MORE cruising destinations could be on the cards next year as Cairns enjoys its "biggest cruise season by far".

The day after Pacific Aria docked with 2110 passengers on board before returning to Brisbane, the Dawn Princess, with 2814 passengers on board, docked at 9am before continuing its 17-night journey between Fremantle, Western Australia and Sydney from 9pm.

P & O Cruises sales and marketing vice president Simon Cheng says Cairns has "really put the welcome mat out for our cruise ship guests". "This is Cairns' biggest cruise season by far," he says.

"There's no doubt that making Cairns a home port has opened up more itinerary options for us.

"We haven't made our itinerary decisions for 2018 yet, but we'll be considering all possibilities."

First-time cruise passenger Melissa Sewell's dad met her family at the Cairns Cruise Liner Terminal dock before heading to Kuranda.

"It's been really good. Not having to do anything has been the best bit for me," she says. "It's just a good family holiday and something we've always wanted to do."

The cruise was also a family affair for Brisbane-based Lynne Wilmott's 70th birthday celebrations.

Her husband Bob, three daughters, sons-in-

law and grandsons joined her on the trip.

"We organised it a year ago. It's just so easy," she said. "We're going to the night markets, just the girls, for a bit of shopping and fun.

"The boys don't like markets but they play cards together every night."

A Ports North spokeswoman says with 595m of "continuous quay line" from Wharf 1 to Wharf 6 there was plenty of room for ships at the terminal.

"There have been a number of times this year when we have had two ships in at the same time," she said.

"February was a busy month and in the past we have had three ships in at the one time.

"It's a pretty straight-forward operation with all passengers stepping off straight into the city."

Tourism Tropical North Queensland chief executive Alex de Waal said he would continue to work towards developing Cairns as a cruising destination.



BRINGING THE REEF TO THE CITY

WHEN IT OPENS NEXT YEAR, A \$50 MILLION PROJECT IN THE CAIRNS CBD WILL BE THE ONLY PUBLIC AQUARIUM IN THE WORLD TO SIMULATE THE HABITATS AND ECOSYSTEMS OF TROPICAL NORTH QUEENSLAND, WRITES ROWAN SPARKES.

BRINGING the wonder of Tropical North Queensland's reefs and rainforests to the heart of the city, the Cairns Aquarium will allow visitors to get up close and personal with the region's most spectacular wildlife species without having to travel from the city.

It will be the only public aquarium in the world to simulate the habitats and ecosystems of Tropical North Queensland, and will feature a Great Barrier Reef research facility and fisheries and aquaculture technology development centre, equipped with its own researchers and laboratories.

Cairns Aquarium chief executive and founder, Daniel Leipnik, says the Cairns Aquarium team is passionate about protecting the environments, eco-systems, and species of the Wet Tropics, Cape York and Gulf Savanna.

"We are undertaking conservation efforts of endangered and threatened species. Staff have already begun designing reproductive bio-technology procedure developments to breed



An artist's impression of the admission and reception area of the aquarium.

and rear captive specimens. Upon success of these conservation programs, it is hoped that captive bred specimens can be released back into the wild and supplied to other aquariums and zoos to reduce wild take."

He says the aquarium is dedicated to minimising its impact on the environment by

conserving resources as much as possible and has plans in place to achieve this.

The aquarium's marine biologists will investigate low-energy use salt water biological filtration techniques using sea grass, sea lettuce and other in-shore and coastal vegetation species. "Each hour, 5.5 million litres will be processed in a 99 per cent water recovery system, which has been termed the 'Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Simulator'. The high degree of on-site filtration means minimal incoming new water needs and minimal waste water to sewer," he says.

The same efforts will be made with coral using a propagation program to grow Great Barrier Reef corals in captivity such that corals can be supplied to other aquariums.

A dedicated education team will be tasked with the development and implementation of educational programs within the Aquarium, as well as at schools, universities and the educational and research sectors.



PROJECT SNAPSHOT: CAIRNS AQUARIUM

- Scheduled to open in April 2016
- A \$50 million project
- When open, will house more than 15,000 fish and aquatic animals
- Will include 69 live exhibits
- About 5.5 million litres of water will fill the aquarium
- Visitors can take 2.5 hours to walk through the aquarium from beginning to end
- The project is creating 520 jobs during the construction phase
- The aquarium will provide 130 jobs once it is operational
- An 18.5m-high building, covering 7500sq m across three levels will house the aquarium and exhibits
- A 525sq m aquatic-themed restaurant and function centre will be included in the project



Cairns Aquarium co-director Andrew Preston and chief executive officer Daniel Leipnik with the construction site in the background. Inset: An artist's impression of the aquarium's rainforest zone.

Main Picture: STEWART McLEAN

"Visitors to the Cairns Aquarium can experience behind-the-scenes tours and learn more about all of these environmental and conservation elements of the business."

"Through these sustainability and conservation efforts, it is hoped that others will also be inspired to care about the living environment and take positive actions as well."

Features of the aquarium will include a Great Barrier Reef tank, a river monsters tank, a second reef exhibit with smaller species, a walk-through tunnel, interactive touch areas, Daintree rainforest and mangrove swamp boardwalks, and separate exhibits for freshwater river species, reptiles and amphibians, dangers of the deep, and mangrove species. According to new research carried out by its developers, the Cairns Aquarium is expected to attract 722,000 visitors in its first year, and add \$300 million a year to the local economy.

Now almost a year into its construction, the

\$50 million facility has just eclipsed the halfway point and is less than six months away from its scheduled opening in April next year.

Sustainability and conservation at Cairns Aquarium

- Development of a sustainability corporate policy and program outline
- Development and implementation of Environmental Purchasing Policy
- Development of 'zero waste to land fill' policy and procedures
- Design and development for highest energy and water use operation efficiencies
- Selection of only endemic species (not requiring excessive heating or cooling) sourced only through licensed and ethical means
- Environmental waste management guidelines

- Development of conservation-focused education programming
- Partnerships with local conservation organisations
- Participation in reforestation programs
- 100 per cent recycled paper and vegetable inks used on printed materials
- No plastics used - all packing is either paper or corn husks extrusion

THE AQUARIUM IS DEDICATED TO MINIMISING ITS IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT BY CONSERVING RESOURCES AND HAS PLANS IN PLACE TO ACHIEVE THIS

- 200kw solar panels generate half of the building electrical requirements
- 'Green' building design (natural light, cooling, ventilation, white façade to minimise heat)

SUSTAINABLE LUXURY

SET AMONGST TOWERING RAINFOREST AND PRISTINE NATURAL HABITAT, A \$650 MILLION ECO RESORT TO BE BUILT AT KURANDA WILL CREATE 1830 CONSTRUCTION JOBS FOR THE REGION AND 600 ONCE IT IS COMPLETED, WRITES ROWAN SPARKES.

FOLLOWING almost two years of site assessments, planning and countless idea evaluations, the master plan for KUR-World, an integrated eco resort set on 626ha at Myola, was signed off by Reeveer and Ocean Developments Pty Ltd earlier this year.

With steep hills, towering rainforest and pristine natural habitat, the area will focus on low impact adventure and nature-based activities.

The \$650 million development will include a luxury five-star 200-room resort, 18-hole golf course, another three or four star 270-room resort, retail and dining outlets, about 380 residential villas, a tertiary education campus and sports facilities.

The project will also have a health and medical retreat, adventure park, rainforest education centre, equestrian centre and farm theme park.

Once fully operational, an average of 550 day visitors are expected, on top of about 1000 overnight guests.

The seven-year project is expected to provide up to 1830 construction jobs and 600 once it is operational, with construction slated



The KUR-World development site at Kuranda.

to start mid-2018.

Reeveer and Ocean Developments chairman and proponent of the KUR-World development, Ken Lee, says the eco-resort will be a unique theme park taking into account the environmental aspects of the property.

"The KUR-World development will be an

innovation hub focused on the maximisation of onsite natural resources, specifically all renewable options," he says.

Mr Lee says those involved are conscious of how they can best enhance indoor environmental quality and design with a focus on increased user productivity.

"These include methods of how to best control thermal comfort by controlling airflow and humidity, and the use of materials that limit the emission of pollutants," he says.

"The importance of the use of both natural and artificial light sources will also be a focus."

Mr Lee says the ability to best utilise Operational and Maintenance practices will be

THE KUR-WORLD DEVELOPMENT WILL BE AN INNOVATION HUB FOCUSED ON THE MAXIMISATION OF ONSITE NATURAL RESOURCES, SPECIFICALLY ALL RENEWABLE OPTIONS

critical to the longevity of the project.

"The O&M environment is constantly

Developer Ken Lee on the cattle property.



changing and we are conscious of aligning ourselves with best practices which will not only reduce energy demands, but potentially create better, more efficient operating systems into the future."

"Emphasis will be placed on conserving water throughout the development site via the use of high-efficiency fixtures, designing landscapes through use of native plants tolerant to local conditions, recovery of non-sewer grey water and the establishment of waste treatment centres."

The master plan for KUR-World is to split the location into two distinct zones: Serenity and Spirit. Most of the development will occur in the northern zone, Serenity, where large scale farming and agriculture has occurred since the 1800s, while the southern zone, Spirit, will remain largely untouched.

Mr Lee says the environmental sensitivity of a large section of property has been taken into account so that about 37 per cent, or 225ha, would be developed, while the rest, including the habitat of the rare Kuranda tree frog, would be left untouched.

The endangered species is endemic only to the Kuranda region, with a current extent of occurrence estimated to be 13.5 sq km.

"We continue to review and incorporate ways to optimise the site potential within the constraints presented by the local environment, and this will form a significant component of the EIS process which will shortly begin in



The Myola property that will be developed into an eco-resort.

earnest," Mr Lee says. "We are focused on working with environmental innovation local professionals in North Queensland and in active discussions with national accreditation bodies in this critical field, including but not limited to the Urban Development Institute of Australia."

Sustainability and conservation at KUR-World

Mr Lee says KUR-World will preserve the best characteristics of the site while transforming previously degraded farm land into a luxurious eco-tourism destination, and will include:

- A world class resort designed to reflect the natural environment;
- A university campus with a focus on environmental studies;

- A range of outdoor learning and adventure activities.
- A rainforest education centre KUR-World's eco-tourism offerings will focus on enhancement, not change, resulting in a range of benefits including:
 - Preservation of existing native wildlife habitat and ecological diversity
 - Fun, quality learning experiences focusing on local flora and fauna
 - Continued growth of Australia's reputation for tropical ecology
 - Provision of health and wellbeing services set in a rainforest environment
 - Collaboration with local indigenous people in the use of cultural and medicinal aspects of Aboriginal life.



SHARE THE LATEST NEWS

Cairns Post
NOW HAS
MORE THAN

55,000

FACEBOOK LIKES

 facebook.com/TheCairnsPost

THANKS TNQ

Source: Facebook Insights, August 2016.

CAIRNS CONVENTION CENTRE

Celebrating
20 years



www.cairnsconvention.com.au



NEW DEVELOPMENT READY FOR GROWTH

TITLES WILL SOON BE ISSUED FOR STAGES 1 AND 2 OF THE \$1 BILLION MT PETER RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT ON THE SOUTHSIDE OF CAIRNS BETWEEN EDMONTON AND GORDONVALE, WRITES ROWAN SPARKES.

WORK is progressing on the \$1 billion Mt Peter residential development located between Edmonton and Gordonvale on the southside of Cairns.

Kenfrost Pty Ltd general manager Adam Gowlett says titles will soon be issued for stages 1 and 2, which will create 95 lots, with a further 34 lots in stage 3 to be completed by the end of the year.

"Engineering design work is underway on the next two stages and they will add another 93 lots. A number of homes are currently under construction with those first homes likely to be ready around Christmas," he says.

"We expect the first homes to be available for sale early in 2017. Most sales will be via

house and land packages. The first stage also includes a lot of trunk main infrastructure like sewer, water, an entry park and a 5500 square meter residential park."

Mr Gowlett says it's the start of what will be a long construction process, with the project expected to have somewhere near 1000 lots.

"Even at 100 lots per year it has more than a 10-year life, so we will be there for a while."

He says the public has shown a lot of interest in the Mt Peter estate.

"The new Mackillop College has been the source of a lot of our early enquiries and we are excited that the school has an ongoing program to expand further. A high school stream for the school would be an even bigger drawcard and

we look forward to the state government helping towards making that a reality."

Mr Gowlett says they are expecting interest from "families looking for affordable, quality homes in a great location, with a private kindergarten to Year 12 school on their doorstep."

He says stages 6 and 7 of the development are currently under design and will soon be ready to lodge with council for approval.

"Mt Peter estate will have something for everyone with some of the later stages providing larger, elevated lots that back onto the bush. Future stages are likely to have views back to the city too," he says.

"The estate is also in a picturesque location



**SUSTAINABLE LIVING:
MT PETER RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT**

Mt Peter has been chosen to be part of a special study into the way we use electricity in our homes and will look to increase the efficiency of the way electrical services are installed in the street.

Kenfrost Homes project manager Adam Gowlett says this will have a twofold effect.

"One being the potential to save the householder through the use of energy efficient designs and appliances, and two, saving homeowners and the community by using the infrastructure more efficiently."

He says homes are being specifically built and have the potential to save homeowners up to \$2000 per annum on their electricity.

"We are currently building two new homes that will incorporate 5KVA solar systems, heat pump hot water and induction cooking," he says.

"We are also building another home with a full solar and battery system that has the potential to use no power from the grid. All these are full size family homes - either three-bedroom, two-bathroom with a media room, or four-bedroom, two-bathroom homes around 190-200 sq m."



Kenfrost Homes project manager Adam Gowlett at the site of the \$1 billion Mt Peter residential development on the southside of Cairns.

Picture: JUSTIN BRIERTY

with hills and mountain backdrops and the hills will no doubt have trails developed in the future."

As part of the first stage of development, a 5500sqm park will be built including fitness stations, playground, plenty of seating and shade, and even a half-size basketball court.

"This will all be built before the first residents arrive," says Mr Gowlett.

Mr Gowlett says the Mt Peter residential estate will have a significant impact on the Cairns economy. "The construction and development industries are Cairns' third largest employment sector. For every \$1 million spent in construction, three full-time jobs are created and sustained. The housing in the first three

stages alone will sustain more than 77 local construction jobs," he says.

"Not only that, but new housing has such a huge multiplier with new residents buying new appliances, furniture, electrical goods, curtains, plants and more."

Lot sizes will range from 375sqm to 875sqm, with the average being around 500sqm and frontages averaging 15m wide. With the stage 2 upgrade of the Bruce Highway being brought forward and a spate of future developments scheduled in Mt Peter's surrounding areas, including the

Edmonton Business and Industry Park, Edmonton Town Centre and Southern Health

AS PART OF THE FIRST STAGE, A 5500SQM PARK WILL BE BUILT INCLUDING FITNESS STATIONS, PLAYGROUND, SEATING AND SHADE, AND EVEN A HALF-SIZE BASKETBALL COURT

Campus, the new estate will be a well-served, well-connected community in the heart of Cairns' southern corridor.



CONFIDENCE KEEPS BUILDING IN INDUSTRY

CAIRNS HAS THE EXPERTISE AND THE CAPACITY TO TAKE ON ANY KIND OF CONSTRUCTION PROJECT AND CONFIDENCE IN THE REGION'S BUILDING INDUSTRY CONTINUES TO GROW, WRITES ROWAN SPARKES.

AS the list of major projects under way in the region continues to grow, so too does the confidence in the Far North's building and construction industry.

"There's a mile of capacity in this town to build," says Master Builders' regional manager Ron Bannah.

"We've got builders, trade contractors and the resources behind it like management, engineering and all the consultants you'd want."

"You don't really need to bring anyone else into town, there's a capacity here - and it's a very capable capacity too - to handle any kind of construction project," he says.

As major projects like the Cairns Aquarium and The Precinct near completion, many more are in the pipeline, including the Nova City and C3 tower developments, eco-resort KUR-World, Mt Emerald Wind Farm, the Australian Institute of Tropical Health and Medicine facility at James Cook University and redevelopments at Acacia Court Hotel and Rydges Tradewinds on



Master Builders' Ron Bannah.

the Esplanade.

Other long-term projects include the redevelopment of the Cairns Airport and the Edmonton Business and Industry Park (EBIP) on Cairns' southside.

"It's currently under sugarcane but it's a \$780 million project," Mr Bannah says of the EBIP. "It's all been approved but nothing will

happen there until the land has been resumed for the upgrade of the Bruce Highway."

"About Aquis, you can't discard it," he says of the multi-billion dollar mega-resort planned for the Cairns' northern beaches. "To date they've spent something like \$200 million bringing Aquis to where it is today."

Residential developments including subdivisions on the northern side of Golden Lakes and the first stages of Mt Peter are progressing, as is the Botanica development at Caravonica.

The Botanica project, valued at \$200 million, will provide about 1000 dwellings, including apartments, townhouses and villas, and feature a 2ha lagoon as its centrepiece.

"If you counted the tractors at the Botanica site you'll find they're quite serious about the development there," he says. "Hopefully, as the earthworks are completed, the follow-on construction work will commence soon after."

Mr Bannah says Cairns' building and



An artist's impression of the \$200 Botanica residential development at Caravonica.

LEADER IN SUSTAINABILITY: KENICK CONSTRUCTIONS

Rising electricity prices, energy efficiency legislation, and greater public awareness means more people than ever are seeing the benefits, both environmental and financial, of sustainable construction.

Cairns building company Kenick Constructions are the local leaders in sustainable home building and renovations.

Last year they took out the Housing Industry Association's GreenSmart Display Home and Home of the Year awards, while sales and building consultant Rachel Whymark took out the GreenSmart Professional of the Year award for the second time in three years.

She says eco-houses are simply just a better way to build in the tropics.

"When we talk about sustainability what we are trying to do is cut down energy use, use recyclable materials and keep homes naturally cool and comfortable."

"It's a common sense way of building - why would you pay twice as much to run a house that is less comfortable in our climate."

Kenick's eco-houses feature grey tinted windows, extended eaves for shading, and are strategically placed on the block to minimise heat from the sun while maximising natural ventilation.

"Our timber frame homes are well insulated, cyclone and termite resistant, and when the sun hits the wall it doesn't retain the heat like a blockwork home would," she says.

Sustainable features can cost more initially, but the ongoing savings on energy costs means the initial investment can pay for itself after just a few years.

Kenick's latest display home, an eco-house at 36 Marina Quay, Trinity Park, has a 6.5 star energy rating.

"We are pushing the industry forward and improving the housing industry while caring for the environment," says Rachel.

construction sector is performing stronger and offering more than most other places.

"The thing about Cairns is we're getting good yields on our investments," Mr Bannah says.

THE BOTANICA PROJECT WILL PROVIDE ABOUT 1000 DWELLINGS, INCLUDING APARTMENTS, TOWNHOUSES AND VILLAS, AND FEATURE A 2HA LAGOON AS ITS CENTREPIECE.

"It's not a case of tossing a coin whether you come to Cairns or go and work in the mining areas. Cairns has got a lot going for it for a lot of reasons, but from an investment point of view it's probably towards the top of the list of places to come to."



An artist's impression of part of the planned Edmonton Business and Industry Park.



LEADING THE CHARGE

THE FAR NORTH'S AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY INVOLVED IN DEVELOPING SUSTAINABLE FARMING PRACTICES, WRITES ROWAN SPARKES.

FROM the tropical coast to the Atherton Tablelands, the Cairns region represents vast agricultural potential in terms of diversity and capacity.

The naturally fertile conditions, hi-tech equipment, sophisticated infrastructure, and our unique geography, climate and labour workforce make North Queensland one of Australia's most important agricultural regions, producing significant such as sugarcane, bananas and beef.

In recent years, the region's agricultural community has become increasingly involved in developing sustainable farming practices, with the aim of improving industry stability for the future.

Smartcane, the sugarcane industry's BMP program, has independently accredited 140 sugarcane farms on 41,000 hectares of land that are operating at or above industry best practice standards.

Canegrowers Cairns chairman Stephen Calcagno, who is also a Smartcane accredited grower, says, as well as Smartcane BMP, growers themselves have invested a lot of money to address and minimise their environmental impacts.

"In conjunction with the Reef and Rainforest Research Centre, we are monitoring the Mulgrave and Russell catchments to see our

effects on water quality," he says.

"We are hoping to establish guidelines in the future so we can address any issues as quickly as possible and get the best possible outcomes for water quality runing onto the reef."

Banana growers in the region received a boost last month with the launch of a new mobile phone app designed to complement the banana industry's Best Management Practice (BMP) Guidelines.

The 'BetterBunch' app allows growers to easily record and retrieve information such as fertiliser and chemical applications, irrigation scheduling and harvest details.

Australian Banana Growers' Council chairman Doug Phillips says the app had been developed by growers to safeguard both farms and the Great Barrier Reef.

"Through the BMP, growers actively monitor farm practices which not only ensures they continue to be environmentally sustainable, but provides greater protection to crops and improves productivity," he says.

North Queensland graziers had the opportunity to learn more about sustainable beef production at Grazing BMP workshops earlier this year.

AgForce's Grazing BMP manager Steve Lacey says the BMP program benchmarks

graziers' current management practices against industry standards for their region.

"The program can then work with the grazier on areas of opportunity to improve their practices within the five modules - Soil Health, Grazing Land Management, People and Business, Animal Production and Animal Health and Welfare," he says.

With such programs in place, the agricultural community is actively involved in moving toward sustainable farming practices, driven by grassroots movements and underpinned by a strong not-for-profit sector.

There is an unprecedented opportunity for the region's agriculture to prosper through the growing global demand for quality food,

GROWERS HAVE INVESTED A LOT OF MONEY TO MINIMISE THEIR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

particularly in expanding middle classes in nearby Asian markets.

With an innovative, productive and increasingly sustainable industry, North Queensland is uniquely positioned to meet such demands and become Australia's agricultural champion in the future.



SUSTAINABLE FARMING: FAR NORTH PAVES THE WAY

Farmers toil to protect environment

The Wet Tropics Reef Rescue Impact Report 2013, published by Terrain Natural Resource Management earlier this year, found that over five years from 2008-13, innovative farmers in the region stopped almost 1000 tonnes of fertiliser and 36 tonnes of pesticide run-off from entering the Great Barrier Reef. The report also discovered that the Australian Government's Reef Program improved farming practices in the region on 67 per cent of land used for banana growing, and 86 per cent for sugarcane.

The report also discovered that projects funded by the Australian Government's Reef Program contributed to improved farming practices on 67 per cent of land used to grow bananas and 86 per cent of land used for sugarcane.

Tablelands' clean energy push

The Far North's biggest sugar miller, MSF, has plans to add 'green' power stations to its four factories, with the first to be built early next year.

Using a sugarcane byproduct as fuel, the facility will be able to produce 24 megawatts of electricity, enough to power every home on the Tablelands.

The power plants, along with a new wind farm development at the nearby Mt Emerald, are heading a push towards cleaner energy production in the region.

Howe Farms general manager Kim Mastin at the Walkamin banana plantation.





TOWERS WILL BRING FLOW-ON EFFECTS

THE THREE-TOWER C3 DEVELOPMENT AND SEVEN-TOWER NOVA CITY DEVELOPMENT WILL BOOST CONFIDENCE ACROSS THE REGION, WRITES ROWAN SPARKES.

CRANES are expected to dot the skyline in Cairns' CBD next year when two of the region's most anticipated high-rise developments begin construction.

Approvals for the three-tower C3 and the seven-tower Nova City buildings are a good indication that 2017 will be the year major headway is made on the two \$550 million projects.

Master Builders regional manager Ron Bannah says the commencement of work on the major projects will have a flow-on effect in the region.

"It will have a hell of an impact on this city if they could get the projects underway. It would

boost the confidence across the region tenfold," he says.

"It would bring a few old files off the shelves and out of the lockers to look at further development that people have been sitting on for the last few years."

Cairns Regional Council greenlit the C3 tower development at a meeting earlier this year.

The 796-unit complex will include one 24-storey tower and two 23-storey towers with 360-degree views over the city, inlet and mountain ranges.

It will be the tallest building in the city, with one of the towers reaching 72m above ground

level - almost 10m higher than Nova City and 13m taller than the CBD's current tallest building, Lake St's Cairns Corporate Tower.

The design, by award-winning local architects Roger Mainwood and Carlo Amerio, will feature a mix of residential and holiday accommodation, street level retail, recreational areas and rooftop terraces.

Communal facilities, including a pool, barbecues, and a gym have been proposed for each tower, however it is unsure whether they will be open to the public or exclusive to residents and guests.

C3 will be located on Sheridan St, opposite the Cairns Convention Centre and just a few



**PROJECT SNAPSHOT:
C3 AND NOVA CITY**

Nova City

- Seven towers between 17 and 19 storeys each
- 1158 apartments, 6000sq m retail space and 11,000sq m office space
- Construction of a new street linking Spence and Hartley St
- Sky pool and celebrity chef restaurants
- Retail outlets to cater for up to 6000 a day, including more than 1000 office workers, 300 retail staff and hundreds of other workers
- Up to 1000 building jobs

C3

- Three towers - one 24-storey and two 23-storey
- 796 units, 3700sq m retail and office space
- Podium level recreational areas and rooftop terraces
- 360-degree views over the inlet, city and mountain ranges
- The towers will be the tallest buildings in the city, reaching a maximum 72m above ground level
- Up to 500 full-time building jobs and up to 240 indirect jobs



Artist impressions of the three-tower C3 project and the seven-tower Nova City project (inset) which will boost confidence in the Cairns region.

hundred metres away from attractions including the Cairns Cruise Liner Terminal, Reef Hotel Casino and Cairns Central shopping centre.

The recently rebranded Nova City development continues to edge closer to construction, following the Cairns Regional Council's approval for more than \$3.5 million worth of infrastructure upgrades related to the project.

Marketing for the project was launched late August and a display facility showcasing Nova City's range of units will soon be open to prospective buyers at the Spence St site.

Nova City will include seven towers - six of

these will be residential and one commercial.

The towers will front Spence St on 24,000sq m of land and more than 1150 apartments.

There are plans for a luxury podium level that will feature an infinity pool, celebrity chef restaurants, barbecue pit, gym and theatre for residents.

Following the necessary infrastructure upgrades, the first tower will be developed - the 17-storey Nova Light building.

According to the Nova City website, Nova Light is "dressed in folded glass, creating an elegant and neutral palette with subtle accents

in aluminium, stone, timber and ceramic evoking the surrounding rainforests and shimmering ocean".

The developments have been hailed by

**THE COMMENCEMENT OF
WORK ON THE MAJOR
PROJECTS WILL HAVE A
FLOW-ON EFFECT**

community and industry leaders as a way to inspire renewed confidence in the Cairns CBD, with the belief that work on Nova City and C3 will see other major projects follow suit.



FOCUS ON HEALTHCARE

THE CAIRNS REGION'S POTENTIAL AS A TROPICAL HEALTH RESEARCH HUB IS MOVING FORWARD AND MEDICAL SERVICES AND FACILITIES ARE EXPANDING, WRITES ROWAN SPARKES.

HEALTHCARE services and medical facilities in the Far North continue to expand to keep up with a growing population and to satisfy increasing demand for specialist health services.

The region's potential as a tropical health research hub is also moving forward, with a new medical research facility being built at James Cook University's Smithfield campus, on Cairns' northside.

The \$24.5 million Australian Institute of Tropical Health and Medicine project (artist's impression above) will increase Australia's research and training abilities, while fostering the development of new treatments and vaccines for tropical diseases.

Education and Training minister Simon Birmingham says the facility will provide Cairns with a distinct opportunity to take a leading role in tropical health and medicine.

"This is an important foundation in the research effort to improve the health outcomes for regional and remote communities in tropical Australia and across the world," he says.

"The work conducted right here in Cairns will lead to breakthroughs that will reduce mortality rates and the burden of suffering for people who contract tropical diseases around the world."

North Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities will receive a boost as health professionals are upskilled and supported to provide culturally-appropriate

healthy lifestyle advice as part of a new training program.

Health minister Cameron Dick says the program will build the capacity, skills and confidence of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health professionals.

"They will be trained to deliver tobacco, nutrition and physical activity brief interventions to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients," he says.

"This training program will better equip our health workers and providers to increase client understanding about the risk factors of chronic disease and refer to appropriate lifestyle services."

The Menzies School of Health Research will deliver the \$2.25 million Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Brief Intervention Training Program over three years.

The Cairns Hospital is also set to receive \$6 million worth of improvements to ensure health facilities and services provided in the region are the most up-to-date.

The upgrades come as part of a state-wide health rollout that will put health-related capital investment into almost every corner of the Far North.

As a result, new facilities and medical infrastructure upgrades will not only benefit Cairns, but wider North Queensland, with developments scheduled throughout the Cairns and Hinterland, North West and Torres and

Cape Hospital and Health Service catchment areas.

These upgrades will also include redeveloping Thursday Island Hospital and refurbishing Atherton Hospital's emergency department and operating theatres.

The projects will be delivered through a combination of the \$230 million Advancing Queensland's Health Infrastructure Fund, Queensland Health's Priority Capital Program and the Significant Regional Infrastructure Projects Program.

THE \$24.5 MILLION PROJECT WILL INCREASE AUSTRALIA'S RESEARCH AND TRAINING ABILITIES

A new medical practice at DFO Cairns shopping centre has also recently opened, specialising in the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of one of the most prevalent health issues in the Far Northern tropical climate - skin cancer. As well as specialist resident doctors, FNQH will be regularly visited by Brisbane anaesthetist and skin cancer specialist, Dr Andy Rodbert, for general anaesthetic operations.

The state-of-the-art clinic features eight consulting rooms, two operating theatres and five photodynamic therapy laser devices for treating skin cancer.

GOLF RESORT DINING EVENTS BUSINESS LIFESTYLE

BE PART OF
PARADISE

BE PART OF
GOLDEN LAKES

A lakeside tropical oasis, Golden Lakes is surrounded by World Heritage Rainforest and the Paradise Palms championship 18 hole golf course.

Now taking expressions of interest
goldenlakesnq.com | paradisepalms.com.au



Cairns, Tropical North
Queensland, Australia



CITY INVESTS IN ARTS AND CULTURE

A RANGE OF RECENT UPGRADES ARE AIMED AT CEMENTING CAIRNS' REPUTATION AS AN ENTERTAINMENT HUB AND TO ATTRACT MORE BIG-NAME ACTS AND WORLD-CLASS PERFORMANCES, WRITES ROWAN SPARKES.

IN an effort to attract big-name acts and world-class performances to the region, Cairns' arts and entertainment facilities have undergone a raft of major upgrades over the past year.

The Precinct, a two-part project scheduled for completion next year, is the biggest.

One half of the project has already been completed, with the \$10 million Munro Martin Parklands redevelopment staging its first events in July to widespread public approval.

The first events, which were offered free to the public by the Cairns Regional Council, included concerts by Australian singer-songwriter Kate Miller-Heidke and the Cairns Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir, Opera Queensland's *The Barber of Seville*, and *Circa - Carnival of the Animals*.

The events were funded by the council's operational budget and had a combined cost of \$253,000.

A survey of 314 audience members, staff and



Braham Stevens with his 4.5 tonne steel sculpture titled "Embrace" at Munro Martin Parklands.

Picture: MARC McCORMACK

performers was conducted by the council, with respondents rating their satisfaction with the new venue at an average of 92 per cent.

The first paid event, the Soweto Gospel Choir from South Africa, sold more than 1900 tickets.

The parklands area features an amphitheatre, terraced seating, public amenities and a history trail.

The second half of The Precinct, the \$66 million Cairns Performing Arts Centre, will be located across the road from the parklands and replace the previous Cairns Civic Theatre..

It will have more than 3.5 times the total floor area of the Civic Theatre and increase audience capacity by 272 people, as well as improved facilities and acoustics.

The Tanks Arts Centre, one of Cairns' most popular performance and exhibition venues, completed extensive refurbishments earlier this year.

The multi-use arts facility is made up of three converted World War II naval oil storage tanks, which were used to refuel Australian and visiting American and British ships until they were decommissioned in 1987.

As part of the \$2.2 million upgrade, Tank 5,



The future belongs
to the Tropics



A university for the Tropics

- As one of the world's leading universities in the Tropics, James Cook University is providing the research and education needed for a brighter future for Cairns and the Tropics
- Half of the world's population will live in the Tropics by 2050
- Economic growth in tropical regions outstrips the rest of the world by almost 20%
- Fast growing trade and investment in the Tropics presents unlimited opportunities for northern Australia.

Source: State of the Tropics 2014 Report, published by James Cook University, and launched by Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi. stateofthetropics.org

Reputation matters



for graduate job success
6 years in a row

The Good Universities Guide 2011 - 2016

Global rank: Top 2%*

Academic Ranking of World Universities, 2015

Ireland's: Cairns Fleet Specialists - in our 94th Year



Invest in your fleet... reward your team

If you're working towards getting yourself a new car, you'll be happy to know Ireland's are working with you towards that same goal.

We're offering each employee in your company significant savings across our entire dealership... Holden, Isuzu Trucks, Mitsubishi, Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge, Fiat, Alfa Romeo and RAM.

Just call **Ireland's Fleet** to arrange an appointment to discuss your vehicle needs.

Yes, we can make it that easy to be driving the new car of your choice at significant savings.

Call us to arrange an appointment, your place or ours, to meet one of our Fleet Consultants to find out how

Ireland's Fleet can work for you and your team.

Guaranteed.

Phone 1300 659 775

227 Mulgrave Road | irelands.com.au
fleet@irelands.com.au



SALES, SERVICE, PARTS, ACCESSORIES:

HOLDEN | HSV | ISUZU TRUCKS | MITSUBISHI | CHRYSLER | JEEP | DODGE | FIAT | ALFA ROMEO | FIAT PROFESSIONAL | RAM