

ORDINARY MEETING 24 APRIL 2013	13
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REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO PROCEED TO CONSTRUCTION FOR
GRAFTON STREET CHINESE HERITAGE PROJECT PCT13247

Wayne Dagleish: 1/3/81-25: #3902406v8

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

- a) Approves the construction of works in accordance with the concept plan “Grafton Street Chinese Cultural Heritage Option 3” and additional budget allocation of \$52,000 in 2012-13, to be sourced from savings in other projects;
- b) Approves the inclusion of the annual CBD central island street tree upgrade program within the scope of the Grafton Street heritage project, at an estimated cost of \$200,000 in 2013-14; and
- c) Delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer, in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009*, to negotiate and finalise all matters relating to this project.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Late in 2012, Council received funding of \$88,000 from the Queensland Government under the Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program to develop the Grafton Street Chinese Heritage Trail (refer Executive Attachment 1). Council has also provided \$200,000 in the current 2012/13 budget for these works.

It is noted that this project relates to the recognition of the heritage associated with the site of the former Cairns Chinatown. It is not a project to re-create a new Chinatown. Proposed structural design choices for the heritage elements of the project reflect this distinction.

A concept plan was prepared for consultation which detailed the installation of two red pergola structures on Grafton Street (Executive Attachment 2 – Option 1) and resulted in the loss of six car parking spaces, three motor bike bays, one loading zone and a slight reduction in length of one loading zone.

During the formal consultation process, nineteen responses were received of which ten were supportive of the project in its current form and eight were supportive of an amended form or on a smaller scale. The most positive feedback received was the greening of Grafton Street with additional street tree planting.

After taking into consideration the consultation feedback, three additional post consultation concept plan options have been developed as outlined below.

Option 2 (Executive Attachment 4)

This option addressed the issues of loss of car parks and the perceived need to downsize the streetscape elements. This option substitutes the eastern pergola with car parking and downsizes the western pergola area to achieve no loss of car parks. There is a loss of two motor bike spaces and one loading zone. This option however removes one of the major Chinese Heritage feature islands to achieve the no loss of car parks.

Option 3 (Executive Attachment 5)

This option provides a downsized pergola area on the western side, a new kerbside open space seating facility on the eastern side and results in a loss of three car parking spaces in the street, a loss of three motor bike spaces and one loading zone and a slight reduction in length of one loading zone.

Option 4 (Executive Attachment 6)

This option is based on the one laning of Grafton Street (reduction from the current two lanes in each direction). By reducing to a single lane of traffic in each direction allowance can then be made for right angle (90°) parking. This option includes the pergolas from Option 1 but in a single lane configuration. There will be 8 additional car parking bays created and a loss of five motorbike spaces and one loading zone.

Project costs and budget implications are as follows:

	Option 1 (Public Consultation)	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
TOTAL PROJECT COSTS	\$655,000	\$450,000	\$540,000	\$705,000
State Government Funding	\$88,000	\$88,000	\$88,000	\$88,000
Current 12/13 budget allocation	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
Proposed budget addition	\$367,000	\$162,000	\$252,000	\$417,000

It is recommended that Council resolves to proceed with Option 3 and approves an additional Council allocation of \$52,000 in the 2012-13 capital works program for the construction of the Grafton Street Chinese Heritage Project. While there is still some loss of parking with this option it retains the original look and feel of the original concept and provides an additional three more car spaces than the original concept.

The remaining additional funding required (\$200,000) is attributable to central island tree plantings being included within the scope of this project. In effect, this represents a merger of the heritage project with the annual tree upgrade program that commenced 2011-12 to progressively upgrade centre plantings in line with the City Centre Masterplan. These funds will be required in 2013-14.

If upgrading of footpaths and kerbing was also to be undertaken as part of this project then the minimum additional cost to upgrade the areas most in need would be \$250,000 or up to \$500,000 if all the eastern footpaths were replaced.

BACKGROUND:

Late in 2012, Council received funding of \$88,000 from the Queensland Government under the Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program to develop the Grafton Street Chinese Heritage Trail (Executive Attachment 1).

Grafton Street, between Spence and Shields Streets, was once the largest Chinatown outside of Brisbane. Chinese Australians owned many businesses along that strip, including silk and fine furniture retailers, agricultural shops, food emporia, herbalists, opium dens as well as two Chinese temples. The main temple was located at 95 Grafton Street which was demolished in the 1960s. This site is adjacent to the proposed pergola areas.

COMMENT:

A project consultation concept plan detailed the installation of two large red pergola structures on Grafton Street (Executive Attachment 2 – Option 1). Other elements of the proposal include:

- Greening of the street with median tree plantings and road shoulder gardens featuring fragranced plants including Himalayan Magnolias and Chinese species of gardenia;
- Interpretive displays set within toughened glass relating to Chinese cultural history;
- A commemorative plinth at the western pergola location; and
- Street furniture at the Shield Street intersection.

This option resulted in a net loss of six car parking spaces, three motorbike spaces and one loading bay with additional options being developed in response to consultation.

CONSULTATION:

Council's Communications Officers have visited the businesses in Grafton Street, conducted a letter drop and have also placed information on Council's website. The consultation plan was provided for review and feedback.

During the formal consultation process, nineteen responses were received of which ten were supportive in its current form and eight were supportive of an amended form or on a smaller scale. One response was in relation to Grafton Street traffic conditions.

There were some recurring points of concern raised by the traders relating to the loss of parking in the area and concerns for the maintenance and cleaning required to upkeep these structures. Concerns were raised regarding the structures being targeted with graffiti and some traders were not happy that their shop frontage/exposure would be blocked by the structures.

Some suggestions received after informal discussions with traders included:

- The street needs additional rubbish bins;
- The tribute to Chinese Heritage could be represented effectively on a smaller scale on-road that does not result in car parking loss;
- Move the Gilligan's loading zone to Sheridan Street which will offset parking loss;
- Reconfigure existing loading zones which will result in more car parks; and
- Consider the provision of an all-weather/covered pedestrian crossing.

Refer to attached Public Consultation Results memo #3889289 (Attachment 3).

The most positive feedback from stakeholders regarding the Consultation Plan was the greening of Grafton Street with additional street tree planting.

Council has also undertaken considerable consultation with CADCAI (Cairns and District Chinese Association Inc) during the concept development of this project. This has been ongoing in both the detailed aspects of the interpretive signage and the general project concept with positive support obtained.

Recent consultation occurred regarding the relationship of the project to Cairns Sister City relationship with Zhanjiang in southern China. It is not intended or thought appropriate that this Cairns heritage installation incorporate Sister City material. However, the Sister City Advisory Committee will be asked to pursue alternative concepts for the public recognition and celebration of that and other Sister City relationships.

CONSIDERATIONS:

Risk Management:

After taking into consideration the consultation feedback, three additional post consultation concept plan options were prepared as outlined below.

Option 2 (Executive Attachment 4)

This option addressed the issues of loss of car parking and the need to downsize the streetscape elements. This option substitutes the eastern pergola with car parking and downsizes the western pergola area so there is a loss of original intent with this proposal in order to gain parking.

Other elements of the proposal include:

- Greening of the street with median tree plantings and a road shoulder garden featuring fragranced plants including Himalayan Magnolias and Chinese species of gardenia;
- Interpretive displays set within toughened glass relating to Chinese cultural history;
- A commemorative plinth at the western pergola location; and
- Street furniture at the Shield Street Intersection.

This option results in no loss of car parking spaces, a net loss of two motorbike spaces and one loading bay.

Option 3 (Executive Attachment 5)

This option provides a downsized pergola area on the western side and a new kerbside open space seating facility on the eastern side to reduce the overall impact of the design. A variation to this option could of course be to continue with the construction of the two pergolas on the reduced island footprint.

Other elements of this proposal include:

- Greening of the street with median tree plantings and road shoulder gardens featuring fragranced plants including Himalayan Magnolias and Chinese species of gardenia;
- Interpretive displays set within toughened glass relating to Chinese cultural history;
- A commemorative plinth at the western pergola location; and
- Street furniture at Shield Street intersection

This option results in a net loss of three car parking spaces, the loss of three motor bike spaces, one loading bay and a reduction in length of one loading zone. This option is considered the most suitable to implement at this stage with car parking losses relative to the original proposal reduced while still staying faithful to the original concept.

Option 4 (Executive Attachment 6)

This option is based on the one laning of Grafton Street (reduction from the current two lanes in each direction). By reducing to a single lane of traffic in each direction allowance can then be made for right angle (90°) parking. This option includes the pergolas from Option 1 but in a single lane configuration. There will be 8 additional car parking bays generated with this option. Single laning is in accordance with the present CBD Traffic Master Plan and provides a safer traffic environment as evidenced by the reduced accident statistics following the previous McLeod Street single laning project. In a busy CBD environment single laning provides improved safety for pedestrians, cyclists and traffic/parking movements generally without compromising traffic capacity along the street. Refer to Attachment 7 for a photo of a typical single lane traffic layout demonstrating Option 4.

The financial analysis of each option is summarised below:

Item	Option 1 (Went to Public Consultation existing double lane)	Option 2 (Existing double lane)	Option 3 (Existing double lane)	Option 4 (Single lane 90°/45° parking)
Supply/Install Western Pergola	\$140,000	\$130,000	\$130,000	\$140,000
Supply/Install Eastern Structures	\$140,000 (Pergola)	Nil (Car parking)	\$90,000 (Seating)	\$140,000 (Pergola)
Central Island Plantings	\$240,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$240,000
Shield Street Intersection Furniture and Signage	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000
Develop Artwork Signage at Pergola	\$40,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$40,000
Expenditure to Date	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$35,000
Cost to create single lane (Intersection works, meters)				\$50,000

TOTAL PROJECT COSTS	\$655,000	\$450,000	\$540,000	\$705,000
Item Grafton St Upgrade between Shields and Spence Street	Option 1 (Went to Public Consultation existing double lane)	Option 2 (Existing double lane)	Option 3 (Existing double lane)	Option 4 (Single lane 90°/45° parking)
Existing parking gain/loss in Grafton Street	Net loss: 6 car parking 3 motorbike 1 loading bay	Net balance of car parking Net loss: 2 motorbike 1 loading bay	Net loss of: 3 car parks Net loss: 3 motorbike 1 loading bay	Net gain: 8 car parks Net loss: 5 motorbike 1 loading bay
Funding Required by Council Note: \$88,000 State Funded	\$567,000	\$362,000	\$452,000	\$617,000

If upgrading of footpaths and kerbing was also to be undertaken as part of this project then the minimum additional cost to upgrade the area's most in need would be \$250,000 or up to \$500,000 if all the eastern footpaths were to be replaced.

In conjunction with the works it is proposed that the road would also be resurfaced as part of the asphalt program with these works previously postponed while the Chinese Heritage project was finalised.

With State Government Funding of \$88,000 Council will be required to provide funding to deliver the Grafton Street Chinese Heritage Project as follows:

	Total Project Cost	Current Council Funds 2012/13	Proposed extra Council Funds
Option 2 – Retain existing car park numbers	\$450,000	\$200,000	\$162,000
Option 3 – Loss of three car parks	\$540,000	\$200,000	\$252,000
Option 1 – Loss of six car parks	\$655,000	\$200,000	\$367,000
Option 4 – Gain of eight car parks	\$705,000	\$200,000	\$417,000

After considering the merits of each alternative the recommended option is Option 3. To enable these works to proceed this will require an additional funding allocation of \$52,000 in the 2012-13 budget and \$200,000 in 2013/14 Capital Works Budget (the later being for the street tree component).

In conjunction with the works it is proposed that the road would also be resurfaced as part of the asphalt program with these works previously postponed while the Chinese Heritage project was finalised.

If upgrading of footpaths and kerbing was also to be undertaken as part of this project then the minimum additional cost to upgrade the area's most in need would be \$250,000 or up to \$500,000 if all the eastern footpaths were to be replaced.

Corporate and Operational Plans:

The undertaking of this project supports Council's Corporate Plan 2009-2014 with particular reference to:

Goal 2 “To build more creative, innovative and self-reliant communities where participation in community life is enabled and encouraged.”

- 2.2 Improve the quality and opportunities for public space across the region
- 2.4 Provide enhanced arts and cultural activities that add value to the life of residents and visitors alike.

Goal 3 “To take an integrated planning approach to development that creates a sustainable region reflective of our uniqueness and tropical lifestyle.”

- 3.4 Protect and manage the heritage and culture of the region.

Statutory:

Council will comply with Local Government purchasing requirements in delivering these works.

Sustainability:

Resources: There are minimal impacts with resources necessary to develop the works.

Environment: There is no risk of environmental impact with the works.

Community: There is substantial improvement in community health and wellbeing with this development.

Governance and economic management: All works to be provided by Council staff and local suppliers.

Options:

Option A:

That Council resolves to proceed to construction for the Grafton Street Chinese Heritage Project Option 2.

Option B: (recommended):

That Council resolves to proceed to construction for the Grafton Street Chinese Heritage Project Option 3.

Option C:

That Council resolves to proceed to construction for the Grafton Street Chinese Heritage Project Option 1.

Option D:

That Council resolves to proceed with construction of the Grafton Street Chinese Heritage Project Option 4.

ATTACHMENTS:

Executive Attachment 1: State Government Funding Approval #3798059
Executive Attachment 2: Consultation Concept Plan
Attachment 3: Public Consultation Results Memo #3889289
Executive Attachment 4: Post Consultation Plan Option 2
Executive Attachment 5: Post Consultation Plan Option 3
Executive Attachment 6: Post Consultation Plan Option 4
Attachment 7: Typical single lane and 90° parking

ANDREW BAXTER
A/Manager Project Services

BRUCE GARDINER
General Manager Infrastructure Services

IAN LOWTH
General Manager Community, Sport & Cultural Services

EXECUTIVE ATTACHMENT 1 – State Government Funding Approval #3798059



Hon David Crisafulli MP
Minister for Local Government

Our ref: MBN12/1618

20 November 2012

Councillor Bob Manning
Mayor
Cairns Regional Council
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CAIRNS QLD 4870

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41 George Street Brisbane
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Dear Councillor Manning *Bob*

Re: Applications for funding under the Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program 2012 – 2013 Infrastructure Subsidy

I refer to your applications for funding under the Queensland Government's Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program – Infrastructure Subsidy 2012- 2013.

I am very pleased to advise that I have approved funding to Council as detailed below.

Project title	Total project cost	Maximum approved subsidy
WiFi CCTV Network Cairns	\$260,000	\$100,000
Chinese Heritage Trail Grafton Street	\$220,000	\$88,000

This funding is to be used for the approved projects as outlined in Council's application.

I am mindful that delays by the State last year saw a majority of projects unable to be completed. This is why I have moved quickly to approve and notify you of your success as I am keen to ensure the maximum amount of money gets spent this financial year. I would encourage you to commence work swiftly.

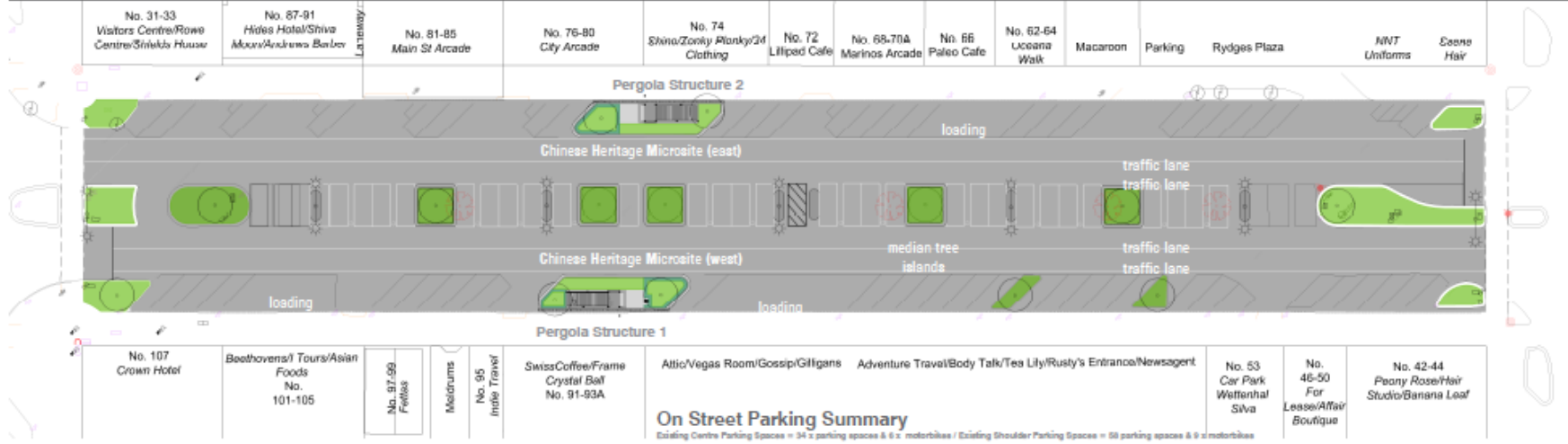
If your staff require further information, they can contact Richard Ferrett, Chief of Staff on (07) 3234 1870, who will be pleased to assist you.

Yours sincerely

David Crisafulli MP
Minister for Local Government

EXECUTIVE ATTACHMENT 2 – Consultation Concept Plan

Grafton Street Chinese Cultural Heritage - Detailed Concept Plan Page 1



On Street Parking Summary

Existing Centre Parking Spaces = 34 x parking spaces & 6 x motorbikes / Existing Shoulder Parking Spaces = 58 parking spaces & 9 x motorbikes
 Proposed Centre Parking Spaces = 35 x parking spaces* & 3 x motorbikes / Proposed Shoulder Parking = 51 x parking spaces & 9 x motorbikes

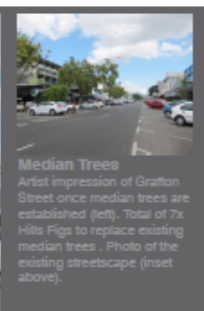
Grafton Street median tree planting - between Shields and Spence Streets

Concept Design:

- Provide consistent tree canopy for Grafton Street in accordance with the Cairns City Centre Master Plan.
- Existing median trees are to be removed and replaced with more suitable semi mature shade trees.
- Landscape works to provide visual amenity for the street and shade for parked vehicles.
- Median islands allow for the provision of large shade trees and understorey planting to create a green city centre.
- Centre parking and pay and display machines are re-organised.
- Median islands will be provided with full irrigation to be supplied from current watering system.
- Design allows for future provision of mid-block crossing.
- Design incorporates power to all tree islands to allow for future feature lighting for festivals and special events.

Project results in a net loss of 6 car parking spaces, 3 x motorbike spaces & 1x loading bay.

*Note: vehicle parking (35m x 2.2m) vehicle parking bays in brown/white with 60 number double line delineation.



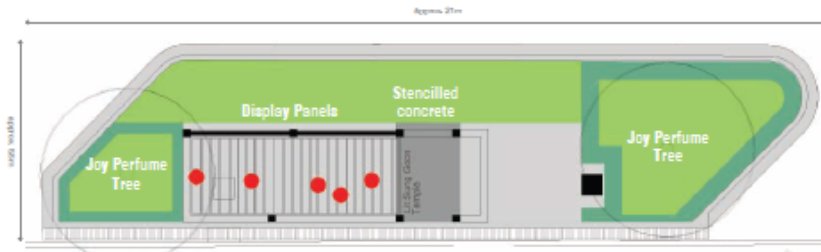
Median Trees
 Artist impression of Grafton Street once median trees are established (left). Total of 7x Hills Figs to replace existing median trees. Photo of the existing streetscape (inset above).

Artist Impression of median trees in 10 years



Planting Themes
 Simple planting theme using Michelia champaca (Joy Perfume Tree) as a feature tree to the islands underplanted with gardenia (both plants are Chinese in origin) and spider lilies. Jade vine will be used to cover the pergola structures to provide shade (In China jade symbolises beauty, nobility and perfection).

Grafton Street Chinese Cultural Heritage - Detailed Concept Plan Page 2



Plan of proposed Chinese microsite (west) - Site of historic Lit Sun Goon Temple
Shows layout of microsite (west) showing the footpath treatments (grey) planting (green) formal hedge (dark green) and seating (red). The pergola structure is outlined in black, with the temple commemorative plaque to far right of island. Islands to be linked to the footpath to provide continuity with the main pedestrian thoroughfare.



Pergola structure (west) seen from footpath
Pergola Structures
Model of the proposed steel pergola structures (2.6m x 8.6m x 3.7m high). These simple steel structures are based on traditional Chinese lattice work. The steel is finished in a high gloss red to reflect the Chinese love of this auspicious colour.

Chinese Heritage Microsites

Grafton Street Chinese Heritage Microsites

Concept Design:

- Provide two on street sites for the display of interpretive panels celebrating the historic contribution of the Chinese community in Cairns.
- Both sites relate to historic Chinese Temple sites which once stood in Grafton Street (formerly Sachs Street; which was once the heart of Cairns' Historic Chinatown).
- Microsites are shaded by a simple steel pergola structure inspired by Chinese lattice work, finished in high gloss red and planted with Jade Vine.
- Plantings have been selected for their links to China and for their fragrant flowers.
- Design allows for the future provision of a mid-block crossing to link the two structures.



Section through the microsites
Shows layout of the street between the two sites.



Digiglass
Specialist glass panels with encapsulated high resolution imagery fused into safety glass. The effect is similar to stained glass.



Interpretive panels
Sample of two of the proposed interpretive panels (above) to be installed as part of the proposed microsites. The panels celebrate the historic contribution of the Chinese Community in Cairns. The graphics will be fused between sheets of digiglass to produce a stained glass effect (panels measure 1200mm x 2600mm with two panels per structure). Artwork courtesy of Pembroke Graphics Cairns.

Pergola Structure 1
Artist impression of the pergola structure on the western side of Grafton Street once trees are established (left). Photo of the existing streetscape (inset below).

Artist Impression of Pergola Structure 1 in 10 years

ATTACHMENT 3: Public Consultation Results #3889289

MEMO TO: MANAGER CREATIVE CAIRNS
Leslie Sparkes

COPY TO: DIVISION 5 COUNCILLOR
Cr. Richie Bates

SENIOR LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT
Jez Clark

FROM: COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER
Sarah Burnheim

DATE: 1 MARCH 2013

SUBJECT: **PUBLIC CONSULTATION RESULTS – GRAFTON STREET CHINESE HERITAGE CONCEPT PLAN**

The purpose of this memo is to record the public consultation results regarding the proposed Chinese Heritage Concept Plan for Grafton Street (from Spence St to Shields St).

BACKGROUND

Late in 2012, Cairns Regional Council received funding from the Queensland Government under the Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program to develop the Grafton Street Chinese Heritage Trail. The purpose of the project is to showcase the importance of the link between Chinese Heritage and Grafton St in Cairns' history.

Grafton St, between Spence and Shields sts, was once the largest Chinatown outside of Brisbane. Chinese Australians owned many businesses along that strip, including silk and fine furniture retailers, agriculture shops, food emporiums, herbalists, opium dens as well as two Chinese temples. The main temple was located at 95 Grafton St, which was demolished in the 1960's.

The project proposal suggests the installation of 2 large red pergola structures on Grafton St. Other elements of the project include:

- Greening of the street with median tree plantings and road shoulder gardens featuring fragranced plants including Himalayan Magnolias and Chinese species of gardenia;
- Interpretive displays set within toughened glass relating to Chinese cultural history; and a
- Commemorative plinth.

Council's Communications Officers visited businesses in Grafton St on 31 January and 8 February 2013 to inform them of the Concept Design for the project and the upcoming consultation phase. During these informal discussions, Council staff spoke to 35 businesses and noted their initial feedback ahead of the formal consultation phase.

The consultation period commenced to coincide with the Chinese New Year Celebrations to be held in Grafton St. Consultation was open from Friday 8 February 2013 until Friday 22 February 2013.

Letters were mailed on 6 February 2013 to building owners and businesses in Grafton St between Spence and Shields St. Two large project corflute signs were placed at either end of Grafton St, displaying artist's impressions of the concept design.

This information was placed on Council's website and advertisements published in the Council Corner section of the Weekend Post on the weekend of 9-10 February 2013. A media release was distributed and a media opportunity was held in Grafton Street on Friday 8 February 2013. A Community Service Announcement was released on 19 February 2013.

FEEDBACK RECEIVED

During the formal consultation phase, **nineteen (19) responses were received**, of which 10 were supportive of the proposal in its current form, 8 were supportive of the proposal in an amended form or on a smaller scale, 1 posed an unrelated question regarding Grafton St traffic conditions.

The ten responses that were supportive of the proposal in its current form provided the following comments:

- *"... Great concept! Love it! When are you starting? Tomorrow? The more trees the better! Not only will they make the street a more friendly place, they will be fantastic at reducing the ground temperature out there!"*
- *"The proposed concept is brilliant. Well done to whoever conceptualised this and congratulations to the Council for taking the steps to make it happen. Anything we can do to enliven our CBD is very welcomed and this plan is a great start..."*
- *"Every other city has a Chinatown – they are lively, have atmosphere, there are things happening..."*
- *"... The details are wonderful and I would love to see it become a reality. I think it would be well received by tourists both domestic and international as well..."*

Eight responses that were supportive of the proposal in an amended form or smaller scale provided the following comments:

- *"... Concept plan looks good... any chance of having short-term parks implemented in Grafton St?..."*
- *"... opposed to further loss of parking in this or any other part of the CBD... Is it not possible to include red poles, arches or gateways incorporating the jade vine without losing car spaces?"*
- *"... Obviously taking up car parks, no matter how few is a huge issue on this street... I do believe this would impact our business negatively... Removing 6 from 92 car parks is a big loss! That is over a 6% reduction... The actual structure with seating will prove to be a great mecca for the vagrants in Cairns, many of them abusive... The jade vines, as beautiful as they are, would very likely be tortured and pulled down by the many late night clubbers at Gilligan's etc... We just don't see the benefit of having two large structures, with no real purpose..."*
- *"... the pergola is not immediately apparent as 'Chinese' except for the red colouring... Would it not be better if design used the two ends of Spence & Shields Streets to act as brackets to indicate a specific area?... Pergolas are high maintenance, therefore high cost and deteriorate when not properly taken care of..."*
- *"... the form of the red pergolas as suggested by the concept plan lack true linkage with the Cantonese who formed the bulk of the residents of Chinatown. Several Chinese descendants and others who have interests in seeing this section of Chinatown reinvigorated and recognised have expressed similar concerns to me... most people have small attention span when it comes to signage and often 'small is beautiful' is a sound adage to apply..."*

- *"... I am excited about the improvements to Grafton St, but am very concerned about losing car parks... As it is now, customers have a real problem with parking, often turning them away very frustrated, business is too tough to have this happening...I am not knocking the attempt to improve Grafton Street, I very much appreciate, but hoping there may be another solution..."*
- *"... A logical place to honour the Chinese for their contribution to the Cairns REGION, would be City Place not Grafton Street..."*

Recurring points of concern throughout the consultation period included:

- concerns over the resulting car parking loss;
- the scale of the structures, questioning whether the pergolas need to be so big;
- the structures being defaced with graffiti or damaged through vandalism;
- on-going maintenance demands and cost; and
- the loss of store frontage/signage/exposure.

Repeatedly, areas of praise included the planting of trees and greening of the street, improving the streetscape and cooling the temperature of the street.

Suggestions put forward to consider include:

- The introduction of short-term car parks near some businesses, 15 minute parking spaces that will encourage quick turnaround of parks;
- Improve the footpaths - they are very uneven in parts; and
- Consider the possibility of having a turnaround point at the Spence St end of Grafton St like the Shields St end to prevent illegal U-turns at traffic lights.

During the informal discussions that were held with Grafton Street businesses, feedback was recorded from nineteen (19) of the thirty-five (35) businesses that were visited. Of these, nine supported the proposal in its current form; six supported the proposal in an amended form; three were opposed to the idea and one trader did not mind what happened. Full details of comments recorded can be found in the Issues Register (#3866217).

Of those nine (9) traders who liked the proposal in its current form, the following comments were made:

- *"... Likes idea. Whatever the plan involves, it will have to be hardy to survive the Gilligan's crowd... have people vomiting, urinating and fornicating in the planter boxes outside the shop..."*
- *"Loves the idea of beautifying the street – in fact would like to see 2 of the structures on each side of the street! Should be very proud of the history."*
- *"Can't wait! The idea gives me goose bumps just thinking about it. Can collect signatures of support for the proposal..."*

Of those six (6) traders who liked the proposal in an amended form, the following comments were made:

- *"Concerned over signage... maybe if it was on a smaller scale. Perhaps lanterns or dragons along the length of the street rather than the large structure"*
- *"Reconfigure the loading zones and get more parking"*
- *"Thinks the plants will get trashed by Gilligan's patrons. The design could look 'more Chinese'. The history could be presented along footpath like an info walk..."*
- *"Not keen on location – it will deter people from walking in off street..."*
- *"Like the idea. Loss of parking is not great. The loading zone outside of Gilligan's is a waste of space – it could be moved to Sheridan St and that way the parking loss would be offset."*
- *"Like the idea generally. Could there be an all-weather/covered crossing point?"*
- *"Having a covered site with seats has the potential to turn into a smoking zone. Don't have seats, just walk through and read the information"*

Of the three (3) traders who were opposed to the proposal, the following comments were made:

- *Don't like the idea of losing parking. As it is, it's too hard for customers to pick up their products, customers aren't allowed to park in the closest loading zone at Gilligan's as it is only for commercial vehicles. Concerned that it is just providing another space for drunks.*
- *Totally opposed to parking loss! Why not utilise the poles in the centre median and hang information off them?*
- *Parking loss will be detrimental!*

Recurring points of concern when talking to the traders related to the loss of parking in the area and concerns for the maintenance and cleaning required to upkeep these structures. There were comments made about the plants that would have to be very hardy to survive the nightclub patrons in the local area and concerns that these pergolas would supply areas for undesirables to gather. There were concerns that the structures would be targeted with graffiti and some traders were not happy that their shop frontage/exposure would be blocked by the structures.

Some points that were discussed as being positives were the provision of seats in the street. It is believed by some traders that there is a shortage of seats for people to sit, without needing to purchase a coffee or drink at one of the cafes in the street. The design of these seats should consider that elderly people will need to utilise them. Any shade provided as part of this plan is a positive outcome.

Some of the suggestions received after informal discussions with traders included:

- The street needs additional rubbish bins;
- The tribute to the Chinese Heritage could be represented effectively on a smaller scale on-road that does not result in car parking loss;
- Move the Gilligan's Loading Zone to Sheridan St, which will offset parking loss;
- Reconfigure existing loading zones which will result in more car parks; and
- Consider the provision of an all-weather/covered pedestrian crossing.

SUMMARY

During the consultation process the majority of respondents were supportive of paying tribute to the Chinese and their contribution to Cairns. Feedback received indicated that the loss of parking spaces was a big concern. It was repeatedly questioned if the scale of the structures could be reduced or represented in a different way.

A full record of comments are included in Issues Register (#3866217). These comments should be considered prior to moving to the Detailed Design phase. Further consultation can then be undertaken prior to the construction phase.

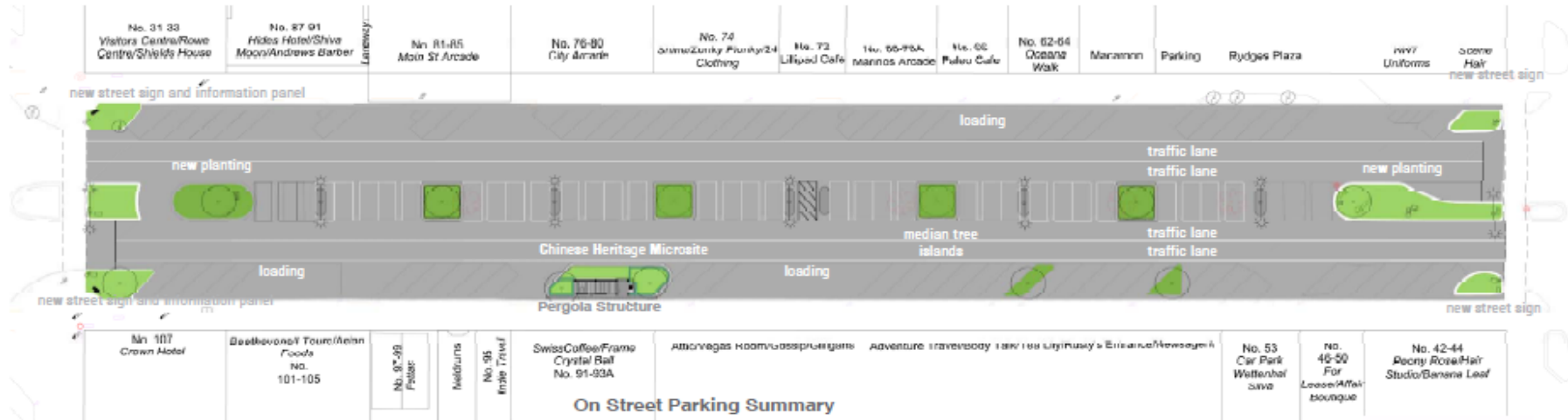
Regards

Sarah Burnheim
Communications Officer

Executive Attachment 4: Post Consultation Concept Plan Option 2

Grafton Street Chinese Cultural Heritage - Option 2 (post consultation) Cairns Regional Council Logo Service

Select & Zoom



On Street Parking Summary

Project results in no loss of car parking spaces, a net loss of 2 x motorbike spaces & 1x loading bay.

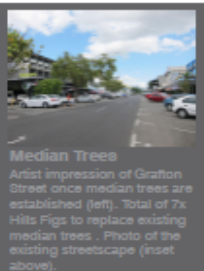
Grafton Street median tree planting - between Shields and Spence Streets

Concept Design:

- Provide consistent tree canopy for Grafton Street in accordance with the Cairns City Centre Master Plan.
- Existing median trees are to be removed and replaced with more suitable semi mature shade trees.
- Landscape works to provide visual amenity for the street and shade for parked vehicles.
- Median islands allow for the provision of large shade trees and understorey planting to create a green city centre.
- Centre parking and pay and display machines are re-organised.
- Median islands will be provided with full irrigation to be supplied from current watering system.
- Design allows for future adaptation to provide a mid-block crossing.
- Design incorporates power to all tree islands to allow for future feature lighting for festivals and special events.



Artist Impression of median trees in 10 years



Median Trees

Artist impression of Grafton Street once median trees are established (left). Total of 7x Hills Figs to replace existing median trees. Photo of the existing streetscape (inset above).



Planting Themes

Simple planting theme using Michelia champaca (Joy Perfume Tree) as a feature tree to the island underplanted with gardenia (both plants are Chinese in origin) and spider lilies. Jade vine will be used to cover the pergola structure to provide shade (In China jade symbolises beauty, nobility and perfection).

Grafton Street Chinese Cultural Heritage - Option 2 (post consultation)



Plan of proposed Chinese microsite - site of the historic Lit Sun Goon Temple (no 95 Grafton St)
Shows layout of microsite showing the footpath treatments (grey) planting (green) formal hedge (dark green). The pergola structure is outlined in black, with the temple commemorative plaque to far right of island, and two timber benches (black) island to be linked to the footpath to provide continuity with the main pedestrian thoroughfare.

Chinese Heritage Microsite

Grafton Street Chinese Heritage Microsite

Concept Design:

- Provide one on street site for the display of interpretive panels celebrating the historic contribution of the Chinese Community in Cairns.
- The site relates to the historic Chinese Temple which once stood at No. 95 Grafton Street (formerly Sachs Street; which was once the heart of Cairns' Historic Chinatown).
- Microsite is shaded by a simple steel pergola structure inspired by Chinese lattice work, finished in high gloss red and planted with Jade Vine.
- Plantings have been selected for their links to China and for their fragrant flowers.
- Design allows for the future provision of a mid-block crossing.
- Streetscape to be celebrated with new street signage at Shield Street and Spence Street
- New information panels at Shields Street to mark entrance to this historic precinct.



Section through the microsite



Artists Impression of the pergola structure seen from footpath.

Pergola Structures

Model of the proposed steel pergola structures (2.6m x 8.6m x 9.7m high). This simple steel structure is based on traditional Chinese lattice work. The steel is finished in a high gloss red to reflect the Chinese love of this auspicious colour.

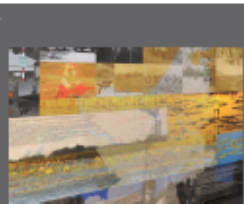
Grafton Street Chinese Heritage

New street signage:

- Replace existing street signage with Chinese themed blade sign which commemorates this historic precinct.
- Provide information panels to both approaches to Grafton Street from Shields Street to interpret site history and to act as entry statements to this historic precinct.
- Introduce red as a street theme for street furniture.



New street sign (left) and Artist Impression of information panels (above).



Digiglass
Specialist glass panels with encapsulated high resolution imagery fused into safety glass. The effect is similar to stained glass.



Interpretive panels

Sample of two of the proposed interpretive panels (above) to be installed as part of the proposed microsites. The panels celebrate the historic contribution of the Chinese Community in Cairns. The graphics will be fused between sheets of digiglass to produce a stained glass effect. Artwork courtesy of Pembroke Graphics Cairns.



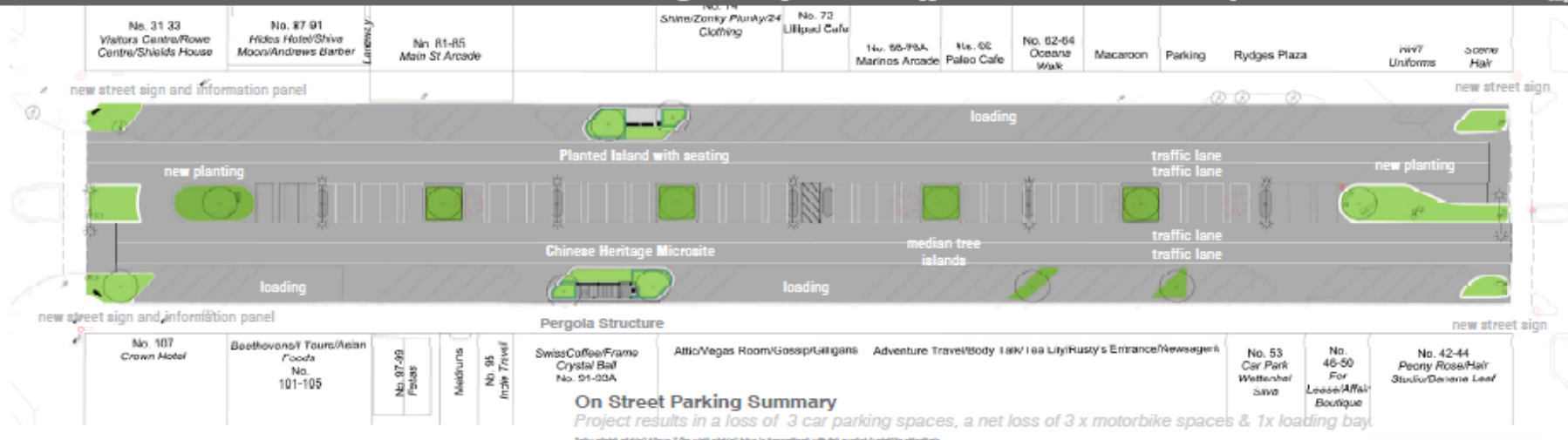
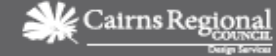
Artist Impression of Pergola Structure in 10 years

Pergola Structure
Artist impression of the pergola structure on the western side of Grafton Street once trees are established (left). Photo of the existing streetscape (inset below).



EXECUTIVE ATTACHMENT 5: Post Consultation Concept Plan Option 3

Grafton Street Chinese Cultural Heritage - Option 3 (post consultation)



On Street Parking Summary

Project results in a loss of 3 car parking spaces, a net loss of 3 x motorbike spaces & 1x loading bay

Grafton Street median tree planting - between Shields and Spence Streets

Concept Design:

- Provide consistent tree canopy for Grafton Street in accordance with the Cairns City Centre Master Plan.
- Existing median trees are to be removed and replaced with more suitable semi mature shade trees.
- Landscape works to provide visual amenity for the street and shade for parked vehicles.
- Median islands allow for the provision of large shade trees and understorey planting to create a green city centre.
- Centre parking and pay and display machines are re-organised.
- Median islands will be provided with full irrigation to be supplied from current watering system.
- Design allows for future adaptation to provide a mid-block crossing.
- Design incorporates power to all tree islands to allow for future feature lighting for festivals and special events.



Median Trees

Artist impression of Grafton Street once median trees are established (left). Total of 7x Hills Figs to replace existing median trees. Photo of the existing streetscape (inset above).

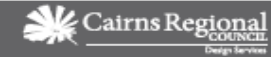
Artist Impression of median trees in 10 years



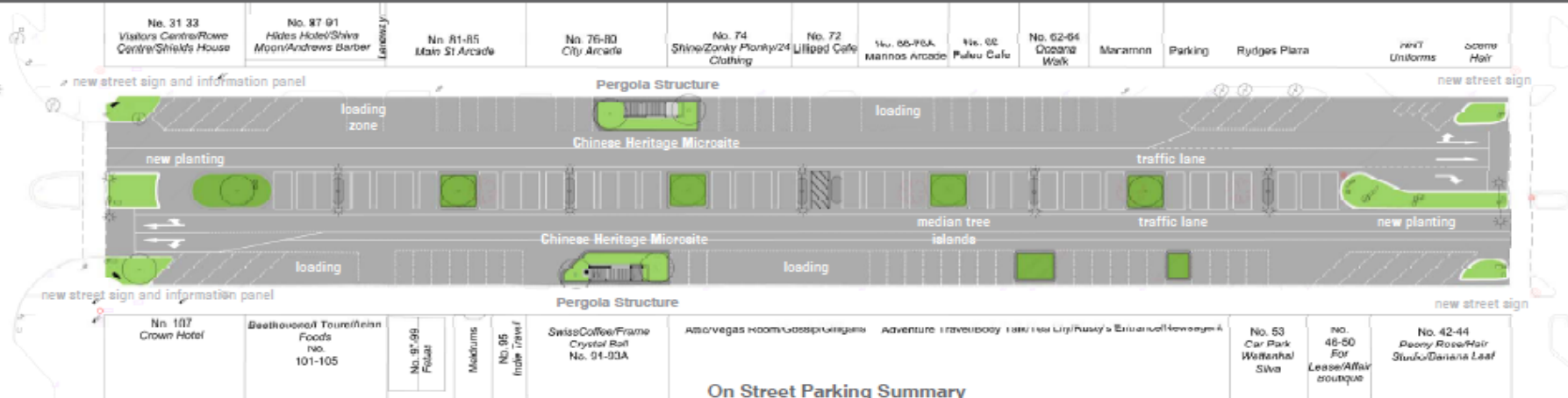
Planting Themes

Simple planting theme using Michelia champaca (Joy Perfume Tree) as a feature tree to the island underplanted with gardenia (both plants are Chinese in origin) and spider lilies. Jade vine will be used to cover the pergola structure to provide shade (In China jade symbolises beauty, nobility and perfection).

EXECUTIVE ATTACHMENT 6: Post Consultation Plan Option 4



Grafton Street Chinese Cultural Heritage - Option 4 (90 Degree Parking)



Project results in a net gain of 8 car parking spaces, a net loss of 5 x motorbike spaces and 1 x loading zone

Grafton Street median tree planting - between Shields and Spence Streets

Concept Design:

- Reduce traffic lanes to one lane each way, with pedestrian buffer to centre parking and mix of ninety and forty five degree parking to shoulders with provision for cyclists.
- Provide consistent tree canopy for Grafton Street in accordance with the Cairns City Centre Master Plan.
- Existing median trees are to be removed and replaced with more suitable semi mature shade trees.
- Landscape works to provide visual amenity for the street and shade for parked vehicles.
- Median islands allow for the provision of large shade trees and understorey planting to create a green city centre.
- Centre parking and pay and display machines are re-organised.
- Median islands will be provided with full irrigation to be supplied from current watering system.
- Design allows for future adaptation to provide a mid-block crossing.
- Design incorporates power to all tree islands to allow for future feature lighting for festivals and special events.



Median Trees
Artist impression of Grafton Street once median trees are established (left). Total of 7x Hills Figs to replace existing median trees. Photo of the existing streetscape (inset above).

Artist Impression of median trees in 10 years



Planting Themes

Simple planting theme using Michelia champaca (Joy Perfume Tree) as a feature tree to the island underplanted with gardenia (both plants are Chinese in origin) and spider lilies. Jade vine will be used to cover the pergola structure to provide shade (in China jade symbolises beauty, nobility and perfection).

ATTACHMENT 7: Typical single lane and 90° parking

