



Concept art only

Cairns Community and Multicultural Centre

Fostering a vibrant and healthy community where everyone feels they belong.

The Cairns Community and Multicultural Centre will deliver social facilities and key support and outreach services for residents of the White Rock area and the diverse multicultural community that calls Cairns home.

The centre combines planning undertaken for the White Rock Neighbourhood Centre (2018) and the Cairns Multicultural Facilities Needs Assessment (2022), to create a single, multi-purpose hub.

Extensive consultation across both projects identified overlapping needs: improved youth engagement, health and wellbeing services (outreach and agency involvement), and social opportunities; with key physical infrastructure requirements of diverse meeting and gathering areas, commercial kitchen and a welcoming environment for people of all needs and backgrounds.

The White Rock community (population 4,917 - 2021 Census) has limited access to social, health and wellbeing services, with the nearest comparative facility 4km away at Hambledon House, Edmonton. Limited public

transport options further restrict access to Hambledon House or more centralised services in Cairns.

While multicultural groups are frequent users of other Council, not-for-profit and commercial facilities, none of the existing assets offer large gathering areas, small private rooms for counselling and meetings, and a commercial kitchen (food is an integral part of cultural practices).

Initial design concepts commissioned by Council present a cohesive space to address these overlapping requirements, with dedicated areas for both Council and service providers to deliver programs, hireable event spaces supported by a commercial kitchen and facilities for cultural cooking practices, and a mix of indoor and outdoor, formal and informal meetings areas.

Cairns Regional Council is seeking matched funding to partner with Council on the detailed design and construction of the centre, which has an estimated capital cost of \$8 million (ex GST)

At a glance

\$4 million

from the State Government, matched by Cairns Regional Council, for the detailed design and construction of the Cairns Community and Multicultural Centre.

Electorate:

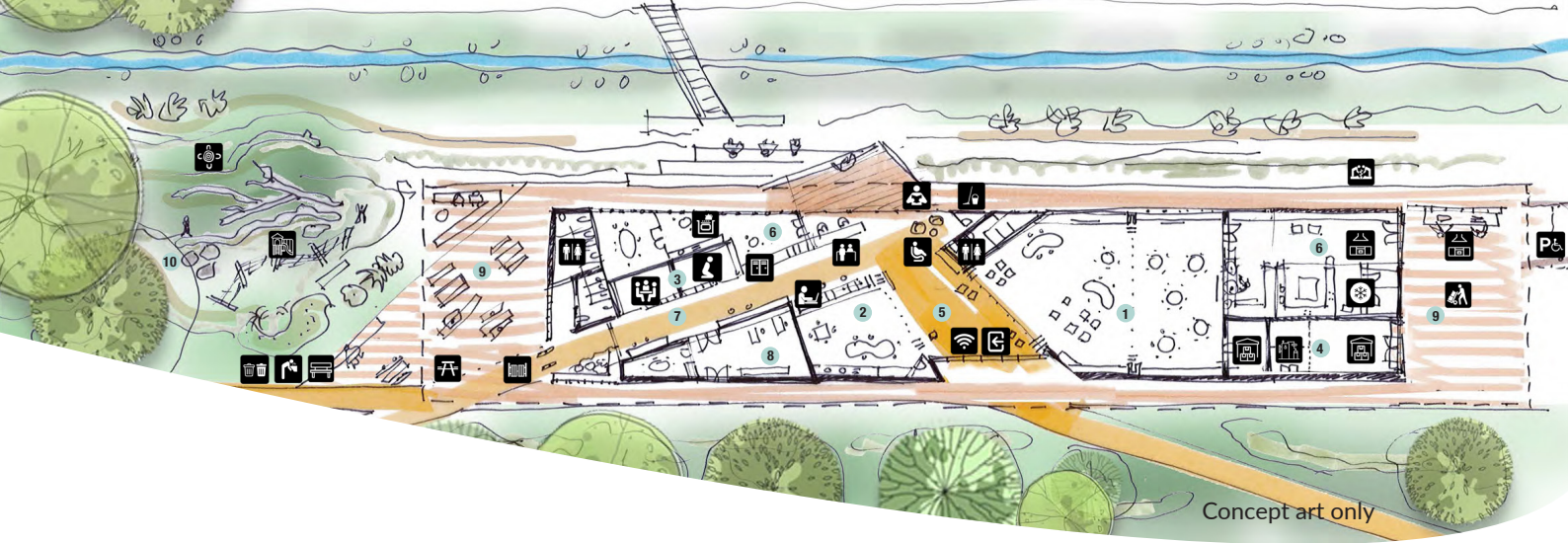
Located in Mulgrave but servicing the Mulgrave, Cairns and Barron River electorates.

Vision

The Cairns Community and Multicultural Centre will be adaptable and flexible, welcoming and inclusive, safe and accessible, and include:

- Fully equipped commercial kitchen
- Large multipurpose space: hireable location for events, functions and community activities up to 200 people
- Medium multipurpose space: catering for a range of community focused activities for up to 40 people
- Small meeting rooms available to community groups
- Dedicated space for service providers to run programs
- Amenities, storage and administration areas
- Foyer including reception area, informal gathering space and possible art and cultural displays
- Indoor and outdoor covered areas for informal gatherings, play groups and cultural practices
- Outdoor kitchen and community garden for food-related activities
- Library-style area for First 5 Forever and similar initiatives.





Community benefits

- 1 Celebrating diversity and addressing disadvantage:** White Rock is home to at least 37 nationalities (2021 Census), has a strong First Nations community (18.4%, 2021 Census), a low socio-economic profile with a higher-than-average proportion of single-parent families or singles living alone, and youth unemployment.
- 2 Supporting an inclusive and welcoming community:** there are 38 active multicultural groups in the broader Cairns region which draws residents from 102 countries; in 2023 Cairns welcomed new citizens from 68 countries; 27% of the population was born overseas and the number of international arrivals has doubled over the past 15 years.
- 3 Responding to community need:** consultation for the Tiffany Street Neighbourhood and Sporting Precinct indicated a need for drug and alcohol intervention, domestic violence and disability inclusion services, as well as meeting and gathering spaces to share culture.
- 4 Facilitates community engagement and cohesion:** thereby positively contributing to reductions in crime and antisocial behaviour.

“This social gathering helps new arrivals to connect and retain their culture, through which they feel socially connected to their new home.”

Cairns Multicultural Facility Needs Assessment.

Project timeline

- August 2022**
Needs assessment completed
- October 2022**
Council endorses Tiffany Street White Rock as site for new Cairns Community and Multicultural Centre
- November 2022**
Car park completed (\$820K)
- April 2024**
Proof of concept and high-level design completed
- May 2024**
Operating and governance model analysis complete (pending Council endorsement)
- 2024/25**
Project commencement
- 2027/28**
Construction completed and fully operational