

New Business Events Infrastructure for Cairns

Cairns Convention Centre is earmarked to be the heart of a new waterfront development. The feasibility study for a multi-million dollar performing arts centre and cultural precinct in Cairns was announced in December 2008. The precinct would incorporate the existing Convention Centre, a performing arts centre, a museum, cruise terminals, plazas and pedestrian linkages to the Centre, Cityport and the CBD. It was suggested the building be designed in line with the award-winning sails of the Convention Centre and a bridge would connect from the Centre to the cultural precinct.

Already under construction is the \$11.2m redevelopment of the Cairns cruise terminal. It is directly opposite the Convention Centre and will have full glass frontage to the Coral Sea, providing conference organisers with a potential new offsite venue for social functions.

Cairns Ports has also commenced the creation a 600m promenade along the harbor linking the Convention Centre through to the water front swimming lagoon and esplanade.

Cairns Airport, 10 minutes drive from the Convention Centre is undergoing a \$200m terminal redevelopment due for completion in 2010. In addition to increased capacity it will offer:

- Exceptional security and state-of-the-art passenger handling technology
- Convenience and consolidated check-in areas for all airlines
- More variety of retail outlets for passengers
- Five modern aerobridges catering for new aircraft types and improved aircraft access
- Sustainable development features

Other Infrastructure improvements of benefit to convention delegates and meeting organisers include:

- \$15m in hotel refurbishments at Hilton, Sebel and Cairns Colonial Club.
- The newly developed Paradise Palms Golf Course Resort opened in February 2009 offering 96 spacious hotel rooms and self catering apartments amidst one of Australia's finest golf courses.

Ross Steele, General Manager of the Cairns Convention Centre said, "The continuous infrastructure and product upgrades coming on-line in Cairns will provide meeting professionals with new exciting options and experiences for several years to come."

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