



Cairns Convention Centre Sustainability Action Plan

2024/25



**CAIRNS
CONVENTION
CENTRE**
PASSION IS IN OUR NATURE

The Cairns Convention Centre is committed to being a leader in sustainable business events, operating responsibly between two World Heritage icons — the Great Barrier Reef and the Wet Tropics Rainforest. Our vision is to minimise our environmental footprint, champion local producers and suppliers, and inspire our clients, delegates, and community to leave a positive legacy for Tropical North Queensland.

Purpose

This Sustainability Action Plan outlines the Centre's planned initiatives for FY2024–25 to deliver on our sustainability philosophy (updated with outcomes where available). It provides a framework for monitoring and reporting achievements across energy, water, waste, food, community, and governance.

Guiding Principles

- Compliance: Meet or exceed all environmental legislation and standards, maintain EarthCheck certification, and maintain a current and relevant sustainability policy and procedural structure
- Efficiency: Reduce consumption of natural resources through innovation and monitoring.
- Local Prosperity: Prioritise local suppliers to strengthen the regional economy and reduce food miles.
- Partnerships: Collaborate with conservation organisations to protect our natural assets.
- Continuous Improvement: Engage staff, clients, and stakeholders in new ideas and best practice.

Energy & Emissions

Priority Area	Objective	Action/Activity	Responsibility	Timeline	Measurement/Outcome
Energy Efficiency	Reduce electricity consumption and carbon emissions	Expanded use of Building Management System (BMS) to control HVAC and lighting during non-event hours	Facilities Management (FM) Team	Ongoing FY24–25	Sustainability initiatives and carbon emissions being monitored via ASM Global's ImpACTS platform
Emissions Tracking	Benchmark and transparently report emissions	Participation in ASM Global's ImpACTS platform, and EarthCheck Benchmarking	FM Director / Corporate Services Director / ASM Global Sustainability	Annual FY24–25	Carbon footprint tracked across energy, water, and waste. Benchmarking status maintained

Water

Priority Area	Objective	Action/Activity	Responsibility	Timeline	Measurement/Outcome
Water Conservation	Reduce potable water use	Rainwater harvesting (200,000L tank) for irrigation; moisture-sensitive irrigation system	FM Team	Ongoing FY24–25	100% irrigation needs met by harvested rainwater during dry season

Waste & Circular Economy

Priority Area	Objective	Action/Activity	Responsibility	Timeline	Measurement/Outcome
Waste Reduction	Divert waste from landfill	Onsite sorting of plastic, paper, cardboard, glass, metals and recyclable items; Choose suppliers that use minimum landfill, re-usable packaging/containers; Recycle printer cartages with Plant Ark into road base or pens	FM Team	Ongoing FY24–25	Monthly carbon tracking analysis on waste generated.
Organic Waste	Convert organic by-products into useful outputs	Cooking oil and grease waste diversion from landfill	Culinary Services & FM team	FY24–25	Recycled 3,000+ litres of cooking oil into biofuel; 20,000 litres grease trap waste into compost

Food & Beverage

Priority Area	Objective	Action/Activity	Responsibility	Timeline	Measurement/Outcome
Local Procurement	Support regional economy & reduce food miles	100% chicken sourced from FNQ, 85% beef from Queensland, seasonal produce direct from Atherton Tablelands, seafood via Qld Sustainable Fisheries	Culinary Team	FY24–25	>80% proteins and majority of produce sourced locally
Showcase Local	Celebrate Tropical North QLD produce	New sustainable menu, including locally sourced produce	Culinary & Marketing	FY24–25	Menu launch achieved strong feedback and local producer visibility

Community & Partnerships

Priority Area	Objective	Action/Activity	Responsibility	Timeline	Measurement/Outcome
Reef Protection	Contribute to conservation initiatives	Founding partner of Citizens of the Reef, supporting Great Reef Census	GM & Marketing	FY24–25	Participation and promotion of annual Reef Census

Wildlife	Support turtle rehabilitation	Sponsorship of Cairns Turtle Rehabilitation Centre	Corporate Social Responsibility	FY24–25	Ongoing sponsorship of turtle “Sharon’s” care
Reforestation	Offset client famils/site visit impacts	Launched Reforest partnership, planting trees in Mabi Rainforest	Business Development & Marketing	FY24–25	Implemented May 2025: To date 5 trees planted = 1,225kg CO ₂ offset, 18.9m ² habitat restored

Culture & Governance

Priority Area	Objective	Action/Activity	Responsibility	Timeline	Measurement/Outcome
Staff Engagement	Build sustainability awareness in workforce	Sustainability training, communication through intranet, design-thinking workshops	Corporate Services and Executive Committee	FY24–25	Staff actively engaged, new ideas surfaced
Governance	Embed sustainability in reporting	Sustainability KPIs integrated into quarterly management reviews	Executive Committee	FY24–25	Performance monitored alongside financial and client outcomes