



Cairns Convention Centre Sustainability Action Plan

2025/26



**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 FY2025–26 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	Energy Efficiency
Objective	Reduce electricity consumption and carbon emissions
Action / Activity	Expanded use of Building Management System (BMS) to control HVAC and lighting during non-event hours
Responsibility	Operations Director
Timeline	Ongoing FY25–26
Measurement / Outcome	Sustainability initiatives and carbon emissions being monitored via Legend Global's ImpACTS platform

Priority Area	Emissions Tracking
Objective	Benchmark and transparently report emissions
Action / Activity	Participation in Legends Global's ImpACTS platform, and EarthCheck Benchmarking
Responsibility	Operations Director and Corporate Services Director

Timeline	Annual FY25–26
Measurement / Outcome	Carbon footprint tracked across energy, water, and waste. Benchmarking status maintained

Water

Priority Area	Water Conservation
Objective	Reduce potable water use
Action / Activity	Rainwater harvesting (200,000L tank) for irrigation; moisture-sensitive irrigation system
Responsibility	Operations Director
Timeline	Ongoing FY25–26
Measurement / Outcome	100% irrigation needs met by harvested rainwater during dry season

Waste & Circular Economy

Priority Area	Waste Reduction
Objective	Divert waste from landfill
Action / Activity	Onsite sorting of plastic, paper, cardboard, glass, metals and recyclable items; choose suppliers that use minimum landfill, reusable packaging/containers; recycle printer cartridges with Planet Ark into road base or pens

Responsibility	Operations Director
Timeline	Ongoing FY25–26
Measurement / Outcome	Monthly carbon tracking analysis on waste generated.

Priority Area	Organic Waste
Objective	Convert organic by-products into useful outputs
Action / Activity	Cooking oil and grease waste diversion from landfill
Responsibility	Operations Director
Timeline	FY25–26
Measurement / Outcome	Recycled 25,300 litres grease trap waste into compost

Food & Beverage	
Priority Area	Local Procurement
Objective	Support regional economy and reduce food miles
Action / Activity	100% chicken sourced from FNQ, 85% beef from Queensland, seasonal produce direct from Atherton Tablelands, seafood via Qld Sustainable Fisheries

Responsibility	Operations Director
Timeline	FY25–26
Measurement / Outcome	>80% proteins and majority of produce sourced locally

Priority Area	Local Produce & First Nations Partnerships
Objective	Support the regional economy, reduce food miles and create opportunities for First Nations businesses through the delivery of the Centre's First Nations-inspired dining experience, Burii.
Action / Activity	Prioritise locally sourced produce, seafood and proteins for the Centre's First Nations dining experience, Burii, wherever possible and subject to seasonal availability. Work with Supply Nation-certified businesses and organisations that support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander enterprises to incorporate locally sourced ingredients and products into the Centre's culinary offerings.
Responsibility	Operations Director
Timeline	FY25–26
Measurement / Outcome	Partnered with Native Oz Bushfoods and Figjam & Co., both Supply Nation-certified businesses, and local supplier ISP Seafood, which supports Torres Strait Islander fishers. These partnerships help showcase locally sourced ingredients while supporting First Nations businesses and regional supply chains.

Community & Partnerships

Priority Area	Reef Protection
Objective	Contribute to conservation initiatives

Action / Activity	Founding partner of Citizens of the Reef, supporting Great Reef Census
Responsibility	General Manager and Marketing
Timeline	FY25–26
Measurement / Outcome	Participation and promotion of annual Reef Census

Priority Area	Wildlife
Objective	Support turtle rehabilitation
Action / Activity	Sponsorship of Cairns Turtle Rehabilitation Centre
Responsibility	General Manager and Marketing
Timeline	FY25–26
Measurement / Outcome	Ongoing sponsorship of turtle “Sharon’s” care

Priority Area	Reforestation
Objective	Support biodiversity restoration by promoting Reforest to clients to leave a positive environmental legacy in Tropical North Queensland.

Action / Activity	Continued Reforest partnership, planting trees in the Mabi and Daintree Rainforest and providing opportunities for clients, delegates and familiarisation program participants to contribute to local habitat restoration projects.
Responsibility	Business Development and Marketing
Timeline	FY25-26
Measurement / Outcome	• 3 conferences participated in or committed to the Reforest program during FY25–26. • 16 trees purchased to be planted through client familiarisation programs, representing a 220% increase on the previous year. • Delegates and clients can access information about the environmental impact of their contribution through the Reforest platform.

Culture & Governance

Priority Area	Staff Engagement
Objective	Build sustainability awareness in workforce
Action / Activity	Sustainability training, communication through intranet,
Responsibility	Corporate Services Director
Timeline	FY25–26

Measurement / Outcome	Staff actively engaged, new ideas surfaced
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Priority Area	Governance
Objective	Embed sustainability in reporting
Action / Activity	Sustainability KPIs integrated into quarterly management reviews
Responsibility	General Manager and Corporate Services Director
Timeline	FY25-26
Measurement / Outcome	Performance monitored alongside financial and client outcomes