

# INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITIES

## PRIORITY NAME

### PROPOSERS:

- Advance Cairns
- Cairns Regional Council
- Cairns Chamber of Commerce
- Regional Development Australia FNQ&TS

### PRIORITY:

Infrastructure

### COUNCIL:

Cairns Regional Council

### STATE ELECTORATE:

Cairns, Barron River, Mulgrave

### FEDERAL ELECTORATE:

Leichardt



## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Bruce Highway is part of the National Highway and provides the vital linkage between Cairns, other Queensland coastal cities and Brisbane. Currently the National Highway terminates in the Cairns CBD (almost adjacent to the Port of Cairns) and runs some distance from Cairns Airport to finally converge at Smithfield, north of Cairns (from which Port Douglas/Mossman, the northern Atherton Tablelands, Cape York Peninsula and Gulf of Carpentaria are all accessed).

The Cairns Airport is a critical piece of infrastructure in North Eastern Australia. It serves as the point of entry or exit for tourists visiting the region, is a key freight hub (enabling the export of produce including seafood, fresh flowers, fruit and vegetables), and provides expertise and service capability in aviation services.

There is significant potential to expand export activities, particularly to Asian markets. The growing freight market serves to sustain airlines balancing the seasonal variation in passengers. Connectivity to the Airport from the north, west and south is a critical enabling factor in the future development of the airport as an export and service hub.

Access to the Cairns Port from the north and west and between the port and the airport is constrained by the need to travel directly through the city.

The "missing link" in the current road configuration is highlighted by:

1. the National Highway not connecting with the principal regional export hub i.e. the Cairns Airport with our southern access and the Cairns Port;
2. the National Highway not connecting with the principal northern freight route into Cairns (airport, port and to the Bruce Highway) from the region's agriculture producing areas i.e. Atherton Tablelands, Cape York Peninsula and Mossman; and
3. significant commuter congestion issues on the Captain Cook Highway and along the Western Arterial Road, leading from the northern beaches into the city.

The solution involves fully linking the northern most part of the National Highway to the Smithfield roundabout, the Cairns Port and Airport. This will require the designation of a Cairns ring road. The National Highway needs to be extended from the current terminus in the Cairns CBD north to the intersection of the Captain Cook and Kennedy Highways at Smithfield. The Cairns Ring Road traverses via the western arterial road to the west of the city to connect back with the northern end of the Bruce Highway.

The **Infrastructure and Policy Priorities** list is a range of initiatives that has been developed collaboratively by leading regional advocates and is regularly reviewed and updated.

