

Tropical Urban Design:

Planning for a Sustainable Mount Peter

The tropical climate of the Cairns region poses both challenges and opportunities for urban design - particularly regarding designing places to be more environmentally sustainable.

Tropical urban design is about ensuring that the design of communities and buildings respond to local climatic conditions and maximises breezes, air flow and aspect. Tropical urban design is an important component of sustainability as it reduces energy consumption on things like air conditioning.

Beyond helping new development achieve environmental objectives, tropical urban design can also help to preserve and enhance Far North Queensland character through design that reflects some of the unique qualities of the local area.

Key tropical design features are:

- Establishing ventilation corridors to circulate cooler air through wide streets
- Interweaving buildings with green space (foliage and vegetation)
- Orientating blocks so that buildings' short sides face east and west and breezes move through areas
- Widening footpaths and making streets short and walkable
- Providing street trees, awnings and colonnades for shade.

These are just some aspects of tropical urban design that could shape the future Mount Peter.



- SOME ASPECTS OF TROPICAL URBAN DESIGN INCLUDE AMPLE SHADING THROUGH STREET TREES AND AWNINGS

Moving towards 2011: Progressing towards a finalised Structure Plan

The table below shows progress with the Mount Peter master planning project to date.

Over the coming months the master planning group will be working to finalise a preferred Structure Plan based on the outputs of the EBD and additional studies. The Structure Plan will be drafted to meet local planning policies such as CairnsPlan and will need to respond to state planning directions such as the FNQ 2031 Regional Plan.

Work on identifying the types and cost of infrastructure required to support the Mount Peter Structure Plan will also be underway. A Priority Infrastructure Plan (PIP) and Infrastructure Charges Schedules (ICS) will be completed as part of this project.

A finalised Structure Plan for Mount Peter is scheduled for adoption in 2011.

Phase	Milestone	Task	Timeline
Initiation	A	Project Brief Review	✓
Scoping & Planning	B	Establish Vision	✓
	C	Draft Project Plan	✓
	D	Finalise Project Plan	✓
	E	Commence advertisement and selection of Local Government consultants	✓
	F	Complete base data collection	✓
Development	1	Cairns Regional Council's consultants appointed	✓
	2	Complete Constraints & Issues Analysis	✓
	3	Complete Enquiry by Design	✓
	4	Finalise preferred Structure Plan option	Jul 09
	5	Complete Draft Structure Plan & other outputs	Aug 09
Review & Acceptance	6	Complete integration of Structure Plan & other Outputs with CairnsPlan, PIP and ICS	Sep 09
	7	Complete statutory review of Structure Plan & other Outputs (statutory review - State Government Interest checks & Public Consultation)	Feb 11
	8	Adoption of Structure Plan & other outputs by Council	Mar 11

How to stay informed...

Keep up to date with the project by visiting:

www.mountpetermasterplanning.com.au

The website includes recent reports, past newsletters and meeting minutes that provide more details about the project. The website also includes a map that outlines the Mount Peter master planning area, as well as downloadable copies of the EBD Outcomes Report and Draft Urban Framework Plan.

You can also visit the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) section of the website for detailed responses to commonly raised questions about the project.

Through the website, you can also register your interest and be added to the contact list for future mailings and events.

You can also submit your questions, comments or ideas by email to mountpeter@elton.com.au or by calling 1800 888 374 (free call), 9am-5 pm EST, M-F



A Message from the Mayor

The Mount Peter Master Planning project is well underway and has reached a key milestone event - the completion of the Enquiry By Design (EBD), which was held 9-13 February 2009.

I want to acknowledge the hard work that everyone has put into this project - Taskforce members, the Community and Landowner Reference Group members, the numerous State Agencies involved and our own Cairns Regional Council staff and the master planning group. Everyone has worked very diligently in what is a very complex and difficult process, and also an exciting and important one for the future of Cairns.

An average of 100 people attended the five

days of EBD sessions. These people represented a range of views and interests. Bringing together these divergent and sometimes competing views in a collaborative setting was a real challenge, but also represented the very essence of an EBD.

By its nature each EBD is unique, developing a response appropriate to the specific site and issues raised by local stakeholders. The extraordinary value of an EBD is that it is a transparent, objective, collaborative, and intensely integrative design-based approach towards a broadly supported outcome that works for almost everyone.

The Draft Urban Framework Plan that

emerged from the EBD represents a high level of consensus on a number of issues. However, there is still more work to be done. I am sure that based on the work that has gone on so far, and with a firm commitment from everyone to work collaboratively, we can create something together that we are all proud of and a place where our children and grandchildren will be proud to live as well.

Val Schier

Val Schier, Mayor
Cairns Regional Council

Drawing Ideas on Paper

Week-long Enquiry by Design (EBD) workshop leads to a Draft Urban Framework Plan

The Mount Peter Enquiry By Design (EBD) workshop was held 9-13 February. The EBD provided a forum for a range of both government and community representatives to help contribute to the future planning of Mount Peter. The workshop aimed to give shape and form to the many ideas and interests that have been shared about the future of Mount Peter. Participants put pen to paper and worked together to identify issues, test ideas and develop possible designs.

The workshop involved balancing the vision and desired outcomes for Mount Peter with site constraints; the physical, social and economic context of Mount Peter; Federal, State and Local Government policy directions; landowner aspirations and community interests.

Cairns Regional Council elected members who attended the workshop included Councillors Nancy Lanskey and Paul Gregory, as well as Mayor Val Schier. The workshop

also involved members of the Taskforce and the Community and Landowner Reference Group, as well as representatives of a number of State Government agencies.

About 100 people attended each session of the week-long workshop. Sessions were open to the public on the Wednesday evening (to view and comment on the work in progress) and on the Friday afternoon (to view and provide feedback on the week's work).

The workshop produced a preferred Draft Urban Framework Plan for Mount Peter as well as more detailed planning concepts for various precincts within the study area.

Outcomes of the EBD are summarised briefly in this newsletter, as well as in greater detail in the EBD Outcomes Report available online at www.mountpetermasterplanning.com.au



- PARTICIPANTS IN THE EBD WORKSHOP AT CAIRNS REGIONAL COUNCIL, 9-13 FEBRUARY 2009. THE DRAFT URBAN FRAMEWORK PLAN AND THE EBD OUTCOMES REPORT ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT WWW.MOUNTPETERMASTERPLANNING.COM.AU

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ANY QUESTIONS?
Talk to the project manager
(07) 4044 3044 or
email mountpeter@cairns.qld.gov.au



A MAJOR PROJECT OF
CAIRNS REGIONAL COUNCIL
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Enquiry by Design Workshop: Summary of Key Outcomes

The Enquiry By Design (EBD) workshop was a significant milestone in the Mount Peter master planning process. It gave participants and community members the opportunity to work together to draw and design the future of Mount Peter.

Key aims of the workshop included:

- Generating new ideas for Mount Peter
- Testing the Mount Peter Vision
- Bringing together various interested parties including State agencies, Council officers, elected officials, landowners and community members to work collaboratively on planning for Mount Peter
- Encouraging participants to identify and address issues relating to specific sites within the study area
- Beginning to map the location of key land uses through the creation of a Draft Urban Framework Plan (which will form the basis for the Mount Peter Structure Plan).

The more detailed work undertaken during the EBD revealed that, due to the significant constraints that exist within the study area and the importance of maintaining the Far North Queensland character, reaching the State Government's population target of up to 50,000 people for the area may be a challenge. The master planning group is working with Cairns Regional Council and State Government to identify a population

range for the study area that accommodates anticipated regional growth while also respecting the vision for Mount Peter and the constraints of the land.

Other key outcomes of the EBD included:

- Endorsement of the Draft Vision for Mount Peter and its six key themes
- Re-affirmation of the proposed Edmonton Town Centre as the main centre for the southern corridor area. A range of smaller centres are planned for the study area providing a diversity of commercial, retail, community facilities and residential uses within Mount Peter
- Emphasis on transport oriented centres and transit corridors within the study area to ensure the availability of a range of future public and private transport choices
- Allocation of land for a range of employment uses including industrial, business park, commercial, retail and service related employment
- Identification of community facilities, including a number of schools, libraries, a cultural centre,

community centres and sports and recreation facilities.

These and other issues will require more research before a Structure Plan for Mount Peter will be finalised in 2011. This includes more testing of population targets and development densities that are suggested by the Draft Urban Framework Plan. The Draft Urban Framework Plan will continue to be reviewed and refined as the project progresses.



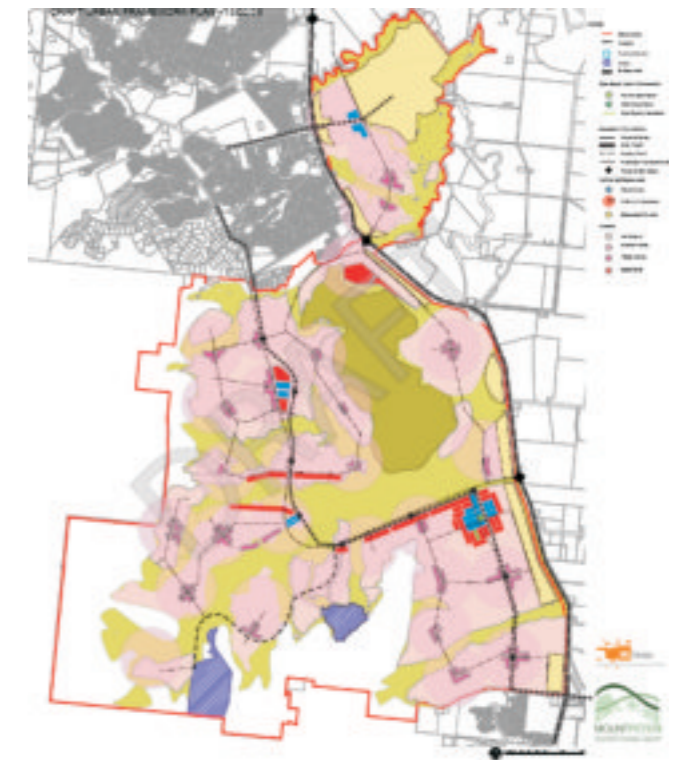
● PARTICIPANTS IN THE WEEK-LONG EBD WORKSHOP AT CAIRNS REGIONAL COUNCIL, 9-13 FEBRUARY 2009.

Draft Urban Framework Plan

The Draft Urban Framework Plan (pictured right) is a draft plan resulting from the week-long Enquiry by Design (EBD) workshop. This plan is not endorsed by Cairns Regional Council or Queensland Government, and it should be considered draft work.

This plan will be used to help develop the Structure Plan, which will be drafted and further refined over coming months. A Structure Plan for Mount Peter will be finalised in 2011, and it will be followed by detailed planning for specific areas, as well as any re-zoning of land that might need to occur.

For a full understanding of the status of Mount Peter, the Draft Urban Framework Plan should be viewed alongside the Mount Peter EBD Outcomes Report, which gives background to how the plan was developed and what it represents. Both documents are available online at www.mountpetermasterplanning.com.au



A Participant's Impressions of the EBD

Vanessa Maruna Spokesperson for Pregno Family Investments Pty Ltd



A diverse range of government and community representatives participated in the week-long Enquiry By Design (EBD) workshop conducted

9-13 February 2009. Vanessa Maruna, Spokesperson for Pregno Family Investments Pty Ltd, was a participant in the workshop. She had this to share about the experience:

What is your overall view of the EBD?

Overall, my company [Pregno] was happy with the process and thought that it was collaborative and engaging. There were lots of people in attendance, and everyone had the chance to be heard and voice their opinions on a number of issues.

Did you attend any of the public sessions (conducted on the Wednesday evening and Friday evening)? If so, what did you think?

I attended the last half of the Friday

session. The turnout was very good, and participants were able to raise questions and provide their input. It was great that the community was engaged twice during the workshop via public sessions. Typically, a plan is just developed - and community members are asked to provide input when the plan is nearly complete.

What surprised you about the EBD?

I was a bit sceptical about the workshop, as there was a lot of ground to cover in a relatively short span of time. I was pleasantly surprised that so much ground was covered and that everyone had an opportunity to provide input. I was also impressed by the great variety and high level of expertise and feedback provided by the participants throughout the workshop - it would be rare to get that in another format. You wouldn't have had the same dialogue, as more of the critique and testing of ideas would have happened in isolation.

What challenges did you encounter as an EBD participant?

The main challenge of an EBD is balancing

competing interests and giving ideas the weight that they deserve in order to move forward with the best option for the community.

How has participating EBD impacted your thoughts about the Mount Peter master planning process?

It has made us more aware of some of the community's issues; in addition, it has put us in touch with more stakeholders including State agencies. It's still a long way until a Structure Plan for Mount Peter is set in stone. As developers, we will continue to watch the master planning process move forward with interest.

What's next for you, in terms of participating in Mount Peter master planning?

Pregno is a member of the Taskforce, and we will continue to attend regular meetings and will be waiting to see how the process develops. It's exciting that there's an opportunity with Mount Peter master planning to help create a truly vibrant place that can be held up as lead example for Australia and the world.

Council Priorities for Southern Corridor

Through the EBD workshop, Cairns Regional Council affirmed some of its planning priorities for the Mount Peter study area and the surrounding Southern Corridor area. These include:

- Edmonton Town Centre is the priority centre for the Southern Corridor
- Initial Mount Peter development is to support the existing centres of Edmonton to the north and Gordonvale to the south
- Timing for development of Maitland Road Urban Centre (located on Maitland Road to the west of the Bruce Highway) is likely to be 10 to 15 years away, based on the need to establish Edmonton Town Centre

as a priority and the cost implications of linking the northern and southern areas of Mount Peter

- North East Employment area (to the east of the Bruce Highway and near Thomson Road) is to be the priority employment area in the short and medium term
- Primary catchment areas for centres in Mount Peter should be based on the residents of Mount Peter, and not rely on external populations.

These key points are described in greater detail in the EBD Outcomes Report, available online at www.mountpetermasterplanning.com.au



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