

Mount Peter Community Workshop

You are invited to attend a community workshop for Mount Peter master planning. For master planning to be most effective, it must reflect the interests and incorporate the ideas of members of the local community. This workshop is an important opportunity for you to come along and share your views with members of the master planning team.

At this community workshop you will:

- Learn about the Mount Peter master planning process
- Be asked to comment on the draft vision statement for Mount Peter
- Share your views on various aspects of the master plan
- Tell us what issues are important to you and what you value about your community, and
- Speak directly with members of master planning team.

The workshop will be held on:

Wednesday October 15th, 2008
6.00pm to 8.30pm
Bentley Park College
Student Centre and Stadium
McLaughlin Rd, Bentley Park
Refreshments will be provided.

Please RSVP by October 10 so that we can plan ahead and make sure the workshop will be a success for everyone. To RSVP, please email your name and contact details to mountpeter@elton.com.au and include Community Workshop in the subject line. You can also call Mark Tirpak on 1800 888 374 to RSVP.

Participation in Focus Groups

At various stages throughout the planning process, the master planning team will need to check in with community members and test different ideas related to the evolving master plan. One way for us to do that is through focus groups - small groups of around 10 people who discuss in detail a particular aspect or aspects of the plans for Mount Peter. Focus group sessions will typically last for between 1½ to 2 hours. If you are interested in participating in focus groups, please let us know by contacting us at mountpeter@elton.com.au or by calling Mark Tirpak on 1800 888 374.



Meet the team: What is Master Planning?

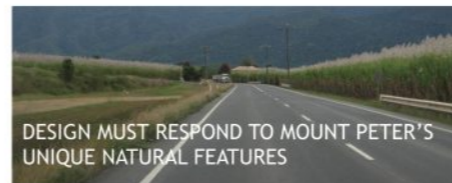
With Brent O'Neill (ML Design - Lead Master Planner)

Master planning provides a unique opportunity to set the framework for planning a community and to "get things right." As Brent O'Neill of ML Design puts it, "communities are complex. They are made up of many different parts, and those elements need to work well together for a community to function properly. It is so hard to 'retrofit' - to go back to places and change their design and structure after they have been established. With Mount Peter, through the master planning process, we have an opportunity to get community building right from the beginning."

Brent has worked on a number of urban design and master planning projects in Queensland and throughout Australia, as well as internationally. Brent sees master planning as a process that enables all the various aspects that make up a community to be considered and planned for in a coordinated and meaningful way. "Master planning allows us to view the future Mount Peter as a whole place rather than a series of disconnected parts. Through the process, we will look at the relationships between where people will live, work, shop, play, go to school etc. We will be thinking about how people will move around the future Mount Peter - what their daily needs will be, what sort of shopping and recreation will be available, and how they will get there."

For Brent and the urban design team, master planning is much more than drawing up pretty plans on paper. "Our approach is very much tied to place. We need to fully understand and respond to local conditions and characteristics to make our work uniquely Cairns. Obviously, this includes understanding the physical conditions - the climate, topography, local water flows, etc., but it is just as critical to understand the social and cultural values that are important to people in this area. That is why the Mount Peter master planning process includes a community consultation program that will help ensure that we understand local community values."

Brent recognises that there are considerable challenges, as well as unique opportunities associated with planning for the future Mount Peter. "Housing affordability is a big challenge. Very desirable locations like Cairns are not cheap places to live. One of the key ways for the master plan to address affordability is through providing for a wide range of housing choices - homes that work for people with different lifestyles, family situations, economic circumstances, household size and ages, and so on. This means that Mount Peter will be different from many of the recent residential developments around Cairns in terms of housing choice. There will be more housing variety and a real effort to meet changing community needs and values"



Brent sees climate as another challenge in creating more sustainable communities within Far North Queensland. "A huge issue for us with Mount Peter is responding appropriately to the tropical climate. We need to question design approaches that may be appropriate in other parts of Australia, but may not be as relevant or effective in a tropical climate. We need to understand what tropical design means at the broad scale of a master plan. Climate change is another issue that concerns us. With the timeline for this project stretching over the next 25 years, we need to make sure that Mount Peter can respond to changing climatic conditions. We also need to think about energy and water use and creating a community that is not totally dependent on the use of cars."

Brent sees Mount Peter as an exciting opportunity to create a new standard in urban development for Cairns, Far North Queensland and beyond. "We are all really looking forward to developing this master plan, working with the community and creating something that is special and will produce the kind of place that Cairns can be proud of."

Get involved in planning for the future:

Have your say on Mount Peter master planning

With its new approach to planning, the Mount Peter master planning project is important for everyone interested in the future of Cairns and the southern corridor area.

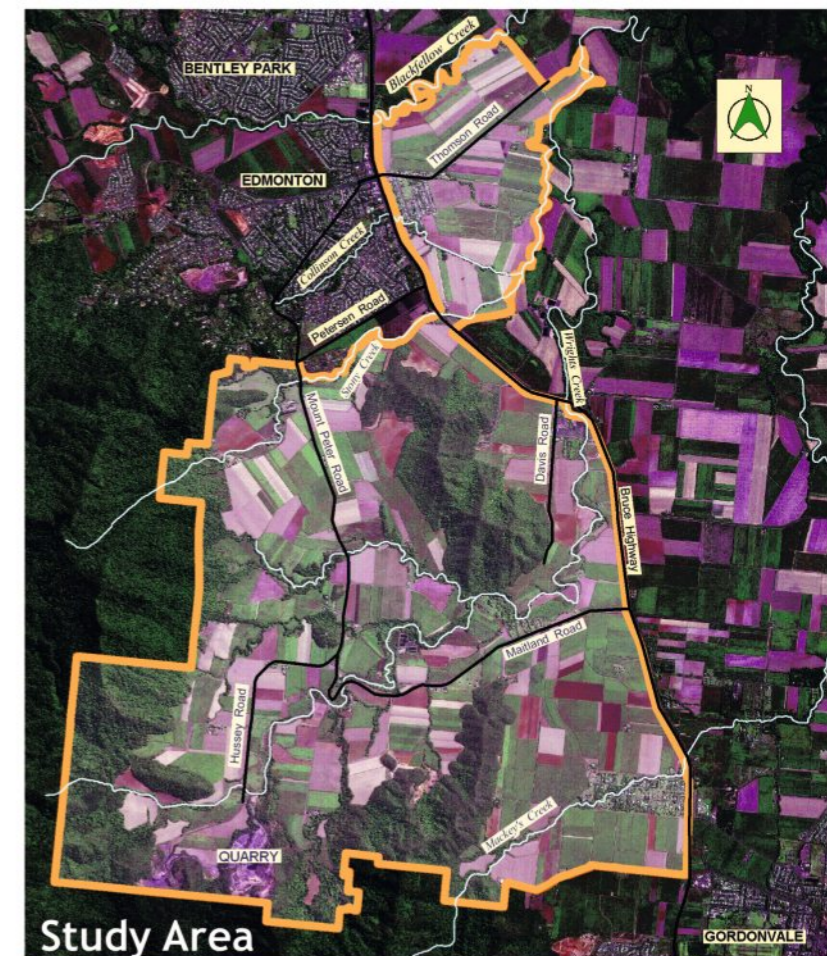
Mount Peter will be the focus of the region's growth from approximately 2011 to around 2050, and master planning for the area is now underway. Aiming to ensure that future development follows a logical pattern, the many different elements that make up a vibrant community - people, land use, the natural environment, transport, employment, community facilities, housing and more - are considered together and planned in a coordinated way.

In this way, master planning promotes an integrated approach to planning. It looks at the relationships between where people live, work, play, go to school, shop and interact so that compatible uses can be conveniently located together for easy access.

Responding to the values and goals of the local community is central to the success of the Mount Peter master planning project. It must reflect what is important to you - the residents of the study area, Gordonvale, Edmonton and surrounding areas. The master planning project includes a strong community consultation component to ensure that local views are incorporated.

Read on to find out more about how you can get involved with Mount Peter master planning, or visit: www.mountpetermasterplanning.com.au

The master planning team appointed by Cairns Regional Council (CRC) to complete the master planning for Mount Peter has begun work. While CRC started the Mount Peter project in late 2007, the master planning team formally began their work in July. Brent O'Neill of ML Design, lead urban designer for the master planning team, shares his views on Mount Peter master planning on the back page of this newsletter. More information on the master planning team can be found on the project web site: www.mountpetermasterplanning.com.au



Study Area

Please note that although the existing communities of Gordonvale and Edmonton are not physically within the study area boundary, the master planning process will consider these areas and will involve Gordonvale and Edmonton residents. The planning process will also consider the wider physical context and take into account water catchments and other environmental features that may be nearby but not within the study area boundaries.

INSIDE THIS EDITION

- ▶ THE DRAFT VISION STATEMENT AND HOW YOU CAN COMMENT ON IT
- ▶ WHAT IS MASTER PLANNING? WITH BRENT O'NEILL FROM ML DESIGN
- ▶ REQUEST FOR FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANTS
- ▶ AN INVITATION TO A MOUNT PETER COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

The Planning Process

Mount Peter master planning is a long process, with the Structure Plan (the main output to be developed through the process) scheduled for final adoption in March 2011.

The project has 4 main phases:

- initiation,
- scoping and planning,
- development, and
- review and acceptance.

The master planning team is currently completing "scoping and planning" work, which includes researching and identifying the key issues and constraints facing development within the study area. This work will inform an intensive design workshop (Enquiry by Design) to be conducted in February 2009, where a first draft of the Structure Plan will be developed.



THE CURRENT MOUNT PETER LANDSCAPE



COMMUNITY CONSULTATION IS VITAL TO MOUNT PETER MASTER PLANNING

Want to get involved?

Throughout the project, there will be a number of opportunities for residents and community members to have input to the master planning process. Upcoming opportunities include the Community Workshop (15 October), a series of community focus groups, and ways to provide feedback through the new Mount Peter master planning website:

www.mountpetermasterplanning.com.au

Draft Vision for Mount Peter

Cairns Regional Council has been working with community and landowner representatives to develop a draft vision for Mount Peter. The vision is very important as it will be used to guide the planning process over the next few years. The vision describes how people would like the future Mount Peter to be. It is still in draft form, so please take the opportunity to comment on it and make suggestions to ensure the vision reflects what is important to you.

The vision

In 2030, the town of Mount Peter is a social, economic, employment and community centre where people enjoy a tropical lifestyle in a unique natural environment. The six key themes of the vision are:

1. Thriving Economy and Local Employment

Mount Peter is a prosperous community with its own distinct centre and diverse employment base that is closely connected with the town centres of Gordonvale and Edmonton.

Features of the community include:

- The local economy provides a mix of employment opportunities and can compete regionally and nationally for business while complementing the regional economy.
- Key elements of the local economy include:
 - A major industrial centre, located close to the railway line and Bruce Highway
 - A major business park providing office and commercial employment
 - A town centre supported by district and local centres
 - Established education, health, technology, eco-tourism and home-based business sectors, and
- Low unemployment with a high proportion of local residents employed in the Mount Peter area.

2. Innovative Urban Structure and Design

Mount Peter has a mix of defined urban villages with a range of lot sizes and housing choices to meet the life cycle needs of residents. Higher density housing is conveniently located close to centres and public transport.

Features of the community include:

- The holistic master plan provides a distinctive design defined by natural



TOWN AND VILLAGE CENTRES WILL BE PEDESTRIAN FOCUSED

waterways and open space

- The town centre functions as part of a regional hierarchy that complements and connects with town centre in Edmonton, Gordonvale and the Cairns CBD
- Land uses integrate with transport services so major activity nodes efficiently link to public transport services and transport corridors
- Defined village centres include a mix of land uses and housing densities to provide day-to-day convenient shopping and services and connect with the town centre through well serviced public transport
- Town and village centres are pedestrian focused where people feel safe in well-planned, well-lit streets and open spaces, and
- Minimal impact on the environment with planning provisions that encourage unique, creative and sustainable designs to reduce requirements for cooling, lighting and energy.

3. Strong Vibrant Community

Mount Peter's history is expressed through design, architecture and public art. Local residents have access to a range of quality services, facilities and community events that provide them with a strong sense of identity, safety and security.

Features of the community include:

- Residents enjoy the benefits of a sustainable, self contained community that has a clear sense of identity,

character and community cohesion

- High quality urban design reinforces safety and security
- Attractive open spaces link residential areas, activity centres, community facilities and places of employment
- A range of integrated community services and facilities are provided to meet the needs of all residents, including those with special needs
- Development reflects and protects the historical and cultural significance of the area, and
- Residents have access to a range of opportunities for passive and active recreation and sport, cultural expression and community involvement.

4. Unique Natural Environment

Mount Peter responds to its tropical environment and new development incorporates solar panels, rainwater tanks and native landscaping. Healthy waterways and lush green corridors extend from surrounding mountains to define the urban villages. Good access to parks, open spaces and recreational opportunities enable residents to have an active lifestyle and connect with the natural environment.

Features of the community include:

- Waterways and catchments are managed to maintain and enhance the environment and provide nature-based recreation opportunities
- Development is planned and integrates with the natural environment to preserve the scenic landscape including views to the mountains and protect environmentally significant areas
- Wildlife thrives in remnant habitat and corridors, and
- Residents and businesses demonstrate environmental awareness through environmentally sensitive design, waste and use minimisation, resource conservation and wildlife protection.

5. Connected Community

Mount Peter has an efficient public transport system that provides convenient and safe connections between urban villages, education and employment hubs and to surrounding towns and regional centres. A connected network of pathways and open space enables residents to walk and cycle more often and reduce car usage.

Features of the community include:

- Major facilities and attractions are co-located to maximise transport efficiencies
- The town centre, employment and educational facilities are interconnected by an efficient, safe and accessible public transport network
- Well designed bikeways (including a high speed bikeway link connecting Gordonvale, Mount Peter and Edmonton with the Cairns CBD), pedestrian paths and facilities connect local attractions and services in and around urban villages and the town centre to provide alternatives to car travel
- Public transport facilities cater for all users and provide quality disabled access, and
- Residents enjoy reliable and cost-effective access to state-of-the-art information and communications technology that provides flexibility and choice in how, when and where they work and live.

6. Integrated and Sustainable Infrastructure

Mount Peter sets new standards in environmental sustainability through integrated planning and delivery of infrastructure.

Features of the community include:

- Development incorporates sustainable urban design principles and eco-efficient utilities and services that maximise the use of renewable resources
- Planning and delivery of infrastructure is coordinated and provided in a timely, cost effective and equitable manner to support population growth, and
- Efficient, sustainable and robust water cycle management balances environmental and development needs. Water sensitive urban design and integrated water management (incorporating dual reticulation systems and water recycling) reduce the demand on water and drainage infrastructure.

MOUNT PETER WILL ENCOURAGE A DIVERSITY OF HOUSING CHOICES



Comment on the Draft Vision

Does this vision describe how the future of Mount Peter should be? You have the opportunity to comment on this draft vision for Mount Peter. We are interested to know:

- What to you are the most important parts of the draft vision statement?
- On a scale of 1 to 10 (where 1 is not at all and 10 is very much) to what extent does the draft vision statement reflect what is important to you?
- Do you have any suggestions for how the draft vision could be improved?
- Please add any other comments that you think are important.

You can send us your comments or suggestions in a number of ways:

- By email to: mountpeter@elton.com.au
- Through the Mount Peter master planning web site: www.mountpetermasterplanning.com.au (There will soon be a short survey on the vision page of the web site. For now you can comment through the 'register' page)
- By free call to Mark Tirpak at Elton Consulting on 1800 888 374, or
- In writing to Mount Peter Master Planning Project, c/o Cardno Cairns Office, PO Box 1619, Cairns QLD 4870



THE LOCAL ECONOMY WILL PROVIDE A MIX OF OPPORTUNITIES