

Cairns Hospital Campus Master Plan

Preliminary Community Consultation for Stage 1b
Ministerial Infrastructure Designation | March 2026



On 5 February 2026, the Queensland Government announced the Master Plan to modernise Cairns Hospital, expand services, increase its capacity, and integrate health, education, and research facilities to meet the growing healthcare demands of Far North Queensland communities.

Delivery of the Master Plan will be staged as follows:

- **Stage 1a** – Delivery of a new rooftop helipad at the existing hospital and expansion of support services, e.g. kitchens (underway).
- **Stage 1b** – Delivery of a new integrated Health Innovation and Surgical Centre, a new Health Management Hub and a new staff multi-storey car park (planned).
- **Future stages** – Proposed new Acute Services Building; refurbishment, demolition, redevelopment and expansion to select parts of the existing hospital; and precinct connectivity and improvement works.

We are now seeking community feedback to help inform the Ministerial Infrastructure Designation application for Stage 1b. Your feedback will help confirm local priorities, opportunities, and potential impacts, ensuring that the planning for this essential health infrastructure is finalised and delivered in a way that best serves the region.

What is a Ministerial Infrastructure Designation?

A Ministerial Infrastructure Designation (MID) is the development approval used for essential community infrastructure, such as hospitals, schools and emergency services.

A MID application explains why the infrastructure is needed, how it benefits the community, and how potential impacts, such as traffic, parking, noise and amenity, will be managed.

The Stage 1b MID process has two consultation phases:

- **Preliminary consultation (now open)** – provides early feedback to inform the MID application.
- **Public exhibition and submission of formal feedback (mid-2026)** – once the detailed MID application is lodged, it will be shared for final feedback and review from the community and local and state government agencies.



For further information about the Master Plan, scan the QR code.

What is being proposed?

Stage 1b of the Master Plan includes:

- **A new Health Innovation and Surgical Centre** at the corner of Lake, Grove and Grafton streets, connected to the existing hospital via link bridges. It will feature four new operating theatres, 16 day-surgery spaces, 40 overnight beds, specialist outpatient's department and support services, co-located with clinical trials, simulation and collaboration spaces.
- **A new health office building** referred to as the Health Management Hub, to consolidate fragmented health management, administration and support functions, co-located with the James Cook University Dugurrdja development on the corner of Digger Street and Charles Street.
- **A new staff multi-storey car park** on the corner of Grove Street and Digger Street with approximately 950 spaces to address the deficit in parking for hospital users and service growth from the hospital expansion. The existing 667 space Block E multi-storey car park will become a public car park.

A new rooftop helipad on the existing hospital and support services expansion (Stage 1a of the Master Plan) is progressing under an existing Community Infrastructure Designation and does not form part of this MID application.

Construction of Stage 1b buildings is expected to commence in late-2026, following completion of land acquisitions and approval of the MID.

Join the conversation

Feedback from nearby residents, businesses and the broader community will help inform the MID application and ensure it addresses community needs and expectations.

How to provide feedback

Drop in to a **community information session** to speak directly with the project team:

- Cairns North Community Health Facility, 2pm to 5pm, Thursday 19 March 2026.
- Cairns Central Shopping Centre, 9am to 12pm, Saturday 21 March 2026.

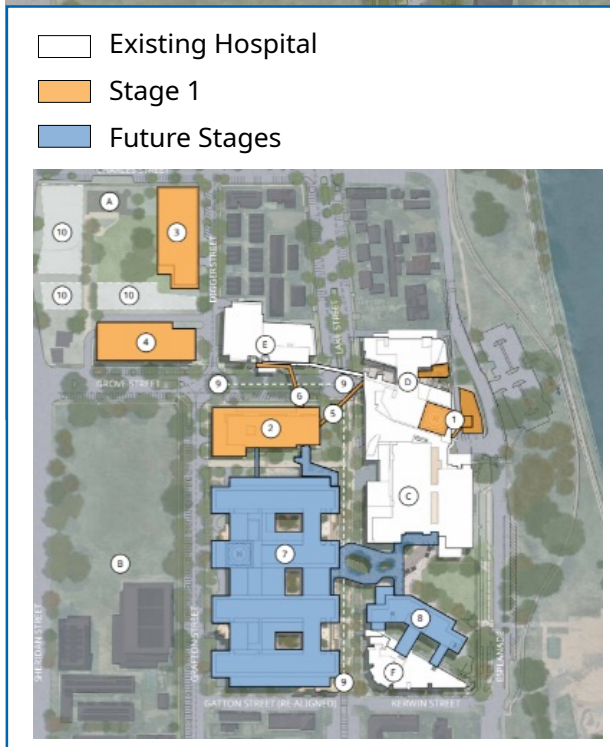
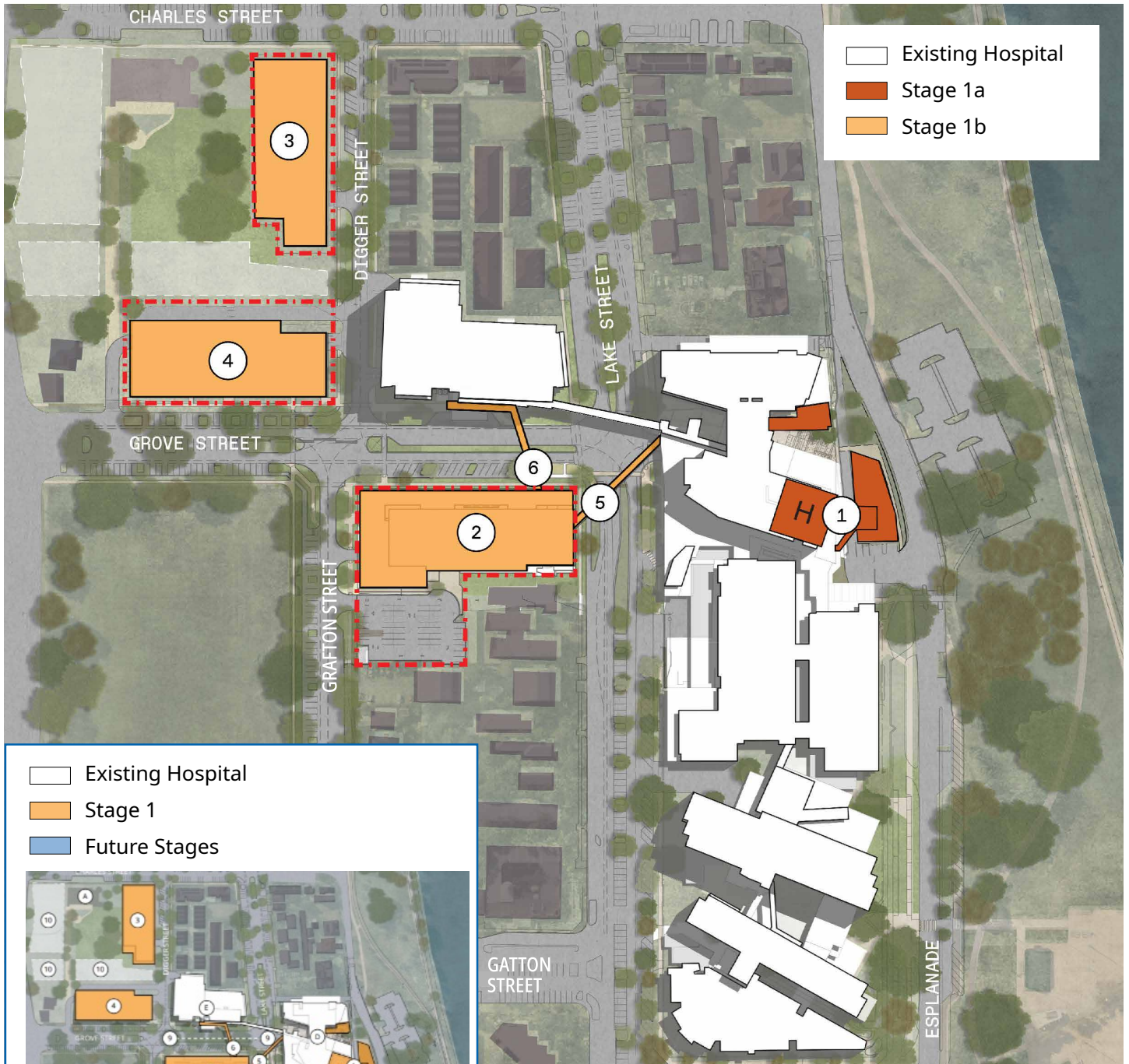
You can also:

- Call the project team on **1800 312 777**
- Email **HIQ_Cairns@health.qld.gov.au**

Feedback can be provided up until **Tuesday, 24 March 2026**.

Stage 1b building sites

The plan below shows the Master Plan at completion of Stage 1. The three new Stage 1b buildings are items 2, 3 and 4 and the two new link bridges are items 5 and 6. The inset plan shows future stages of the Master Plan.



Key Features:

1. New Helipad on Block D and Support Services Expansion
2. New Health Innovation and Surgical Centre
3. New Health Management Hub
4. New Staff Multi-Storey Car Park
5. New Clinical Link Bridge
6. New Public Link Between Existing Car Park and New Health Innovation and Surgical Centre

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the lands and waters that Cairns Hospital serves and cares for, and we pay our respects to Elders past and present.

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