

Planning for the future of Barlow Park Stadium

Artist impression. Early design concept only.

The Games Independent Infrastructure and Coordination Authority (GIICA) is reimagining Far North Queensland's home of rugby league and athletics.

Barlow Park Stadium is set for a major upgrade, creating a better experience for athletes, fans and community, while helping Cairns attract more sporting and entertainment events into the future.

As part of preparations for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, the upgrade will help showcase Cairns on the world stage and deliver a legacy for generations to come. GIICA is delivering the project as part of a broader program of 17 new and upgraded venues across Queensland for 2032 and beyond.

What the upgrade will deliver

- a **new grandstand**, increasing seating from around 1,700 to approximately 5,000
- **improved amenities**, including food and beverage and accessible facilities
- **better access, entry, wayfinding and movement** around the venue
- **new landscaped spaces and gathering areas**
- design that responds to Cairns' tropical climate, improving **comfort, shade and airflow**.

Have your say

We are currently in the design phase, and **community feedback is open until 31 August 2026**. Scan the QR code to complete the online feedback form and sign up for project updates.

Your input will help us understand what matters most and will be considered as the design continues to develop.

What's happening next

Barlow Park Stadium will **temporarily close from Monday 21 September 2026** to allow early works to begin safely. Limited athletics and community use is expected to resume in early 2027.

Cairns Regional Council will undertake essential service relocation works across the site, including power and water. These works require the temporary closure of the stadium to ensure they can be completed safely. For information about these works, please contact Council via 1300 692 247 or email council@cairns.qld.gov.au.

GIICA will be on site later in 2026 to continue further early works ahead of major construction works.

Who is delivering the project

The Games Independent Infrastructure and Coordination Authority (GIICA) is responsible for planning and delivering the stadium upgrade.

During the initial works phase (from Monday 21 September), Cairns Regional Council will lead service relocation works.

Stay informed or get in touch

GIICA is committed to keeping the community informed at every stage of the project.

Scan the QR code to provide your feedback on the future of Barlow Park Stadium.

Sign up for updates at giica.au/contact.

Speak to a member of the project team on **1800 21 023** or email info@giica.au.

