

Early works set to commence at Barlow Park Stadium

Artist impression. Early design concept only.

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

As part of preparations for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, 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.

Following the temporary closure of the stadium and initial site preparation activities in September, **GIICA's early works are set to commence from 12 November 2026**, including demolition activities to prepare the site for major construction.

What to expect during early works

Early works involve demolition of the existing grandstand and site preparation in readiness for major works to commence next year. Refer to the map overleaf to view the early works area.

Activities include:

- disconnection of services and activities to make the site safe
- installation of site fencing and signage
- installation of environmental controls, including prior to vegetation removal
- hazardous materials auditing and safe removal, where required
- removal of salvageable items before manual and mechanical demolition
- removal of trees and landscaping within the demolition area
- site clean-up and checks in preparation for major construction works.

Works will take place **Monday to Saturday, between 6.30am and 6.30pm**. Further notification will be provided in the event out of hours works are required.

Nearby community may notice increased noise during demolition works. Safety and environmental controls will be in place throughout the project.

The **stadium car park will close to the public** to support safe site access. Limited athletics and community use is expected to resume in early 2027. Notification will be provided ahead of reopening.

Access to West Barlow Park

West Barlow Park, adjacent to Barlow Park Stadium, will remain open and continue operating as usual.

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**
- a design that responds to Cairns' tropical climate, improving **comfort, shade and airflow.**

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 sign up for updates or visit **giica.au/contact**

Speak to a member of the project team on **1800 021 023** or email **info@giica.au**

For assistance reading or understanding this document, contact GIICA via 1800 021 023.

Barlow Park Stadium
Early works November 2026

GIICA Games Independent Infrastructure and Coordination Authority

