

A new Hervey Bay Library & Admin Centre



A world class city centre

Council is partnering with the Australian Government to develop a world class city centre in Hervey Bay.

The backbone will be a new regional library building and Council administration centre on the corner of Main Street and Torquay Road in Pialba.

More than three quarters of the development will be community space.

This will be a community hub where people can come together to learn, to socialise and to benefit from centralised Council services.

It will also include a Disaster Resilience Centre for disaster planning, education, training and responses.

A new library

A new library will be a major focus of the development.

The current Hervey Bay Library has about 225,000 visitations a year, and it's only half the size it should be to meet Australian and Queensland library standards.

The new library will be double the size of the current library to help cater for our growing population now and in the decades to come. It will mean Council can build on its library programs and help lift education outcomes in our community.

Building a new library in a new location also means the university will have the opportunity to expand and potentially offer more courses in the old library site.

Concept design

The project has now reached the concept design stage. The concept design shows what the new library building might look like and details how the office and community spaces could be fitted out.

Public plaza

An outdoor public plaza will be created in Main Street as part of this development.

This new community space could be used for a range of activities such as community events, markets, live music, a pop-up cinema and reading lounges.

A pedestrian link will also cross through the site to provide a new front door to the existing City Park open space in Pialba.

Building design – ground floor and level one

The new building will have five levels with about 100 underground public car parks.

The ground floor will include a customer service counter, with the lobby to include a Butchulla 'Welcome to Country' in recognition of the region's Traditional Owners.

The library will extend over both the ground floor and level one, with children, young adult and adult sections featuring reading and activity spaces. There will be local heritage collections, public access computers on both levels and sensory rooms for people with special needs.

The community will have 24-hour access to study zones and meeting rooms, while there will also be community creative spaces and a large 70 seat multifunction area within the library.

Building design – level two

Level two of the building will be designed for multiple uses with flexible community spaces available both day and night.

The community spaces can be booked for library programs, training activities, presentations, meetings and large functions. This level can be transformed into a Disaster Resilience Centre and is also where the Council Chambers will be set up when Councillors are meeting.

Building design – levels three and four

Levels three and four of the building are where Council staff will work. These levels are being designed as agile working environments.

As Council workers spend a lot of their time out and about within the community, there is no need for a dedicated desk for everyone.

There will be hot desks, shared workstations, quiet spaces, meeting rooms, and a range of tables and booths that can be used for collaborative work.

Currently Council staff are scattered across 50 different locations throughout the region.

Bringing hundreds of staff together in one location will mean better collaboration between staff, which ultimately means more efficient services for the community.



Next steps

The release of the concept design is one more step on the journey towards developing a new Hervey Bay Library and Council Administration Centre. Detailed design will follow, with construction expected to start in 2023 and be finished by mid-2025.

This project is a once in a generation opportunity to create jobs, to grow the economy and to drive business investment. It's about creating a social, economic and cultural heart in Hervey Bay.

Log on to Council's Engagement Hub website to find out more and to stay informed.

www.frasercoast.engagementhub.com.au/hervey-bay-library-administration-centre-inc-disaster-resilience-centre

