

SCARNESS COMMERCIAL & HOLIDAY PRECINCT

PRECINCT MAP



KEY CHARACTER ELEMENTS

Key character elements	Descriptions
Architectural style	Predominantly Postwar, with Interwar Modern influences. Some flats / residences that date from prewar / interwar periods. Mix of modest flats with more substantial buildings typical of Esplanade as a whole.
Business signage	Generally modest and complementary, although signs that extend above parapet / roof line impact streetscape.
Building materials	Brick veneer, rendered brick or timber / contemporary cladding.
Building form and layout	Variety of asymmetrical and symmetrical building forms.
Roof style	Hipped, skillion, gabled and flat.
Setbacks	Zero front and side setbacks for individual building complexes. Drive entry and setbacks for flats/residential buildings.
Building height	Predominantly one and two storey, with some three-storey infill.
Orientation to the street	Parallel to the street. Brick Postwar Modern flats perpendicular to the street.
Car parking / vehicle storage	Combination of on and off-street parking.

Key character elements	Descriptions
Front boundary treatment	Predominantly lacking in facades and typically transparent frontages for shops. Awnings over footpaths.
Views and Public Space	Strong connection between Esplanade buildings and the foreshore park. Views across foreshore out to sea.

CHARACTER STATEMENT

This precinct is the historic recreational centre of Hervey Bay. It had the highest proportion of recreational facilities, including dance halls, picture theatres, skating rinks and a hotel. Although historic features illustrating this use have diminished over time, the precinct nonetheless retains key features that continue to demonstrate this character.

The two former petrol stations on the corner of Torquay Road and Queens Road create a tangible entry statement to Scarness. The railway station was located close by (on what becomes East Street) and for decades crowds of people made their way from the train down to the foreshore for recreation. However, the popularity and ubiquity of the motor car defined Scarness' growth in the postwar period. The Esplanade did not continue past Toon Toon Creek until 1984, which meant the main entry point to Scarness by car was along Torquay Road at this corner, hence the petrol stations. Because of the motor car and railway station Queens Road from East Street down to the Esplanade is an important connector.

The shopping and café area in and around the intersection with Queens Road and the Esplanade forms the core, historic character of Scarness. The corner itself provides the most dominant architectural statements of Scarness' historic function: The Pacific Palais, built in 1954, and the Beach House, which was only recently built. The Pacific Palais, with its Streamline design (reminiscent of 1930s Art Deco architecture) and former dance hall (first floor) evokes the postwar growth of Hervey Bay and the importance of Scarness as a seaside resort destination. The Beach House occupies the space originally taken up by the original Scarborough Hotel (first built in 1900). Its skillion roof, porthole windows and transparent frontage reinforces the hotel's historic connection to the sea and the postwar / modernist influence on architecture in Hervey Bay.

The public space on the foreshore retains its historic use and character. A combination of mature trees, picnic tables and grassed areas create pleasing spaces between community facilities. Views to the ocean are filtered but largely unimpeded, reflecting the typical visitor experience of the foreshore in Scarness. The pier remains a classic marker of Scarness' status as a seaside resort. The caravan park, dating to the early postwar period, also reinforces the importance of Scarness as a holiday node and the predominance of the motor car as a preferred method of travel for holidays from the 1950s onward.

The precinct also includes Freshwater Street and McKean Road. Freshwater Street includes substantial, prewar residences that illustrate the prominence of Scarness from an early period of Hervey Bay's history. McKean Street, on lower ground than Freshwater Street, exhibits more modest housing consistent with the topographical conditions.

