



MAREEBA CBD PROJECT BLUEPRINT

Mareeba CBD Blueprint FAQs – November 2025

What feedback has led to the development of this Masterplan?

Our community has shared clear, common ideas and opinions, and we're listening!

We chatted with locals and encouraged feedback and this is what the community says is most important to them:

- **Town Centre Activation** – 286 mentions, including greening, shade, outdoor dining, public art.
- **Community Safety & Wellbeing** – 176 mentions, especially lighting, CCTV, security.
- **Infrastructure & Amenities** – 99 mentions, things like public seating, toilets, drainage.
- **Roads & Traffic** – 80 mentions, heavy vehicle bypass, angled parking safety, congestion.
- **Maintenance** – 79 mentions, cleanliness, graffiti removal, shopfront upkeep.
- **Accessibility** – 77 mentions, high kerbs, ramps, tiles, mobility access.
- Still important, but less of a concern and priority to the community is **Governance** (9 mentions), **Public Transport** (8) and **Tourism** (5) which weren't raised often in comparison during feedback sessions.

Why is this project only for planning, and not for actual projects?

- The first step in any successful project is to get the planning right, and this is what Project Blueprint is all about – bringing people together and supporting things like research, consultation and drawing up a solid, investment-ready plan which reflects our needs.
- The idea is to make sure we're in a super strong position to apply for funding when the opportunities arise for works projects involving building or upgrading. We hope that's not too far down the track!
- Project Blueprint is funded by the Australian Government's Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program (RPPP) and is part of a broader program which helps regional towns plan for big, long-term improvements.

Why did you pull out the gardens and trees in 2022? to make more centre parking?

- Three years ago we had to improve how we maintained open spaces in our CBD and that's why the grassed median strip and palm trees were removed, and replaced with new carparks and tree islands.
- These works were the start of implementing the Mareeba Street Tree Masterplan.

Why are we planting more trees now?

- Since 2022 when the palms were removed, the community has sent us a clear message they want a cooler, greener CBD. We're listening, and totally agree!
- That's why we're excited about this draft plan which reflects responses to the 2025 Mareeba CBD Blueprint Community Survey.
- The Mareeba CBD Blueprint gives us a chance to rethink our green spaces and introduce tree species better suited to Mareeba's climate. This will mean lots of shade and comfy places for people to stay longer and enjoy shopping and socialising.
- This Blueprint is forward thinking, not just for our community and visitors to the region today, but for generations to come.

Why did you replace the old crossings with the new raised crossings?

- Byrnes Street is a State controlled road (DTMR).
- DTMR raised the zebra crossings and Council **is** working closely with TMR to make sure pedestrian safety remains a top priority in the CBD.

How would taking away parking help?

- Planning consultants who understand what makes a vibrant CBD successful are drawing on years of experience and other projects to support our plans for the future.
- It's about keeping our CBD convenient for people who need it.
- It's clear we have plenty of carparking in Mareeba. Now we have to make sure it's easier to use and designed in such a way it promotes more foot traffic in our CBD. That means people stay longer, and potentially spend more!
- Think about shopping centres and how they do this so well.

Reversing out of the angle parking in Byrnes Street is dangerous

- Community feedback about this concern is being taken into account.

- The Blueprint is considering a number of options to make the existing car parking away from Byrnes Street more usable.
- Byrnes St is a State controlled road. Council will work with TMR with regards to any proposed car parking changes along Byrnes St.

Will there be more or less truck and RV parking in Mareeba?

- The draft plan provides new and improved long vehicle parking in Railway Avenue.
- Long vehicle users will be able to drive through angle parking easily.

Will there be carparking enforcement?

- Council is currently investigating future carparking enforcement options.

More signs on Byrnes St are needed to instruct drivers to keep in the right lane if going straight through.

- Byrnes St is a State-controlled road. Council will work with TMR to ensure the most appropriate signage and pavement markings.

Will car parks still be big enough to fit a 'real' car in them.

- Any changes to carparking will meet current standards and take into account Mareeba's needs.
- There'll also be space for large vehicle parking in Railway Ave.

What about accessible parking?

- The community says parking and accessing the footpath is currently very difficult, especially for people with limited mobility.
- A top priority of the project is to improve overall accessibility in the CBD which will take into account the ideal number of accessible spaces and location.

Will a change in carparking affect my business?

Yes! In a good way!

- One of the goals of Project Blueprint is to have a positive effect on your business. Increased foot traffic, people staying longer, safer, greener streets, and a stronger overall appeal will encourage more people to walk, linger, and engage in the CBD.

Will there be improved public toilets?

- Yes. A new public toilet is planned for the ANZ carpark. The future of the CWA Restrooms facility is to be reimaged after more community discussion.

But what about the bypass?

- It may still take years for DTMR to prioritise and fund the bypass so our focus **now** is on developing a safe, functional, and extraordinary plan for our town centre.
- Council continues to advocate for the Mareeba bypass, as well as a safe and reliable Cairns to Mareeba transport route.

Why aren't you planning for a one lane solution? Byrnes Street – one Lane or two ?

- The focus **now** is on developing a safe, functional, and extraordinary plan for our town centre, which doesn't rule out the possibility of a one-lane design in the future.

Will the high steps in Brynes St be designed better?

- Fixing the stormwater will also mean fixing the big steps.
- Currently, the high kerbs and steep parking bays throughout much of the CBD are designed to carry stormwater. The Masterplan proposes underground stormwater systems which will enable the high kerbs and steep car parking to be replaced with something more pedestrian-friendly.

Will there be an impact to rates as a result of the Masterplan project?

- The Mareeba CBD Blueprint is funded by the Australian Government's Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program (RPPP).
- Any future capital projects will be delivered within Council's means and will require Queensland and/or Australian Government grant funding.

Why can't I see more details like where are the new trees going, or the new seating?

- You'll be able to see more details once the **design** phase of the Masterplan starts.
- This draft describes the **vision** for our future CBD. It's looking at concepts like "shady places to stop and stay," "activate Atherton Street," "stormwater upgrades."
- By late 2026 we'll have everything we need in detailed documents to apply for funding to start constructing a vibrant, inclusive CBD.

Why does the Mareeba CBD need a masterplan?

- The stormwater infrastructure in the Mareeba CBD desperately needs upgrading.
- If we're digging up the street to fix the stormwater, let's use this opportunity to consider and activate new features for our CBD which work for our community

and our visitors – focussing on energising the CBD and generating stronger economic outcomes for local businesses.

Why upgrade the town even if social issues remain?

- The main reason for the upgrade is for stormwater and footpath improvements which improves access and mobility for everyone.
- It'll create jobs and boost local morale.
- We're considering every possible feature to promote safety in public spaces to ensure they're welcoming, well-lit, and reduce opportunities for harm.
- Activating the town through better infrastructure and public use naturally improves safety and discourages antisocial behaviour.
- Delaying upgrades risks falling further behind. Physical improvements are part of the solution.

What are the next steps?

- After the community consultation process, the draft Masterplan will be finalised and adopted by Council. A detailed design phase will then begin which should take about 12 months.

Want more information?

You can find Council's dedicated website page at:

<https://msc.qld.gov.au/community/mareeba-cbd-project-blueprint/>.

The public can also access the website by searching "Mareeba Shire Council Project Blueprint" in Google.