



ESPLANADE PRECINCT FESTIVAL FACT SHEET

A summary of what to expect within
the Esplanade Festival Precinct during
Cairns Festival 2026.

FESTIVAL OVERVIEW

Cairns Festival will return for 10 days from
Friday 28 August to Sunday 6 September 2026,
transforming the southern end of the Cairns
Esplanade into a vibrant hub of free entertainment,
lighting installations, live music and performances,
roving activations, the Grand Parade, fireworks
and community experiences.

Festival activities and infrastructure will be
located across the southern end of the
Cairns Esplanade, including:

- Cairns Esplanade Lagoon
- Lagoon Plaza and Lawn
- Promenades and Boulevards
- Western Event Lawn
- Eastern Event Lawn
- Fogarty Park
- Esplanade Road and Pier Point Road
- Esplanade Car Park

WHAT TO EXPECT

During the festival period, community members
may experience:

- Increased visitor activity and crowds throughout
the precinct.
- Temporary road closures and traffic changes
associated with major events, including the
Grand Parade and fireworks.
- Increased demand for parking in the southern
Esplanade area.
- Amplified sound from performances, installations
and festival programming.
- Temporary lighting installations and visual effects
operating during evening hours.
- Temporary changes and access due to event
infrastructure and public safety requirements.

Detailed information regarding the following festival
elements and associated impacts is available on the
Cairns Festival website.

- Main Stage
- Lighting and Visual Effects
- Noise
- Access and Infrastructure
- Lagoon Impacts
- Road Closures and Traffic Changes
- Fireworks

ENQUIRIES

For more information, visit
cairnsfest.com.au

or scan the QR code »

or contact the Cairns Festival team
at **festival@cairns.qld.gov.au**

Please note that event details and operational
arrangements are subject to change.



GRAND PARADE & FIREWORKS SATURDAY 29 AUGUST

The Cairns Festival Grand Parade is one of the region's largest community events, attracting more than 25,000 spectators each year.

The 2026 Grand Parade will take place on **Saturday 29 August**, from approximately **5.00pm to 7.30pm**, followed by a spectacular **fireworks display** from **7.30pm to 7.45pm**.

To facilitate the event, a number of road and carparking closures will be in place throughout the Cairns CBD. These closures will impact traffic access between 5.00am and 10.00pm.

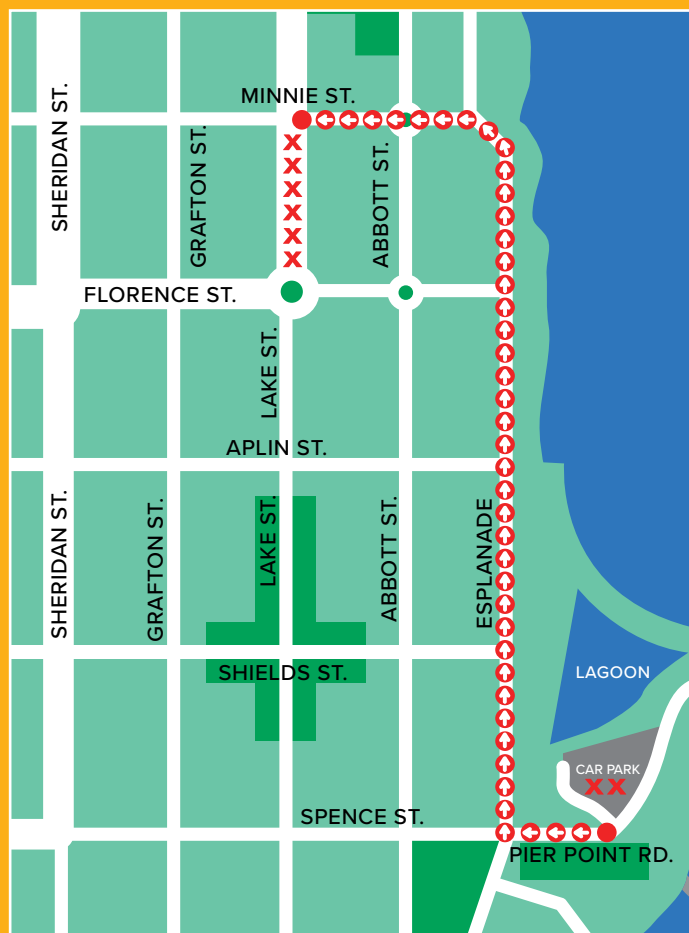
ROAD CLOSURES

- **Lake Street** (Minnie Street to Florence Street)
5.00am to 10.00pm
- **Minnie Street** (Lake Street to the Esplanade)
2.00pm to 10.00pm
- **Cairns Esplanade** (Minnie Street to Spence Street)
5.00am to 10.00pm
- **Pier Point Road** (partial road closure)
No access to bus stops from 5.00am to 10.00pm
- **Pier/Lagoon Car Park**
Closed from 5.00am to 10.00pm

TRAFFIC & PARKING

Please expect increased traffic congestion and limited parking throughout the CBD. Where possible, we encourage residents, visitors and employees to:

- Travel by public transport.
- Carpool where practical.
- Allow extra travel time and arrive earlier than usual.
- Share this information with staff, customers and visitors to minimise disruption.



EVENT IMPACTS

The Grand Parade attracts large crowds and features a variety of illuminated floats, moving displays, strobe lighting, flashing effects and amplified music.

FIREWORKS DISPLAY

A fireworks display will be launched from the Cairns Esplanade between 7.30pm and 7.45pm. Residents and visitors should be aware that fireworks may produce:

- Loud noise
- Bright flashes of light
- Sudden bursts of sound

Pet owners are encouraged to secure and comfort their animals during this time.

ESPLANADE DINING PRECINCT CLOSURE

For the safety and enjoyment of festival patrons, the Esplanade Dining Precinct (between Shields Street and Aplin Street) will be closed on Friday 28 August from 6.00pm to 10.00pm.

NEED ASSISTANCE?

If you have any questions regarding the Grand Parade, please contact:

Jan Aird

Parade Producer – Cairns Festival

Phone: (07) 4032 6656

Email: J.Aird@cairns.qld.gov.au

If you require assistance on event day, please speak with a traffic controller or event staff member.