

Town Centre Master Plan - Town Square Community Engagement

Purpose

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council is now engaging the community concerning the construction of a Town Square on Horton Street part of the Town Centre Master Plan previously on exhibition. The Town Square Master Plan proposal will be on public exhibition from 14 March to 23 April 2014 for community input and comments.

Town Square Master Plan Engagement Background

The proposed Town Square located on Horton Street, north of Clarence Street, is an important link between the CBD and the Town Green. Its significant location provides an opportunity to expand planned events held at the Town Green and to overspill into the CBD offering additional public space.

The complete area, the proposed Town Square on Horton Street and the Port Macquarie Town Green, lies at the northern border of the town centre and functions as a gateway into the Port Macquarie Town Centre. The Town Green plays a vital role in the CBD and guides the development of the Town Centre Master Plan itself as it attracts visitors, provides vital space for local events and provides social influences onto the local community. The entire area is a key public open space within Port Macquarie, and as a north-facing public foreshore with direct frontage from the core of the business and the town centre district provides prestige opportunities to encourage public usage, influence economic growth for Port Macquarie and enhance social influences.

A number of key views from within the Town Centre (along Horton Street and Sunset Street and to a lesser extent Short Street) terminate at the Town Green. The Town Green currently provides a focus for many formal and informal community activities, social interaction and passive recreational activities. It provides a location for large community gatherings and events, such as the 'Tastings on Hastings' (held every year in October) and events such as the Port Macquarie Ironman event.

While this area operates satisfactorily on some levels, there are significant opportunities to enhance this premier space to ensure it fulfils its role within Port Macquarie. Creating a Town Square adjacent to the Town Green can further expand this premier spot with its strong cultural characteristics supporting current local functions and events. In addition, the proposed Town Square allows additional opportunities to introduce new events, it provides a wonderful area at the edge of the CBD to hold a town market or encourage other similar social gatherings and functions.

Council invites the public to provide comments concerning the Town Square currently on exhibition as part of the Town Centre Master Plan previously on exhibition. Comments are considered for the adoption of the Town Square, concerning the planning, design and construction of the Town Square.

Funding of the project will be provided through the TCMP reserve funds which are derived from contributions paid by the Port Macquarie CBD property owners.