What is the Port Macquarie Town Square Master Plan?

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. Along with the adjacent Town Green, the entire area is a key public open space within Port Macquarie and provides a prestigious opportunity to encourage public usage, influence economic growth and enhance social influences.

The key objectives are:

- De-clutter the area and provide a space that is large enough to serve a multi-purpose function and provides for a connection of activity from Clarence Street to the Town Green.

- Realign car-parking and street furniture to provide flexibility to enable the Town Square to function as an event-space both independently and in conjunction with the adjacent Town Green.

- Increase provision for alfresco dining and ensure footpaths widths accommodate a variety of users.

What steps have already occurred?

Beginning with a vision over 20 years ago by property owners and Port Macquarie-Hastings Council, the Town Centre Master Plan (TCMP) was developed to transform the town centre. Since 1992, the Town Centre Master Plan has provided a guide to improve the CBD, attract local and non-local visitors, allow for economic opportunities and encourage growth within the Town Centre.

Over the past 20 years, Port Macquarie-Hastings Council has embarked on an extensive process seeking community input around the Town Centre Master Plan.

Most recently the Town Centre Master Plan underwent a detailed review in 2013 under the oversight of Port Macquarie-Hastings Council and the Town Centre Master Plan sub-committee. The results of this review were adopted by Council in March 2014. This review reaffirmed the validation of the original plan and recommended a series of new initiatives to refresh and reinvigorate several aspects. Out of this review, several key ideas developed, including the proposed construction of the Town Square.

The Proposal at a Glance

- Replace centre aisle with car parking to increase flexibility of space
- Rationalise vehicle turn-around areas to better accommodate traffic and pedestrians
- Widen footpaths to encourage outdoor dining and ensure widths accommodate a variety of users
- Relocate bus pull-in zone to better accommodate traffic and passengers
- Ensure ease of access for a variety of users including children, families, disabled and the elderly
Who will fund the works?

Funding for improvement and upgrade works in the Port Macquarie CBD, including the Town Square, is predominantly sourced from a special tax levied on the property owners of the CBD. This is called the ‘Town Centre Master Plan Reserve Fund’ and is administered by the Town Centre Master Plan sub-committee (TCMP) made up representatives from the community, CBD landholders, Port Macquarie Chamber of Commerce, CBD traders and Council staff.

How can I obtain more information?

The Port Macquarie Town Square Master Plan will be on public exhibition from March 14 through to April 23 2014.

The exhibition includes:
- The Port Macquarie Town Square Master Plan document
- Site plans
- Fact Sheet

This exhibition will be available at your local Port Macquarie-Hastings council office, library and online at [www.pmhlistening.com.au](http://www.pmhlistening.com.au).

Council Offices

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<th>Port Macquarie Office</th>
<th>Wauchope Office</th>
<th>Laurieton Office</th>
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<tr>
<td>Corner Lord &amp; Burrawan Streets</td>
<td>High Street</td>
<td>9 Laurie Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone (02) 6581 8111</td>
<td>Telephone (02) 6585 1922</td>
<td>Telephone (02) 6559 9958</td>
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<td>Facsimile (02) 6581 8123</td>
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Council Libraries

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<td>Telephone (02) 6581 8755</td>
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How can I have my say?

Council invites members of the public, local business and industry to make formal submissions in relation to the Port Macquarie Town Square Master Plan prior to close of business Wednesday 23 April 2014.

Submissions may be made in writing to:

General Manager
Port Macquarie-Hastings Council
PO Box 84
PORT MACQUARIE NSW 2444

Or email to: council@pmhc.nsw.gov.au

Vehicle turnaround area is larger than it needs to be.

Central landscaped area rarely used and detached from street activity.

Footpath widths do not encourage outdoor dining.

Bus pull-in area is larger than it needs to be.

Figure 1: Existing conditions - Horton Street Town Square. TRACT 2013 'Port Macquarie Town Centre Master Plan Review', p.44
Figure 2: Proposed concept - Horton Street Town Square. TRACT 2013 ‘Port Macquarie Town Centre Master Plan Review’, p.45
Figure 3: Proposed Horton Street Town Square. TRACT 2013 'Port Macquarie Town Centre Master Plan Review', p.45