

# Statement of Intent

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Our 2040 vision





# Acknowledgement of Country

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Cairns Airport acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we gather today and pay our respects to elders past, present and emerging.

We recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders connection to country and role in caring for and maintaining country over thousands of years. May their strength and wisdom be with us today.

Cairns Airport recognises it is our collective efforts and responsibility as individuals and communities to ensure equality, recognition, and advancement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across all aspects of society and everyday life.

Cairns Airport continues to work with our First Nations by involving all relevant Traditional Custodians in land management activities, and through actively involving Traditional Custodians in research and projects on Cairns Airport Landholdings including procurement and guidance opportunities wherever possible.





Our airport  
of the future

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**Cairns Airport is growing and evolving.**

**OUR PURPOSE:**

Sustainably grow our aviation-related business to support the growth of our community.



**This Statement of Intent  
outlines our 2040 vision  
for Cairns Airport.**



# Our role in the community and economy

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Cairns is a  
**regional hub and  
service base for  
Cape York and  
the Torres Strait.**

Supporting  
**tourism, trade and  
regional investment.**



**4.8M+**  
passengers\*



**46,000+**  
flights each year\*

High value airport economy supporting  
**100+ businesses & ~3000 jobs.\***

**Major international airport**  
connecting Cairns with the world.



# Our responsibility as custodians of the natural environment

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To protect our mangroves and waterways

To minimise our emissions footprint

To be a responsible neighbour

To preserve World Heritage Reef and Rainforest

## 2021-25 Environment Strategy and Action Plan

- 1 Become a carbon neutral, climate ready airport campus
- 2 Halve waste to landfill and contribute to a circular economy
- 3 Halve potable water use
- 4 Protect biodiversity
- 5 Sustain healthy waterways
- 6 Work with our neighbours





# Our commitment to First Nations Peoples

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To acknowledge and promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and culture.

To find opportunities for participation, procurement and employment.

To service the people and communities of Cape York and the Torres Strait Islands.





# We will grow as our region grows

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Growth will revert to long-term  
growth cycle by 2024.

## By 2040:

Cairns population  
is projected to grow to  
**375,000**<sup>1</sup>

Passenger numbers  
are forecast to reach approx.  
**10 million**<sup>2</sup>



Source: <sup>1</sup>Queensland Government Population Projections – Cairns SA4  
<sup>2</sup>IATA APAC forecast



There is a world  
of opportunity at  
our doorstep

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The growing Indo-Pacific middle class will  
drive sustainable increase in travel demand<sup>1</sup>:

2019: 1,952 million people

2030: 2,731 million people

2040: 3,230 million people

**80%** of world population live  
within a **16hr wide body flight.**

**30%** of world population live  
within an **8hr narrow body flight.**



# Immediate International Aviation Priorities

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# International Aviation Priorities



Europe

North Asia

North America

South-East Asia







# Aircraft technology is evolving to tackle the most important challenges of our time

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Aviation contributes around 2% of all human-induced carbon dioxide emissions.

Major airlines have committed to being carbon neutral by 2050.

Today's new aircraft are ~85% more efficient than the early jet planes of the 1960s, and ~20% more efficient than the models they are replacing<sup>1</sup>.

The future of sustainable aviation will be enabled through use of Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF), operational and technical improvements, and new propulsion technologies.

**We are working with stakeholders to enable this transition.**

<sup>1</sup>Source: [www.iea.org/reports/aviation](http://www.iea.org/reports/aviation)





# The future is clean

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Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) will play a critical role in aviation decarbonisation. Fully offset fuel is already available on airport.

**We are working with providers to secure sustainable aviation fuel supply.**

Electric and hydrogen propulsion alternatives will be available for regional airlines and helicopter operators in the near future.

**We are working with stakeholders to support the adoption of hydrogen and electric propulsion solutions.**

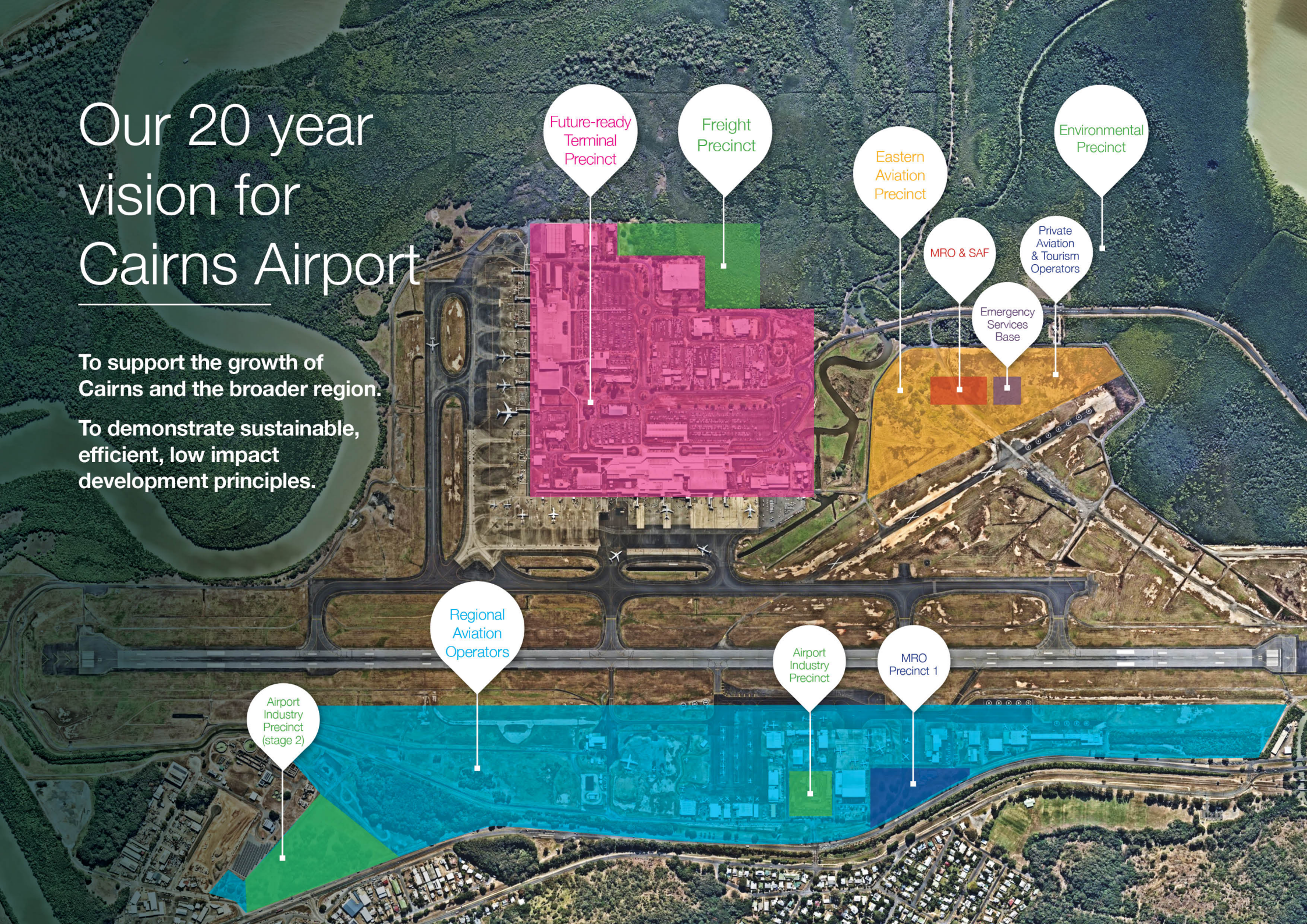




# Our 20 year vision for Cairns Airport

To support the growth of Cairns and the broader region.

To demonstrate sustainable, efficient, low impact development principles.



Future-ready Terminal Precinct

Freight Precinct

Eastern Aviation Precinct

Environmental Precinct

MRO & SAF

Private Aviation & Tourism Operators

Emergency Services Base

Regional Aviation Operators

Airport Industry Precinct

MRO Precinct 1

Airport Industry Precinct (stage 2)



# Future-ready Terminal Precinct

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T2 Domestic Terminal has capacity up until 2030.  
Further expansion will be triggered by passenger growth.

We will refurbish the T1 International Terminal.

Parking capacity will be increased to maintain  
traveller convenience.

We will install electric vehicle charging infrastructure to  
support EV adoption.



**Deliver a world-class airport  
experience that instantly connects  
travellers to Tropical North Queensland.**



# Freight

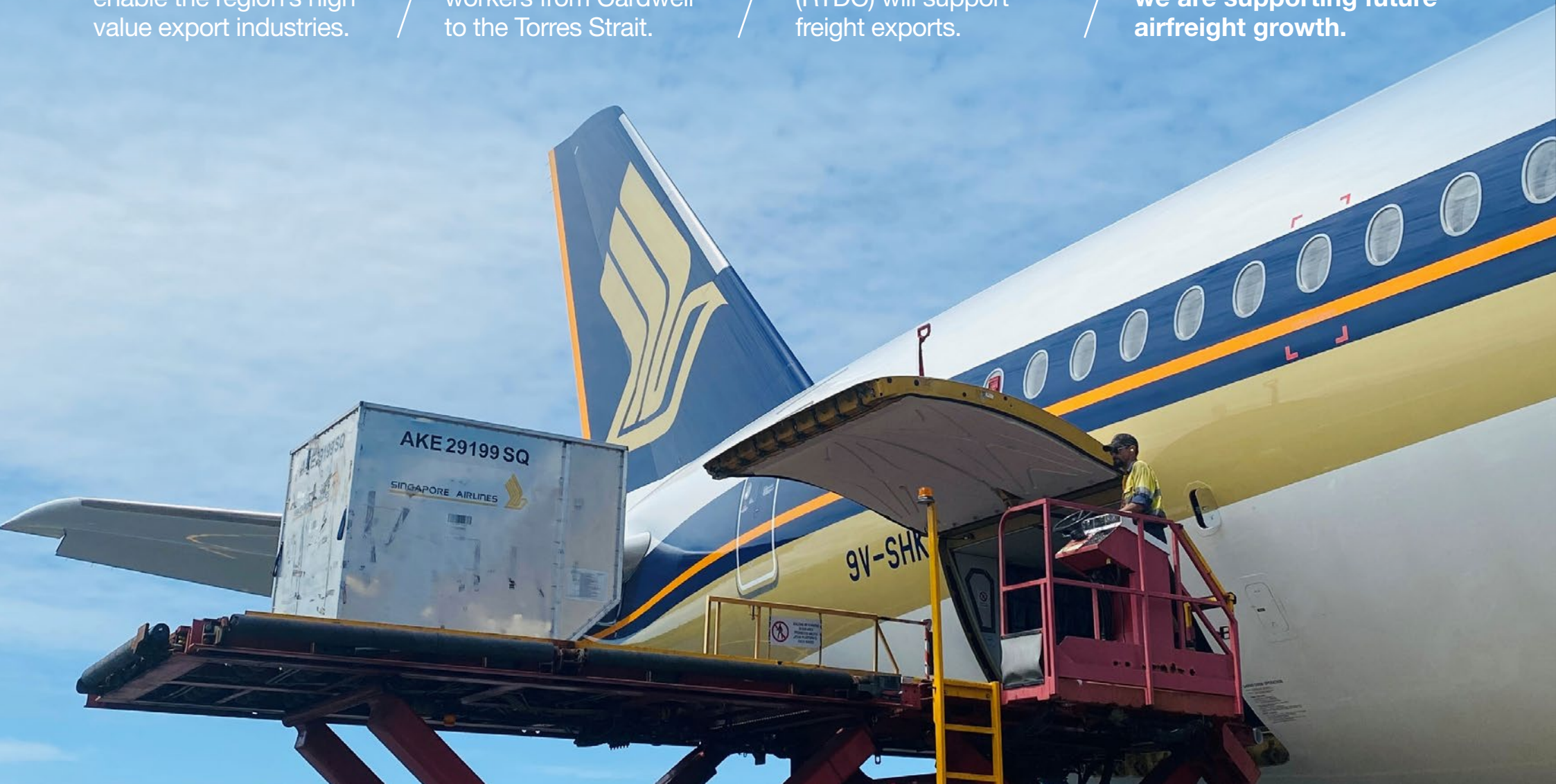
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Direct international freight connections enable the region's high value export industries.

These industries support thousands of workers from Cardwell to the Torres Strait.

Regional Trade Distribution Centre (RTDC) will support freight exports.

**By prioritising airfreight infrastructure development we are supporting future airfreight growth.**





# Maintenance Repair and Overhaul (MRO)

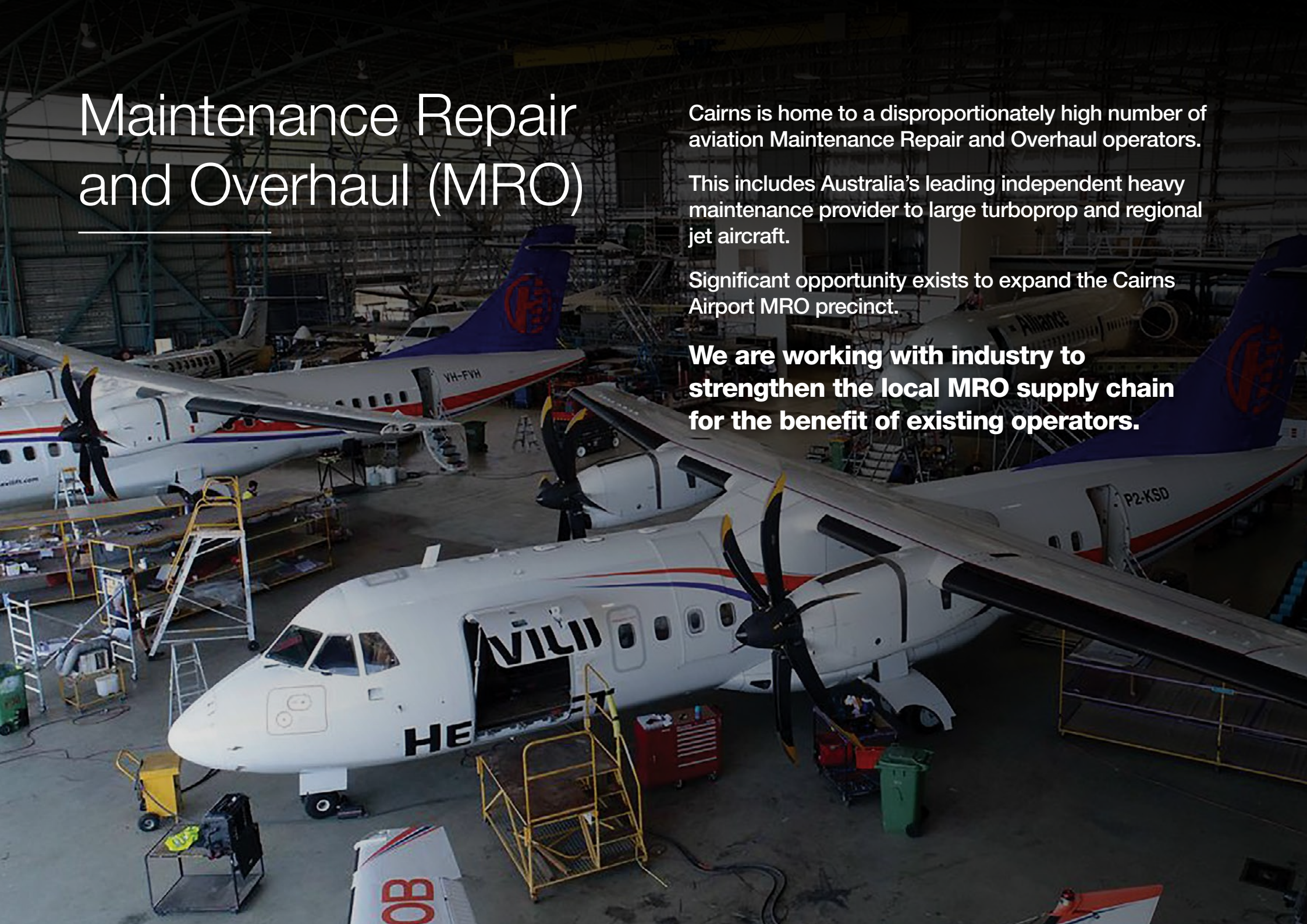
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Cairns is home to a disproportionately high number of aviation Maintenance Repair and Overhaul operators.

This includes Australia's leading independent heavy maintenance provider to large turboprop and regional jet aircraft.

Significant opportunity exists to expand the Cairns Airport MRO precinct.

**We are working with industry to strengthen the local MRO supply chain for the benefit of existing operators.**





# Emergency Services Base

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Cairns Airport is an advantageous location to base operations servicing Northeast Australia and our Pacific neighbours.

A number of emergency service operators have bases on Cairns Airport.

**We intend to create an aeromedical and emergency precinct on Cairns Airport to provide optimal operating conditions for these critical services as our region continues to grow.**





# Regional Airlines and Charter

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**Cairns Airport is a significant base for regional airlines servicing Far North Queensland.**

The people of Cape York and the Torres Strait Islands rely on aviation for access due to vast distances and seasonal road closures.

Cape York and The Torres Strait Islands are regions of great significance. We are proud to support those airlines who deliver services in the remote Far North.





# Tourism Operators and Private Aviation

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Cairns Airport is a significant helicopter base and home to Northern Australia's largest helicopter operator.

We are the private aviation access point for Australia's busiest super yacht port.

**We intend to develop a helicopter precinct on the eastern side of the runway, reducing delays and increasing runway capacity.**





# Education and Training

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Cairns Airport creates opportunity for the Far North's best and brightest to excel in a broad range of aviation related careers.

In the next 20 years **612,000 new pilots, 626,000 new maintenance technicians and 886,000 new cabin crew members** will be needed<sup>1</sup>.

**We will continue to work with airport based education and training providers to ensure that local operators have access to the skills and qualifications they need.**



# Airport Industry Precinct

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There is a shortage of Industrial land to the north of Cairns CBD.

**We are developing a light industrial precinct on Captain Cook Highway in Aeroglen to provide organisations with the opportunity to be based on the airport.**

This is a prime location just 7km north of the CBD and with ready access to the airport and the northern beaches.





# Our Airport by 2040:

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Cairns population  
is projected to grow to  
**375,000**<sup>1</sup>

**1 runway**  
**2 terminals**

Passenger numbers  
are forecast to reach approx.

**10 million**<sup>2</sup>

**Emissions  
neutral**

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Grow direct international  
**Airfreight exports**

A region leading  
**major employer**

Genuine partnerships with  
**First Nations  
Peoples**

An established **Airport  
Industry Precinct**

Australia's leading  
**Maintenance  
Repair and  
Overhaul (MRO)  
Precinct**

An established **Eastern  
Helicopter Precinct**

Carbon neutral  
**Ground transport**  
**Education and  
training pathway**  
from apprenticeships to PHD



