

Second SDA on cards

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State easing way for Global Tourism Hub

A SECOND State Development Area could be set up in Cairns to remove red tape from the city's proposed Global Tourism Hub (GTH).

The State Government is investigating whether it can declare an SDA over the proposed waterfront site of the \$1 billion project, which may also encompass the Cairns Convention Centre, the Reef Hotel Casino and associated Pullman hotel and resort.

If successful, the SDA would be the second for the city, after the government last month declared an SDA over an 856ha parcel of land at Wrights Creek, north of Gordonvale, to fuel industrial growth for the city.

An SDA is an area of land declared under the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971*, which can promote economic development.

An investigation report released by Queensland's Co-ordinator General proposes a boundary for the GTH encompassing several existing tourism assets on the CBD's eastern fringe.

"Their inclusion in the investigation area will allow the Co-ordinator General to investigate how these sites may integrate with the GTH to allow residents and tourists to move easily throughout the area and

have a seamless tourism and recreational experience," the report states. The report also says the entire area proposed for the GTH "is not proposed to be redeveloped."

"Key existing site features and buildings will remain, for example, the fig tree on the foreshore," it says.

"The inclusion of Wharf St in the investigation area allows the Co-ordinator General to consider potential upgrades to

the road network and parking, which may be required to support development of the Tropical North GTH."

A spokesman for Tourism Minister Kate Jones said the Global Tourism Hub would drive a major influx of tourism and potentially deliver hundreds of direct and indirect jobs for Cairns.

"That's why it's vital we have a state-led planning process for the proposed Cairns

Global Tourism Hub to make sure any potential project goes ahead as smoothly as possible," he said. "We will continue to work closely with council and Ports North to ensure we deliver the kind of tourism infrastructure that Tropical North Queensland needs."

Submissions on the potential for an SDA to support the Tropical North GTH close February 15.

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