

Crystalbrook Collection Say Now is the Time for Esplanade Dining Precinct

Mark Davie, CEO of Crystalbrook Collection, has praised Cairns Regional Council's Esplanade Dining Precinct plans and says now is the time for action.

"Cairns is going through a wonderful growth period with greater investment in the city than we have seen in many years," said Mr Davie.

"With this growth comes more visitors and residents to Cairns and we need to move forward with the Esplanade Dining Precinct as soon as possible.

"Considering our own commitments and the investments of many other Cairns businesses, we are going to see thousands more people in Cairns looking for great places to relax and dine every day. We have the opportunity now to provide a standout Dining Precinct that will further beautify the Esplanade, provide a safe environment and give visitors one more reason to come to Cairns."

Crystalbrook Collection opened its first resort, Riley, on the northern end of the Esplanade last week and has two more hotels, nine restaurants, multiple meeting spaces and two spas opening in the city over the coming 14 months. Flynn, Crystalbrook's third hotel, will open in the heart of the proposed Esplanade Dining Precinct.

Architect for Flynn, Hunt Design, at the request of Crystalbrook Collection has developed artist impressions of what a pedestrianised Esplanade could look like (images enclosed). "We are certainly not saying this is what the Precinct will or should look like, but simply illustrating what could be possible," said Mr Davie.

"We know there is a significant number of considerations that must to be taken into account, such as emergency vehicle access and loading and unloading of goods for Esplanade fronting businesses. We believe this is all possible while also providing a beautified Esplanade, that is safe for children to enjoy,

that provides increased pedestrian movement and accessibility and that reduces noise, fumes and potential accidents. We've been talking about the Esplanade Dining Precinct for two years now and we really want to see progress moving forward with this development."

The artist impressions prepared by Hunt Design show retractable bollards enabling full retention of vehicular access at agreed times to CCC standards, retention of significant trees and the introduction of mature trees to 'green' the ambiance.

"We've seen streets pedestrianized in top tourist cities all around the world," said Mr Davie providing examples such as Venice Beach in Los Angeles, Notting Hill in London and La Rambla in Barcelona.

"We have a great opportunity to learn from these places and provide an exceptional Precinct for Cairns."

Mr Davie said he would be eager to work with other businesses on the Esplanade as well as the Cairns Regional Council to accelerate the creation of the Precinct.

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