

Civic and State Square Revitalisation

Liberty Square construction to start

Construction for the Liberty Square redevelopment is starting after the Northern Territory Government awarded a 3.8 million contract to local company DTA Contractors to deliver the project as part of the Civic and State Square Revitalisation in the centre of Darwin.

The revitalisation is part of the Northern Territory Government's historic Darwin City Deal, delivered in partnership with the Australian Government and the City of Darwin.

Work will start to install a fence to secure the construction site perimeter on Monday, 14 August 2023.

A tree protection order is in place to protect the existing heritage listed Banyan Tree throughout construction.

The project design will:

- improve the connectivity, functionality and accessibility of Liberty Square
- extend the pedestrian pathway (kerbside) along the front of the Administrator's Official Residence
- provide an accessible seating area on an elevated decking surrounding the heritage listed State Square Banyan Tree
- respect and complement the surrounding institutional buildings such as the Supreme Court, Parliament House and Government House
- provide new short term parking (eight bays, two of which will be for disabled parking)
- beautify the public park space with new landscaping using well-known tropical tree varieties, including the Raintree (*Albizia saman*), Milkwood (*Alstonia actinophylla*) and Yellow Flame Tree (*Peltophorum pterocarpum*).
- incorporate water sensitive urban design elements to capture rainwater for tree watering.

Other activity to note on site:

- An African mahogany tree will be removed next week after it was identified by an arborist as high risk with the potential for branch failure or uprooting during strong wind events, potentially endangering health, safety and/or property.
- Due to the size of the limbs and trunk, a wood chipper will be on site for four days from 15 August 2023 to process the timber prior to transport out of the CBD. Noise associated with the wood chipping should be finished by next weekend.
- All efforts will be made to mitigate any impacts to stakeholders, including traffic management strategies, noise-dust-vibration monitoring and the flexibility to stop works for important ceremonial or function related activities.
- Elements of a memorial sculpture commemorating the laying of the undersea cable to Java in 1871 and the completion of the Overland Telegraph Line will be removed, conserved and retained for possible future use. The existing astronomical observation pillar commemorating the establishment of the longitude of Port Darwin in 1883 by Pietro Baracchi will be retained and protected during construction.

Access and parking conditions

- Pedestrian access around Liberty Square will be limited during the construction period. There will be no pedestrian access along the paved area between the Supreme Court and Liberty Square as that will become part of the construction site. The path around Liberty Square on the Esplanade will remain open while a new pathway is constructed in front of the Administrator's official residence. Once that is completed the path on the Liberty Square side will become part of the construction site.
- You may wish to notify your stakeholders that the Esplanade route via Liberty Square through to the front of the Supreme Court and Parliament House will be disrupted during construction so they can plan an alternative route via Smith Street.
- There is no anticipated impact on current basement parking at the Supreme Court or road access to the Esplanade.
- Access to the Supreme Court short term parking at the front of the building will continue with access off Bennett Street for authorised vehicles only until the new short term car park is completed in January 2024.
- Traffic management will be in place to supervise truck and vehicle movements as a section of the Esplanade in front of Liberty Square will be single lane to support safety of workers on this site during some of the construction period.

Northern Territory Art Gallery construction activity update

- Traffic management is required on the Esplanade as work continues to construct the Northern Territory Art Gallery.
- Sitzler will start constructing a new driveway crossover to access the art gallery from the Esplanade and install a water meter at the Office of the Administrator on Saturday 12 August 2023. The works will take place between the rear of the Supreme Court and the Office of the Administrator for approximately two weeks.
- All relevant traffic management requirements will be in place for the duration of these works.
- Stakeholders have been advised that water isolation will be required at some point under Power and Water Corporation's control, with exact timing to be updated.

What you should do

Please exercise caution while driving and walking in the area during this busy period. If you see a potential safety issue, report it on 8936 5698 or email CivicanStateSquare.Projects@nt.gov.au

If you have any questions, please contact the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics Project A/Director Peter Wastle on 8936 5698 or email CivicanStateSquare.Projects@nt.gov.au