

Civic and State Square Revitalisation

Art gallery milestone with new crane on city skyline

The Civic and State Square Revitalisation project is progressing with works continuing on the Northern Territory Art Gallery and Liberty Square projects.

An 18 tonne tower crane erected on the Northern Territory Art Gallery site is a milestone for the project.

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.

The following works are continuing for the Northern Territory Art Gallery:

- The 35-metre high tower crane was erected in the art lift shaft of the art gallery to start lifting pre-cast concrete panelling to build the gallery's main structure. The crane will remain in place until the main gallery structure is built.
- The driveway ramp is completed and the driveway walls are being erected.
- The concrete pours to create the art lift shaft are ongoing and the contractor has poured the first 183 cubic metre basement slab for the art gallery. The concrete pour was the first of about 17 large concrete pours planned after-hours over the next 12 months. The pours are being planned early in the morning or late evening as low ambient temperatures are required for the concrete to set.



Preparing the site for the wet season

The contractor is preparing the Northern Territory Art Gallery site for the wet season, including:

- implementing a management plan for the tower crane, which is anchored in the lift shaft, in the event of bad weather or a cyclone
- applying shotcrete, which is a type of concrete sprayed on vertical surfaces, onto the embankments of the excavation site to stabilise the rock walls during the wet season
- stormwater management, erosion and sediment control and security will be in place during the wet season and over the Christmas shut down period.

Fast facts

- 41 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people including 4 apprentices, are working on the Northern Territory Art Gallery construction site
- 438 workers inducted to the art gallery site so far, ensuring up-to-date knowledge of safety, environment and quality management details specific to the project
- 56 out of 60 subcontractors, suppliers and consultants working to build the NT Art Gallery are located in the Territory
- The Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT) is preparing artworks from the MAGNT collection to develop world-class exhibitions to display at the gallery when it opens.



Local rock used to rejuvenate Liberty Square



Construction and landscaping work is continuing at Liberty Square as part of the Civic and State Square Precinct.

Porcellanite rock excavated from the construction site of the Northern Territory Art Gallery is being used to clad a retaining wall for the new Liberty Square project.

The distinctive rock was refined by local stonemason Finlay's Stone before it was carefully used to clad the 160 metre long retaining wall.

A new footpath was installed in front of the Administrator's official residence to improve pedestrian access in the area.

Pedestrian traffic has been moved to the Administrator's side of the Esplanade while the new footpath and retaining wall is built around Liberty Square.

The site is being prepared for new lawn and tree planting, including well known tropical tree varieties such as the Raintree, Milkwood and Yellow Flame Tree.

LEFT: Before and after, local rock is used to clad the new retaining wall at the Liberty Square redevelopment project.

Planning continues for the Stage 2 precinct design

Led by Sitzler under an early contractor involvement (ECI) contract, the Civic and State Square Precinct Stage 2 Redevelopment will deliver a shady, cool parkland area for residents and visitors. It will include:

- a central gathering place
- areas for small and large events and performances
- shaded pedestrian paths
- public artwork
- interpretation and wayfinding
- new shade trees, seating and landscaping
- water features.

A Precinct Redevelopment Reference Group is guiding the precinct design with key stakeholders including Parliament House, the Supreme Court, Brown's Mart, Larrakia Nation, Darwin Festival, Tourism Top End, MAGNT and City of Darwin.



Above: Larrakia family members participate in a walking tour as part of the consultation for the Civic and State Square Precinct revitalisation Stage 2 project. Clouston Associates NT Manager Tony Cox points to the original master plan on display in the precinct.

Surveying is underway to locate existing utilities on the site and geotechnical and site investigations have started to map out water, power, sewer and communications across the site.

Several post-colonial wells have already been located on site, which were established after 1869 when South Australian Surveyor-General George Goyder first surveyed and created town lots in what is now the Darwin CBD.

While there are no natural springs within the project footprint, the design team are exploring incorporating a 'water story' of the area as part of the design, linking the freshwater springs along the Darwin escarpment to the saltwater of the harbour – both significant to the Larrakia.

The next milestone for the Stage 2 precinct redevelopment part of the Civic and State Square Revitalisation Project is to reach 30% design, which will be presented to the public.

Access and parking conditions

Current traffic access and parking conditions remain in place, including the closure of the driveway access to the Supreme Court, Parliament House and Old Town Hall Ruins off Smith Street. Access is available to the Supreme Court for deliveries/short term parking via Bennett Street with left turn in and left turn out.

Pedestrian access around Liberty Square will be limited during the construction period. Please exercise caution while driving and walking in the area during this busy period.

Want to know more?

For more information visit <https://invest.nt.gov.au/infrastructure-and-key-sectors/infrastructure/civic-and-state-square-revitalisation> or contact the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics on 8936 5698 or email CivicandStateSquare.Projects@nt.gov.au.