

Civic and State Square Revitalisation

Works are continuing on several projects within the Civic and State Square. Construction is progressing on the Northern Territory Art Gallery and a contract has now been awarded to start redeveloping Liberty Square.

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

Darwin Festival hosted events on the Chan Lawns in August for the first time, following successful NAIDOC celebrations held there in July.

Liberty Square works begin



Local company DTA Contractors were recently awarded a \$3.85 million contract to redevelop Liberty Square.

The design will improve the connection, function and access to Liberty Square. This will include an accessible seating area on elevated decking surrounding the heritage listed State Square Banyan Tree.

The revitalised Liberty Square will provide a safe and pedestrian friendly space, including dedicated and accessible short term parking options for the Supreme Court.

Fast facts

- 95% of total work on the Civic and State Square Revitalisation project has been awarded to Northern Territory businesses.
- 120 people will be directly employed by Sitzler and its subcontractors during the construction timeframe, including 30 Indigenous workers and 6 apprentices and trainees.
- Hundreds of plants are being grown and matured off site (pictured right) before they are planted in the final landscaping stage for the precinct.



Northern Territory Art Gallery progress



Construction of the Northern Territory Art Gallery is at the basement level after in-ground services, including plumbing, were completed in July 2023.

Additionally:

- A new driveway crossover has been constructed to access the art gallery from the Esplanade.
- Works are progressing on the access ramp from the Esplanade to the basement level of the art gallery that will be used as the primary access for sub-structure development works.
- A 20-tonne reinforcement cage was installed in the future art gallery lift shaft, which will be used as the base for a fixed tower crane that will be on site during the remainder of the construction period. The tower crane will start erecting large pre-cast panels into place for the structural walls of the basement once the basement concrete slab is completed.

Being sustainable

Nurturing new and old trees

Ten Cabbage Palms removed from the Northern Territory Art Gallery site are being cared for off site until they can be transplanted onto the Civic and State Square Precinct site.

The *Livistona benthamii rigia* palms (pictured right) will be planted to replace African mahogany trees that were removed. The palms are growing well in the bulker bags at Paradise Nursery.

Other species of plants, including Monkey Pod Tree (*Albizia saman*), Silk Handkerchief Tree (*Maniltoa leniceata*), White Cloud Tree (*Maranthes corymbosa*) and Florida Arrowroot (*Zamia integrifolia*) are being grown for future landscaping.



Local stonemasons uncover unique rocks

Local porcellanite rock dug up during excavation of the Northern Territory Art Gallery is being used to create the retaining walls for the art gallery driveway and in a retaining wall for Liberty Square.



Local Stonemason and Manager at Finlay's Stone, Steven Pattison, is working with the distinctive rock to create eye-catching cladding for the project. Steven said there was some amazing stones excavated from the site, with unique colours and beautiful patterns.

Once split, the rock (pictured right and held by Stonemason Chandler Hogbin left) is chiselled and refined before it can be used.



Preserving history

Elements of a memorial sculpture located in Liberty Square will be removed and retained for possible future interpretive use.

The sculpture was created in 1972 by Darwin sculptor Herbert Knoll to commemorate the centenary of laying the undersea cable to Java in 1871 and the completion of the Overland Telegraph Line.

The 1950s monument to the subsea cable will remain in Liberty Square, close to the original location of the Cable Station with improved access.

New public artwork proposed in the Civic and State Square Precinct's Public Art Interpretation and Wayfinding Strategy will integrate and celebrate modern and traditional communication technologies in public art, such as letter-sticks, smoke signals and sign language.

The existing memorial commemorating the Darwin Rebellion will be reinstalled on the site close to Government House where the protests took place. The Darwin Rebellion was a series of demonstrations causing the Administrator to leave the Territory, which influenced the naming of Liberty Square.

The existing astronomical observation pillar commemorating the establishment of the longitude of Port Darwin in 1883 by Pietro Baracchi will also be retained and protected during construction.

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?

If you have any questions, visit 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 CivicanStateSquare.Projects@nt.gov.au.