



PROJECT UPDATE · SEPTEMBER 2026

Great Barrier Reef Arena Stage 2

A Test match that proved the demand and a \$25 million package now in market to build a legacy



Greater Whitsunday Regional Projects Forum · Thursday 10 September 2026 · Harrup Park Country Club

Adrian Young · Chief Executive Officer, Harrup Park & Great Barrier Reef Arena

A precinct built from the ground up

Great Barrier Reef Arena is not a state-owned stadium. It is a community-owned sporting precinct, built by cricket, volunteers, clubs, staff, government partners and local supporters and Stage 1 proved what was possible.

150+

Years of cricket

Continuous cricket history in Mackay

60

Affiliated clubs

Using the precinct across all codes

34,000+

Members & users

Patronising the precinct each year

Stage 1 delivered a venue that stood up under serious scrutiny international cricket, major events and major concerts. In August it became Australia's newest Test ground. That is the platform Stage 2 builds from.



Day one of the Mackay Test — the hill at capacity



Mackay's first Test match

Great Barrier Reef Arena became the 12th venue in Australia and the 4th in Queensland to stage men's Test cricket. Australia v Bangladesh, NRMA Insurance Northern Australia Test Series, August 2026.

12,085

Total attendance

6,142 on day one, 5,943 on day two

SOLD OUT

Both days played

General admission before the opening ball

16,425

Tickets sold

Including days three and four, which the result never allowed to be played

68 NPS

Customer experience

97.3% of attendees said they would come to a future fixture

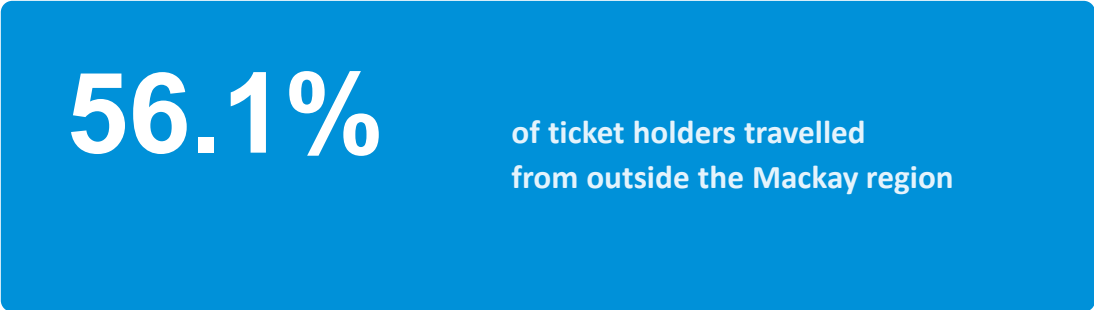


Main grandstand, day two

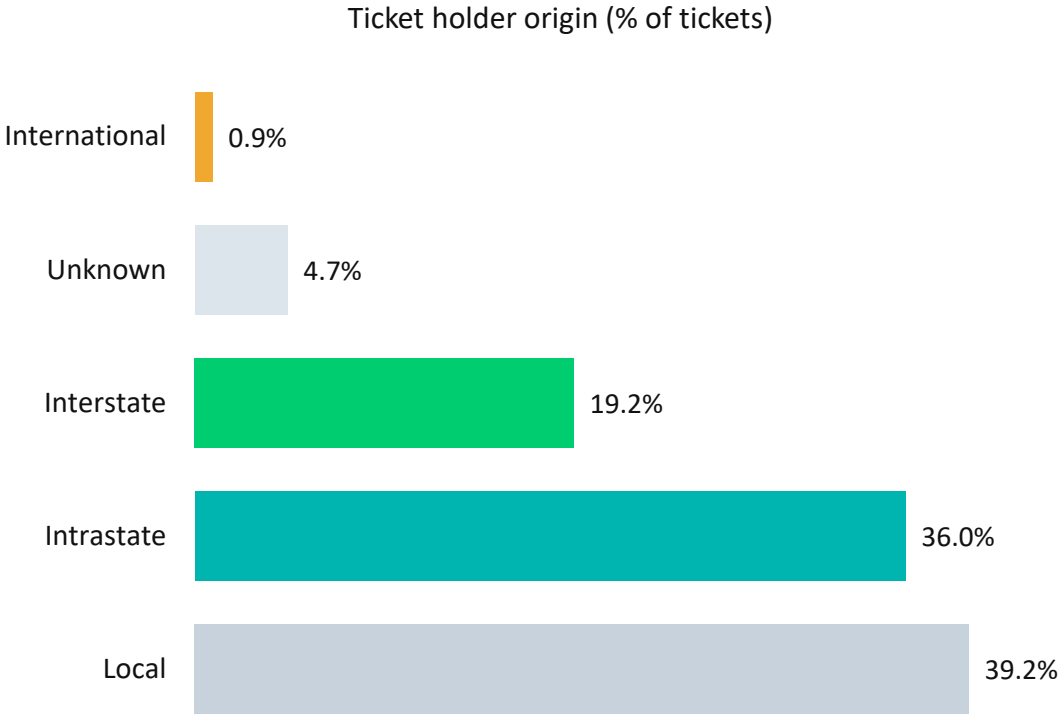


Most of the crowd came from outside Mackay

This was not local spend recirculating. Ticket-holder data shows the majority of the crowd travelled into the region — filling hotel rooms, restaurants, hire cars and retail across the Greater Whitsunday.



- 36.0% intrastate**
Queensland visitors travelling to Mackay — the largest single visiting segment.
- 19.2% interstate**
Interstate travellers, typically the highest-yield multi-night visitor.
- 0.9% international**
Plus travelling Bangladeshi supporters and touring media.



Source: Mackay Test ticketing and customer experience data, Cricket Australia / Queensland Cricket. Preliminary.
"Outside region" combines intrastate, interstate and international ticket holders.



Exposure the region could not have bought

For two weeks Mackay led national and international cricket coverage free-to-air, subscription, radio and digital, into the world's largest cricket markets.

620k

Average national audience

Per session, across the broadcast

400m+

Total minutes watched

National audience, Test and Series

5,561

Media mentions of Mackay

Clippings tied to the Test / Northern Series

201.6m

Potential media reach

Cumulative, 1 January – 31 August 2026

Broadcast in Australia

Seven and 7plus · Kayo · Foxtel · ABC Sport · Triple M · SEN

Every session live, with free-to-air reach across the country and airdials of the Arena and the region in every window.

Broadcast internationally

JioStar · Sky NZ · Willow · Cricbuzz · SuperSport · DAZN · PacificAus TV

Into India, Bangladesh, New Zealand, the UK, Africa and the Pacific — the largest and most engaged cricket audiences in the world.



Why Stage 2 matters

Stage 2 turns a major event venue into a genuine year-round high-performance, community sport and education precinct.

01

Infrastructure that works every week

Right now the Arena performs on event days and for community sport. Stage 2 adds indoor, all-weather capacity that supports participation, training, health and pathways 52 weeks a year.

02

A stronger national position

More international cricket, more elite content across codes, more national training camps and event and a credible regional role in the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

03

Facilities local people can actually use

Local clubs, athletes, students, seniors and people of all abilities get access including a Central Queensland hub for people with a disability.



Groups at the Mackay Test — the participation base Stage 2 is built for

Over 80,000 participant visits a year are expected through the completed precinct grassroots to elite, and every age and ability in between.



What Stage 2 includes - \$50 million total project

Set over two levels and designed to be genuinely multi-use cricket, netball, basketball, volleyball, AFL, para-sport, schools, visiting teams and community programs.

- **3 high-ball courts**

Including a show court with spectator seating

- **Indoor cricket & AFL training**

All-weather training through the wet season

- **Gym & high-performance space**

Elite and community strength and conditioning

- **Recovery & rehabilitation**

Including allied health

- **All-abilities & para-sport hub**

A Central Queensland for para sports

- **Sports education & learning centre**

Classrooms, function space and administration





Where the project is up to

Stage 2 has moved out of advocacy and into delivery planning.

\$25M

early contractor involvement
Package

SECURED Queensland Government funding committed State funding is in place to support delivery of Stage 2.	PROGRESSING Federal application under assessment – Continued Advocacy Submitted through the Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program.	NOW ECI builder engagement Design, staging, cost planning and approvals are well advanced.
What early contractor involvement means for this room Engaging a builder early moves Stage 2 from concept into a detailed construction pathway with the contractor helping test cost, staging, methodology, buildability, programme and local industry participation before contracts are locked. It means work packages and supplier requirements become visible sooner, and local businesses have a real run at them.		



Where the work is for local industry

There is strong capability across the Greater Whitsunday. Our aim is simple: make sure local businesses know about this project early enough to be genuinely competitive for it.

- Civil works & site preparation
- Structural steel & concrete
- Electrical & mechanical services
- Plumbing & hydraulics
- Roofing, cladding & façade
- Internal fit-out & partitions
- Flooring & finishes
- Joinery & carpentry
- Sports flooring & court equipment
- Technology, security & AV
- Fencing, signage & wayfinding
- Landscaping & external works
- Cleaning, waste & traffic management
- Professional & project services



What Stage 2 returns to the region

Independent REMPLAN modelling of the Stage 2 precinct investment, covering the construction phase, ongoing operations and the visitor economy it unlocks.

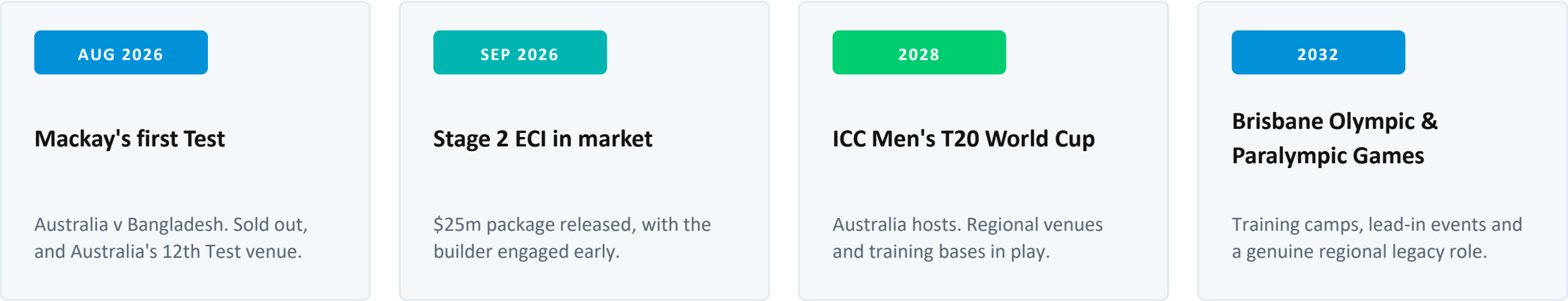


Source: GBRA Stage 2 Economic Assessment (REMPAN), 2024. Modelling is based on a \$40.0 million Stage 2 project investment across the full precinct scope, not on the \$25 million ECI package alone. Cost–benefit ratio calculated at a 7% discount rate.



The pipeline runs to 2032 — and past it

The Test was not a one-off. It is the first fixture in a pipeline, and Stage 2 is the infrastructure that lets Mackay keep competing for the rest of it.



Readiness does not happen by accident.

Great Barrier Reef Arena has already been named in the Brisbane 2032 regional conversation. Holding that position takes indoor capacity, high-performance facilities and accommodation that a touring team or a national carnival can actually use. That is Stage 2 — and the window to build it is now, not in 2031.

This project is ready to move



● The demand is proven

● The project is funded and moving

● The work is here to be won

