After a number of ‘early works’ contracts including renovation and modifications to existing buildings in the Science & Engineering precinct, staff, students, stores and equipment were vacated from the Marine and Tropical Biology buildings 22 and 23 in time for the beginning of Semester 2, 2014 teaching. This will make way for new JCU’s largest ever capital construction project - the $80m ‘The Science Place’ facility.

‘The Science Place’ will accommodate core science subjects (Biology, Chemistry and Biochemistry) in a new 4-level, 11,200 m² state of the art teaching and research facility. The facility will provide a research-led learning environment that encourages students to prepare for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) and health related careers in a tropical and regional setting. Designed for growth to 2025, ‘The Science Place’ will transform the way tertiary education is delivered across north Queensland.

Co-funded by the Commonwealth Department of Education and JCU, The Science Place will include 3 new food outlets a 175 seat collaborative Lecture theatre, End-of-ride facilities and be linked into the new ‘Verandah Walk’ that will provide a covered walk-way circumnavigating the inner campus. The CSIRO are also contributing to the project and will run NQSEC secondary schools science education programs in the facility.
Demolition works are underway

Townsville’s Markwell Group was awarded the contract to demolish Buildings 22, 23 and 44. Once the buildings were clear of staff and most students, physical demolition got under way and is expected to be complete in January 2015. The Science Place will minimize the impact to the environment by siting the new facility on the same location as buildings 22 and 23.

JCU’s Deputy Vice Chancellor Tricia Brand gave the instruction to commence demolition works on 28 October 2014

Three CCTV cameras have been set up on adjacent structures and provide a live feed of the works underway. This can be viewed on JCU’s The Science Place web site. A time lapsed film will be made of the demolition and construction works once complete.
Sustainability

The Science Place will be a sustainable building through integrated and holistic design rather than through artificial or superficial elements. The facility is designed to fall below the threshold set for campus energy use of 670MJ/sqm for Gross Floor Area.

Certification of the design of the building for the internationally recognized LEED Gold rating is being sought. This will be the first building in Queensland to achieve such a rating.

ESD or Environmentally Sustainable Design is fully integrated into the project. Ecomplish and D² consultants have engaged with JCU stakeholders including the Sustainability Working Group and established an ESD vision for the project based on the Universities overall vision and founded on evidence-based and measurable outcomes.

ESD initiatives are being considered as the design progresses and include both building features and JCU research systems. ESD performance targets including energy greenhouse gas emissions, water and carbon footprint are being developed. The building façade design has been modelled for daylight and glare performance and a number of options considered.

Some of the ESD initiatives being incorporated include an End-of-Trip bike facility; recycled plastic fibre concrete; Photovoltaic Solar Panels (25kW) and condensate and rainwater harvesting.

Artist view from North West
Project Progress

- Demolition is 60% complete
- An Expression of Interest is currently open for suitably qualified and experienced Principal contractors to construct TSP.
- JCU specialist User Groups have sign-off on the Developed Design stage of the facility
- The Contract Documentation stage is currently at 60% and planned to be complete by the end of 2014.

Timelines

- **Demolition Complete** - January 2015
- **Construction TSP** - Commence April 2015 - Complete December 2016
- **Staff Training / Relocations** - January / February 2017
- **Facility Open** - Semester 1, 2017

For Further information

On The Science Place please go to our webpage at [thescienceplace.jcu.edu](http://thescienceplace.jcu.edu) or email The Science Place project team at Email [thescienceplace@jcu.edu.au](mailto:thescienceplace@jcu.edu.au)

Schematic design stage drawings and artist images are available on the web site with meeting minutes available to PCG and User Group members via the login area.