

01 Pullman Reef Casino is a flagship in Cairns' hospitality industry.



A Major Repaint on the Edge of the Reef

The Pullman Reef Hotel Casino is a prominent building, and a flagship in Cairns' hospitality industry. The complex is comprised of two parts; a historic component known as the Commoners House, and a comprehensive, sprawling new resort. The new component includes the Hotel, the Casino, extensive landscaped areas and pools, and even a glass dome over a wildlife park. As part of a regular planned maintenance cycle, the whole Hotel and Casino complex were recently given a full external repaint. The repaint included façades, ground floor exteriors and balcony elements (both concrete and steel).



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The requirements for repainting the facility differed according to the part of the complex being treated. The whole complex needed to keep operating during the repaint, providing the main constraint.

Of all the elements of the complex, the Casino was relatively easy to schedule for repainting, as it is comprised largely of vertical façades. Compared to the Casino, the Hotel presented different challenges. The scheduling of individual room balcony works was a logistical puzzle, and had to be carefully organised, along with the temporary installation of appropriate warning signage. All of this needed to be carried out from the exterior, without access from the rooms.

The painting process, which was executed by Higgins Coatings, was handled by a team of around ten painters, co-ordinated by a site foreman. They used a mix of industrial rope access (abseiling),

and elevated work platforms to access the building. Higgins nominated Taubmans to be the painting and coating supplier for the project, extending their long-standing relationship. Taubmans was appointed because it provided high-performance, products that met the project's requirements, combined with excellent service.

It was important to have a product and application method that met the project's specific criteria. Taubmans' 'Endure' finished in semi-gloss achieved this by facilitating easy 'wash down' of the building (which occurs every two years to prevent salt and environmental pollution accretion), and through its excellent and long-enduring finish, as its name suggests. The 'Nanoguard' technology built into the Endure product, controls dirt and mould and was a key element in the selection of the paint. The surfaces painted included off-form concrete, both flat and profiled.

In the heritage-listed Commoners House, which contains a large amount of delicate wrought iron, White Knight Rust Guard (from the makers of Taubmans) was used to protect the iron components. It was also used on balcony handrails throughout. The Commoners House required a bespoke colour scheme, and Taubmans created a unique palette of custom colours that met the building's heritage specification.

The service offering from Taubmans is exceptional, and this was evident in the project. In the words of Chris Constable of Higgins, "Taubmans was totally on the ball with the project, and services included the management of a range of criteria through regular site attendance to ensure that standards were being met."

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Taubmans' inspections and advice included quality control, colour fidelity and consistency, and the correctness of application procedures and methods by the contractor.

The Taubmans team went out of their way to make the job as easy as possible for the painter, project manager and ultimately for the engineering team and building management of the Hotel Casino. Taubmans' staff were highly responsive, highly knowledgeable and firmly embedded in the project. They were able to turn orders around reliably and quickly, meaning that a bulk order made in the afternoon of one day was on site ready for use first thing the following morning.

The challenges for building engineers and managers of properties like Hotels and Casinos are significant. The different architectural forms of the Pullman Reef's façades, each with different access and surface preparation requirements, complicate maintenance and painting projects. Despite this, the full repainting of the complex has been carried out successfully, negotiating the project's logistical challenges to ensure the facility will look good and be durable for years to come. This could not have been achieved without the specification of the best product, combined with excellent support service to ensure the best outcome. Taubmans met and exceeded the challenges presented by the project, making life easier for all participants.

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