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Overhaul likely for festival

FESTIVAL Cairns is set to have what could be a radical facelift with management of the event going out to tender.

Cairns Mayor Val Schier said with the existing Event Cairns contract expiring, a new 12-month contract would allow a review of the festival's direction.

"We have had a whole lot of feedback that has come from our cultural planning process," Cr Schier said.

"The feedback has related to matters such as artistic direction, the purpose of the festival, the length of the festival and the focus of it.

"The purpose is to make the festival better than it is."

Cr Schier, who recently visited Darwin to check out its event, said there was a possibility the timing may also be changed in a bid to form links with other festivals.

"Darwin happens two weeks before ours and they get acts from across Australia and overseas," she said.

"There are possibilities of sharing the costs of national acts that could attend both festivals."

However, Pip Miller, who as a contractor has been part of the festival's management team since its inception in 2002, has strong doubts about the benefits of any revamp.

"The reason Festival Cairns was born was so council could utilise resources in a more efficient way in an event that had the ability to generate an impact and focus on Cairns," she said. "Change is not necessarily a bad thing, but in this case it could be."