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Information Release

TABLELANDS LEADS REGIONAL GROWTH

Latest estimated residential population figures for the wider Cairns Far North Queensland region indicate that the local government area of Tablelands Regional Council led population growth outside of Cairns (see Table 1).

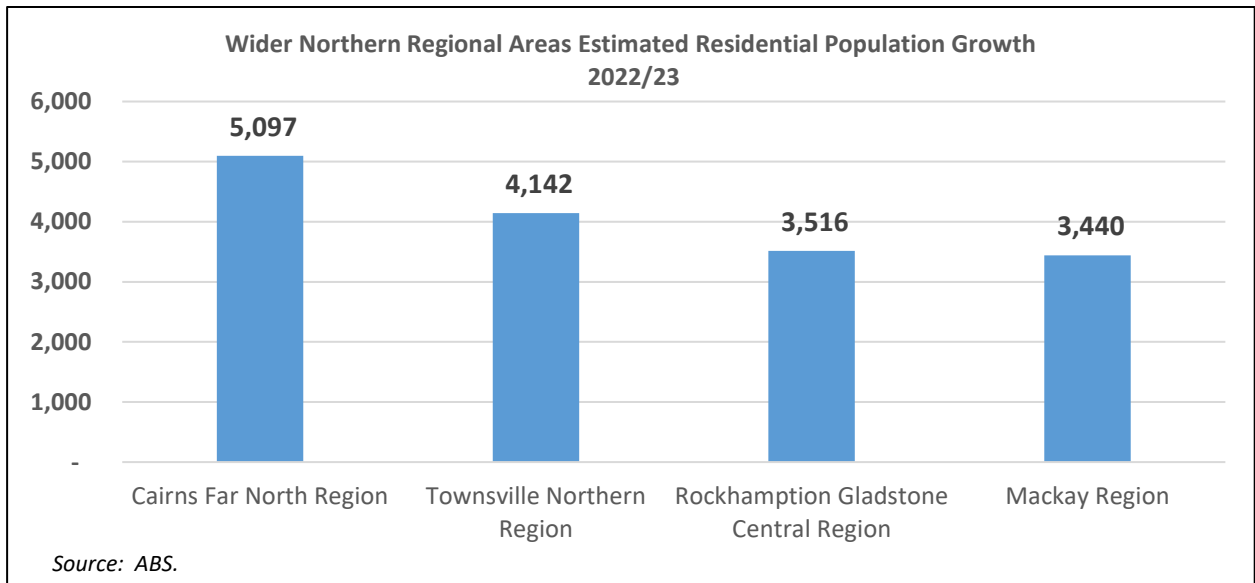
Table 1. Estimated Residential Population Growth Local Government Area Wider Far North Queensland Region by Local Government Area (LGA) 2022-23

LGA	Population 2023	Increase 2022 to 2023
Cairns	175,398	3,413
Tablelands	27,259	453
Cassowary Coast	29,972	367
Mareeba	23,702	335
Douglas	12,828	166
Cook	4,761	88
Carpentaria	2,212	42
Weipa	4,251	37
Aurukun	1,154	30
Hope Vale	1,026	22
Yarrabah	2,640	21
Northern Peninsula Area	2,908	19
Doomadgee	1,461	19
Napranum	924	18
Lockhart River	673	17
Mornington	1,079	14
Kowanyama	1,147	11
Mapoon	465	11
Pormpuraaw	644	7
Wujal Wujal	293	7
Etheridge	726	6
Burke	438	6
Croydon	270	2
Torres Strait Islands	4,286	1
Torres	3,502	(15)
TOTAL	304,019	5,097

Source: ABS.

Growth in the population in the region outside of Cairns (1,684) was a major factor leading to the Cairns Far North Queensland region leading growth of Queensland's northern regions by a substantial margin in 2022-23 (see **Chart 1**). Residential population in the wider Cairns Far North Queensland region is now over the 300,000 mark.

Chart 1. Wider Northern Regional Areas Estimated Residential Population Growth 2022-23



In recent years, Tablelands Regional Council area has replaced Mareeba Shire Council area as a leader in population growth. The two Tablelands’ Council areas now have a population of over 50,000. The figures for Cassowary Coast represent a welcome increase in population growth that in a number of previous years has been very low.

A change in pattern is the relatively slow growth of population recorded in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsular areas compared with historical patterns.

Note: Cities equal Local Government Areas. Wider Regions equal (Cairns Far North Region made up of Cairns SA4, Queensland Outback Far North SA3 and Carpentaria SA2; Townsville Northern Region made up of Townsville SA4, Outback North SA3 minus Carpentaria SA2; Mackay Region equals Mackay SA4; Rockhampton Gladstone Central Region made up of Central Queensland SA4 and the 3 Outback South SA2’s of Barcaldine – Blackall, Far Central West & Longreach.

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