

CUMMINGS ECONOMICS

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INFORMATION NOTE . . .

Preliminary Analysis Initial 2006 Census Data

The data released so far is incomplete in that it does not include in the Census count figures, numbers of overseas visitors counted, and for estimated residential population, does not include local residents overseas at the time of the Census.

However, a substantial amount of information is clear from the figures available.

In total, Census count population of people on the ground at the time of the Census (excluding overseas visitors) in the Far North Queensland region grew by almost 21,000 on the previous Census to 248,527. If overseas visitors are counted in, total number of people on the ground in the region is now well over the quarter of a million (250,000) mark. Based on overseas visitors counted at the last Census, the total count of people on the ground would be about 262,000.

In on the ground count populations, Cairns, as an urban area (Gordonvale to Palm Cove), is now over 140,000 (excluding overseas visitors, the 2006 count was 131,672). Greater Cairns (including Babinda, Yarrabah and Kuranda) would be close to passing the 150,000 mark.

A strong growth of tourism over the 2001 – 2006 period was evident with Australia visitor counts in Cairns being up from 11,411 to 14,410, an increase of 26%. Growth in visitor count numbers from interstate was particularly strong at 36%.

In terms of residential population, ie. those who normally live in the area (excluding those overseas at the time of the Census), the Far North Queensland regional population grew by 15,000 since the 2001 Census to 231,000, a growth of 1.32% pa.

However, almost all this growth was in Cairns and growth recorded outside of Cairns was quite low. Although Tableland Shires recorded solid growth, the effect of Cyclone Larry on the populations in Johnstone and Cardwell Shires was evident with a fall of about 1,400 compared with 2001. A surprise was a small fall recorded in Douglas Shire, normally a very strong growth performer.

The growth of residential population recorded in Cairns urban area of 2.55% pa over the intercensal period confirms that actual growth was probably significantly higher than earlier intercensal estimates were indicating.

Cairns urban area's growth of 14,500 (excluding local residents overseas) was slightly more than the 14,000 recorded in the equivalent Townsville/Thuringowa urban area.

With population in the rural areas around Townsville recording a fall of about 600 overall, growth in the Townsville/Northern region was lower than the Cairns/Far North region.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics will be releasing figures including local residents overseas in August.

Bill Cummings

Wednesday 27th June 2007

Table: Census Count Figures (excluding overseas visitors)			
	<u>2001</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>(Growth)</u>
<u>Cairns (Part A) (Gordonvale to Palm Cove)</u>			
Residents counted at home/Same SLA	103,890	117,262	(12.9%)
Australian Visitors	11,411	14,410	(26.0%)
Total Count	115,301	131,672	(14.0%)
<u>Far North Statistical Division</u>			
Residents Counted at home/Same SLA	203,054	220,228	(8.0%)
Australian Visitors	24,597	28,299	(15.0%)
Total Count	227,651	248,527	(9.0%)

Table: Estimated Residential Population (excluding residents overseas at the time of the Census)			
	<u>2001</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>(Growth)</u>
Cairns (Part A) (Gordonvale to Palm Cove)	108,234	122,731	(No. 14,497) (13%)
Far North Statistical Division	216,355	231,051	(No. 14,696) (7%)
Townsville/Thuringowa (Part A)	129,296	143,330	(No. 14,034) (11%)
Northern Statistical Division	183,290	196,671	(No. 13,381) (7%)

Source: ABS 2006 Census data.