

CUMMINGS ECONOMICS

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Research Note

Estimated Residential Populations in Tropical Australia, 2011

Recently released post census revised estimated residential populations for Tropical Australia, including on some new geographical boundaries, provide an opportunity to review comparative sizes of cities and the regional populations they service.

The following sets out details at three levels – the city populations based on the old city statistical subdivision boundaries (ie. comparative sizes as urban units), an immediate hinterland population based especially on the new statistical area (SA) Level 4 boundaries and remote area populations based on a range of new statistical boundaries SA Level 3 and SA Level 2 boundaries.

SUMMARY	
<u>Ranking by City SSD S12E</u>	<u>No.</u>
Townsville	167,636
Cairns	146,777
Darwin	129,063
Mackay	83,350
Rockhampton	75,648
<u>Ranking City Plus Immediate Hinterland</u>	
Cairns	233,565
Townsville	225,137
Rockhampton	217,161
Darwin	190,289
Mackay	171,297
Kimberley/Pilbara	100,409
<u>Ranking Total Servicing Region – City + Immediate + Remote</u>	
Cairns	271,410
Townsville	254,583
Darwin	231,331
Rockhampton	229,552
Mackay	171,297
Kimberley/Pilbara	100,409

Source: Cummings Economics from ABS data.

In summary, the figures indicate larger servicing regions with populations in the 230,000 – 270,000 range based on Cairns, Townsville, Darwin and Rockhampton and two smaller ones based on Mackay 170,000 and Kimberley/Pilbara 100,000.

While Townsville leads in city residential population, its immediate hinterland population is relatively low.

Note on "Cairns' Population Growth Rate Continues to Decline"

CAIRNS		
City SSD		146,777
Plus Immediate Hinterland	87,088	87,088
City plus immediate hinterland SA Level 4		233,565
Remote Hinterland		37,845
Outback Qld		
Far North SA Level 3	32,380	
Carpentaria SA Level 2	5,465	
Total Cairns Servicing Region		271,410
TOWNSVILLE		
City SSD		167,636
Plus Immediate Hinterland	57,501	57,501
City plus immediate hinterland SA Level 4		225,137
Remote Hinterland		29,446
Outback Qld		
North SA Level 3	34,911	
Less Carpentaria SA Level 2	5,465	
Total Townsville Servicing Region		254,583
MACKAY		
City SSD		83,350
Plus Immediate Hinterland	87,947	87,947
City plus immediate hinterland SA Level 4		171,297
Remote Hinterland		Nil
Total Mackay Servicing Region		171,297
ROCKHAMPTON		
City SSD		75,648
Plus Immediate Hinterland	112,383	112,383
City plus immediate hinterland SA Level 4		217,161
Remote Hinterland		12,391
Longreach SA Level 2	5,540	
Barcaldine/Blackall SA Level 2	2,543	
Other Central West SA Level 2	4,308	
Total Rockhampton Servicing Region		229,552
DARWIN		
City SD		129,063
Plus Immediate Hinterland	61,229	61,229
City plus immediate hinterland		190,289
Remote Hinterland		41,042
Total Mackay Servicing Region		231,331
WEST AUSTRALIA NORTH		
Kimberley		37,673
Pilbara		62,736
Total West Australia North		100,409
TOTAL TROPICAL AUSTRALIA		1,258,582

Source: Cummings Economics from ABS data.

