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"The Northern Professionals"

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STATISTICAL NOTE – REVIEW OF POPULATION GROWTH 2014-15

Latest Australian Bureau of Statistics population statistics indicate that 2014-15 was a very poor year for growth in regional Queensland outside the South East corner.

The preliminary figures indicate that while being a slow year for population growth, the Cairns / Tropical North Queensland region continued to consolidate its position as the most populous region in the North with an increase of 2,329 composed of Cairns City 1,498, immediate region (Cassowary Coast, Tablelands, part Mareeba and Douglas) 239 and remote area (Peninsula, Torres and Gulf) 592. Total in Cairns City (Gordonvale to Palm Cove), was 156,840 after an historically slow growth of 1%. This brought total in the Cairns / Tropical North Queensland region to 282,790.

While in the Townsville / Mt Isa region, Townsville City recorded a higher increase than Cairns City 1,963 (1%), Townsville's immediate region's population (Burdekin, Ingham, Charters Towers) dropped by 262 and the Mt Isa region also dropped by 301, making total growth 1,400 and total population in the wider region 267,750.

The Mackay growth moderated to 389 and the immediate region fell by 63, taking regional total to 182,303. Rockhampton grew by 885, but its immediate region which includes Gladstone grew strongly, taking Fitzroy regional total to 235,745.

Of total Queensland growth of 58,929 in 2014-15, only 6,909 of this growth was recorded outside of the South East corner of Greater Brisbane, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast and Toowoomba.

Cairns Tropical North Queensland region accounted for 34% of this growth.

Table: Estimated Residential Population Growth by Major Regions Outside of the SE Corner

<u>Qld Major Regions</u>	<u>Growth 2014-15</u>	<u>Total 2015</u>
Cairns/Tropical North Qld Region	2,329	282,790
Townsville/Mt Isa Region	1,400	267,750
Mackay Region	326	181,977
Rockhampton/Fitzroy Region	2,129	235,784
Wide Bay Region	1,076	289,196
Darling Downs Maranoa & Outback South Region	(-351)	149,061
Total	6,909	1,402,558

Source: Cummings Economics from ABS Cat 3218.0.

By comparison, Darwin had a better growth year recording an increase of 2,637 to 142,258 but rest of NT dropped giving NT a rise of only 939 to a total of 244,307.

The Census to be held in August 2016 is likely to see census count population of residents and visitors pass the 300,000 mark in the Tropical North Queensland region including Cairns, the immediate region and the Peninsula, Torres and Gulf areas.