



March 2019

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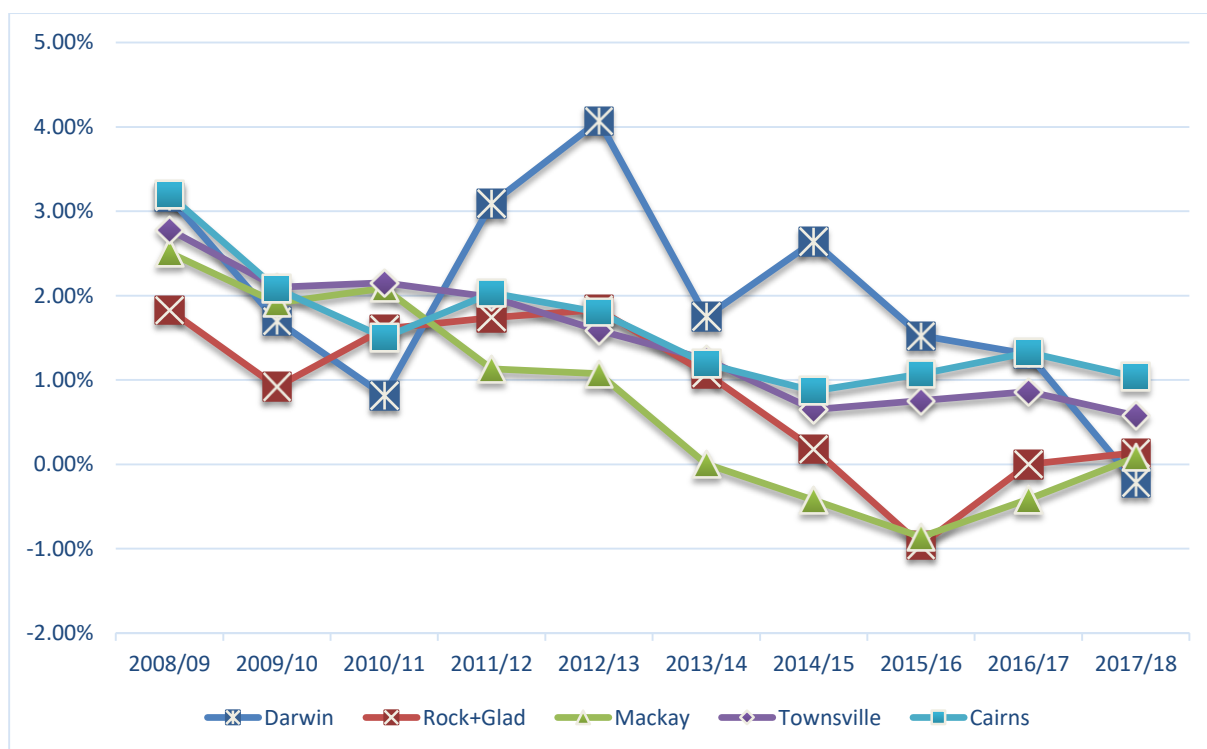
## PRELIMINARY STATISTICAL NOTE

### POPULATION GROWTH ACROSS NORTHERN AUSTRALIA 2017-18

#### CAIRNS REGION DOWN marginally, BUT STILL LEADING THE WAY.

Residential population figures released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics for 2017-18 show a decline in growth across Northern Australia with Cairns down marginally but still leading the way. Growth rates are well below long-term averages. (See Chart #1)

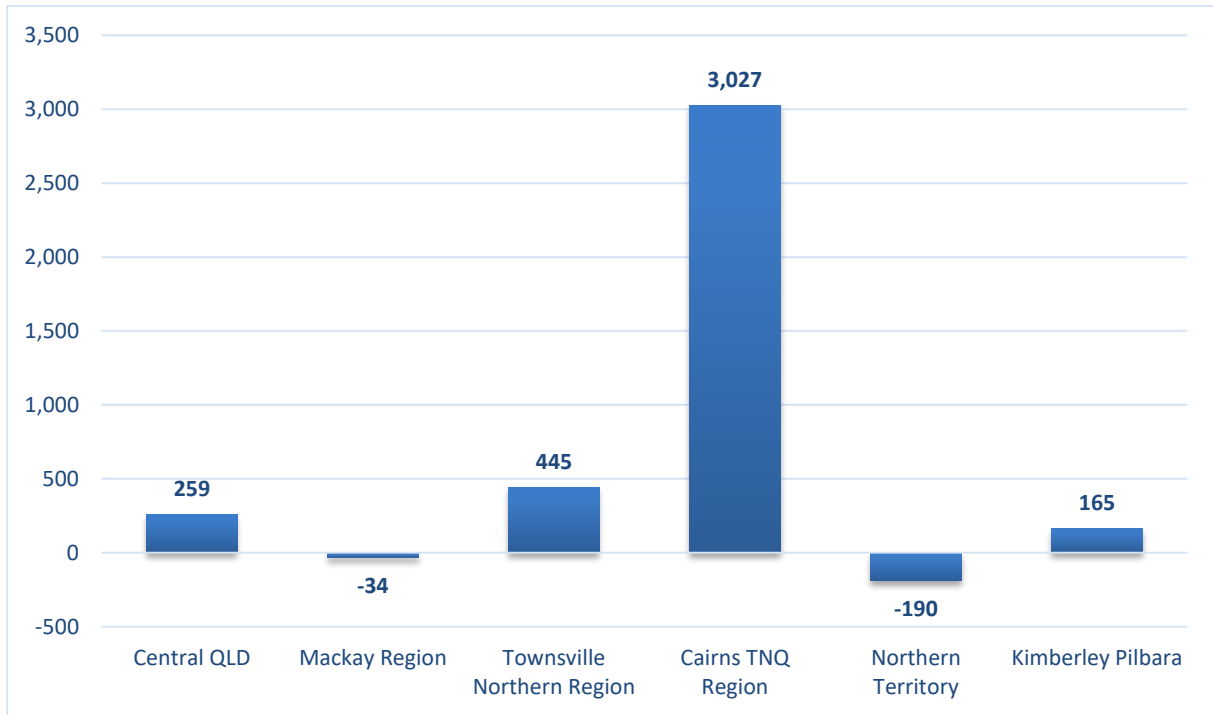
**Chart #1: Year to Year Population Growth, Main Cities (Significant Urban Areas), Northern Australia 2008 - 2018.**



Source: Cummings Economics from ABS Cat. 3218.0

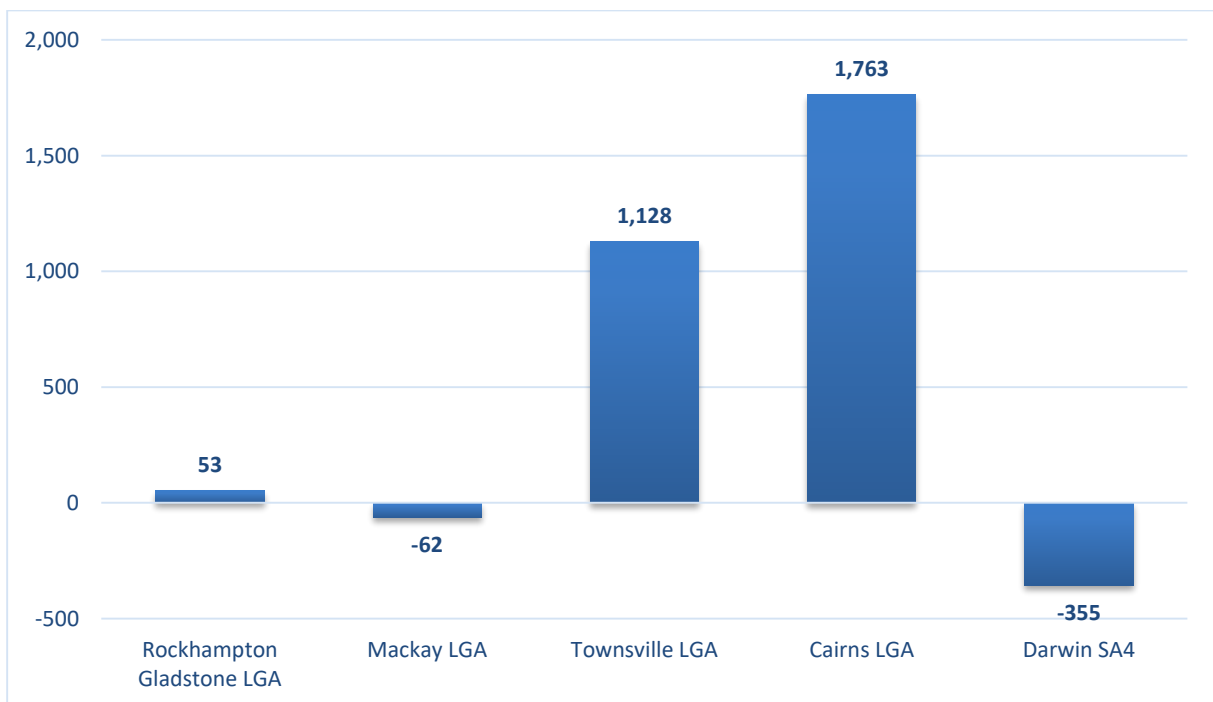
The Cairns region and Cairns City continued to lead the way in the North (See Charts #2 & #3) and to further consolidate the regions position as the largest in population in Northern Australia. (See Chart #4).

**Chart #2: Population Growth Northern Australia, Major Commercial Regions, 2017-18**



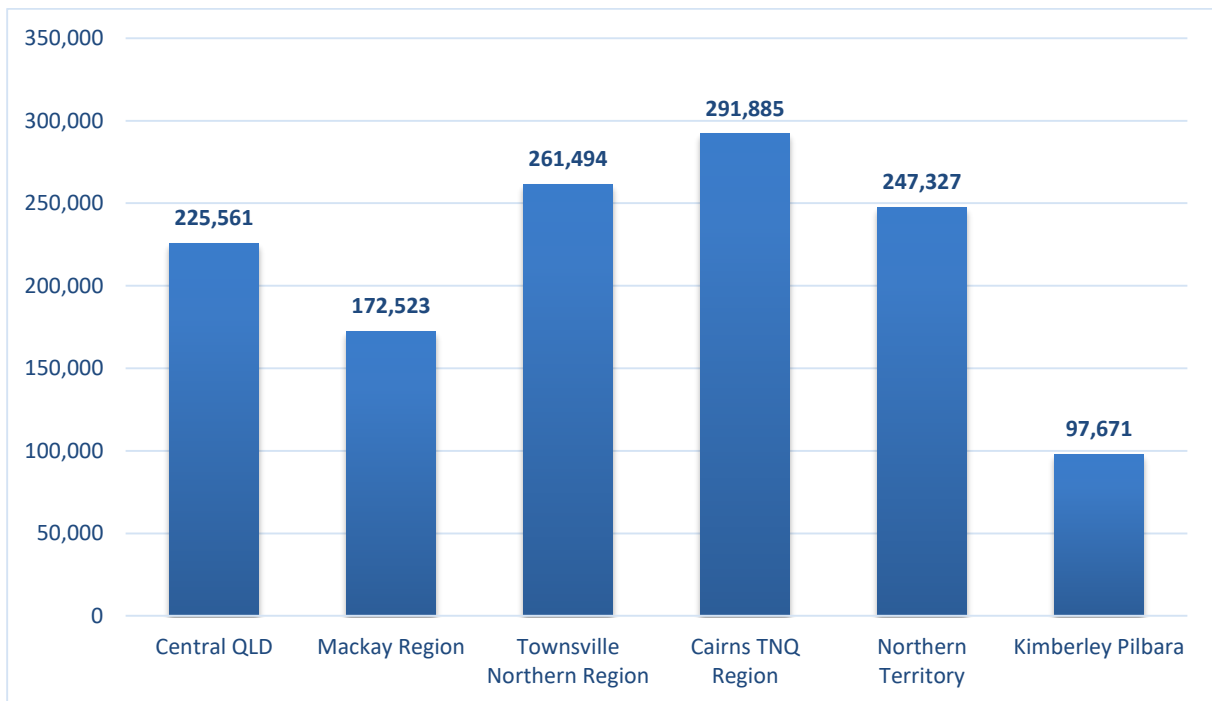
Source: Cummings Economics from ABS Cat. 3218.0

**Chart #3: Population Growth Northern Australia, Major Cities, 2017-18**



Source: Cummings Economics from ABS Cat. 3218.0

**Chart #4: Population Northern Australia, Major Commercial Regions, 2017-18**



Source: Cummings Economics from ABS Cat. 3218.0

### Regional Milestone

The immediate Cairns region (Cairns, Cassowary Coast, Tablelands, Mareeba and Douglas) has now pushed over the 250,000 quarter of a million mark and if the outlying areas of the Cape, Torres and Carpentaria are included, the population that looks to Cairns as its regional capital at 292,000 is now close to 300,000. Population in combined Central and Northern Queensland regions is sitting at 962,000, i.e. just under one million.

### Regional Patterns

Cairns LGA continues to hold onto growth at 1.1% but well below the 17-year average since 2001 of 2.2%.

Mackay and Central Queensland regions are showing some signs of revival after going backwards following the end of the mining construction boom but growth is still at low levels.

Townsville regions growth is down to 0.3% and the city 0.6%.

The end of the construction of the Darwin LNG project has seen a collapse of growth of Darwin and the Northern Territory that was negative in 2017/18.

The Kimberley Pilbara region has also seen growth strongly affected by the retreat of the mining boom and remains low.

**Patterns within Cairns Region**

Within the Cairns Tropical North Queensland region there has been growth across most Local Government Areas (See Table #5) with a notable exception being Douglas Shire. Good growth was recorded in Mareeba, Cook, Weipa and most Aboriginal & Torres Strait Island Communities.

**Chart #5: Population Growth Cairns Tropical North Queensland Region, Local Government Areas, 2017-18**

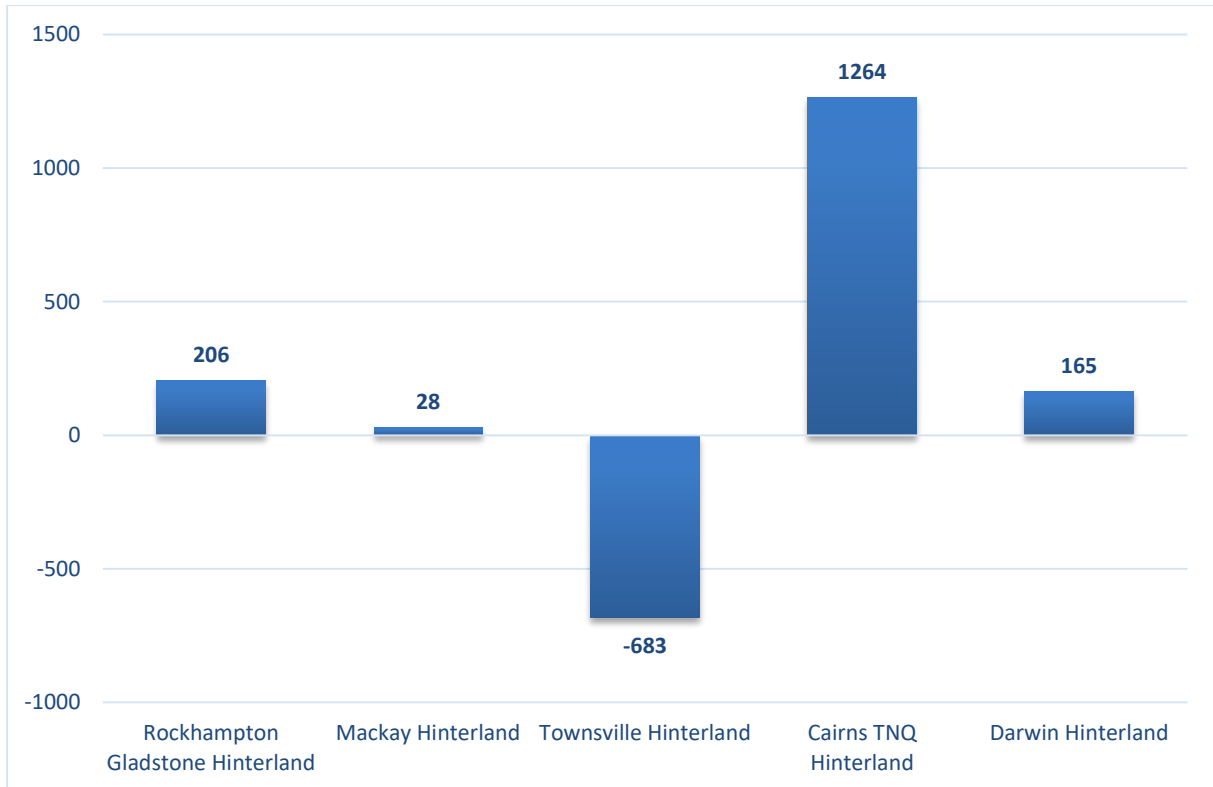
Cairns LGA	163,762	165,525	1,763	1.08%
Cassowary Coast LGA	29,578	29,689	111	0.38%
Tablelands LGA	25,335	25,541	206	0.81%
Mareeba LGA	22,203	22,517	314	1.41%
Douglas LGA	12,261	12,257	-4	-0.03%
Yarrabah LGA	2,799	2,848	49	1.75%
<b>Immediate Region</b>	<b>255,938</b>	<b>258,377</b>	<b>2,439</b>	<b>0.95%</b>
Etheridge LGA	807	804	-3	-0.37%
Croydon LGA	292	288	-4	-1.37%
Burke LGA	345	352	7	2.03%
Carpentaria LGA	1,994	1,974	-20	-1.00%
Doomadgee LGA	1,494	1,507	13	0.87%
Mornington LGA	1,205	1,218	13	1.08%
<b>Gulf Area</b>	<b>6,137</b>	<b>6,143</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0.10%</b>
Cook	4,344	4,445	101	2.33%
Weipa	4,156	4,240	84	2.02%
Wujal Wujal	298	306	8	2.68%
Kowanyama	972	977	5	0.51%
Pormpuraaw	819	833	14	1.71%
Hope Vale	1,046	1,081	35	3.35%
Lockhart River	760	782	22	2.89%
Aurukun	1,343	1,382	39	2.90%
Mapoon	322	325	3	0.93%
Napranum	1,018	1,048	30	2.95%
NPA	3,001	3,069	68	2.27%
Torres	3,809	3,848	39	1.02%
Torres Strait Islands	4,860	4,994	134	2.76%
<b>Peninsula/Torres Area</b>	<b>26,748</b>	<b>27,330</b>	<b>582</b>	<b>2.18%</b>

Source: Cummings Economics from ABS Cat. 3218.0

**City Hinterland Populations**

Growth in city hinterland population 2017/18 of 1264 in the Cairns TNQ hinterland compared with a drop in the Townsville Northern hinterland population of 668. (See Chart #6)

**Chart #6: Population Growth Northern Australia, City Hinterland, 2017-18**



Source: Cummings Economics from ABS Cat. 3218.0