

CUMMINGS ECONOMICS

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Statistical Note:

REPORTED POPULATION FIGURES CORRECTION

This note is to correct any misimpressions that may have been given by a report in a Cairns' local newspaper about regional population levels in the northern regions of QLD.

It is correct that residential population in the four major regions of tropical QLD based on the regional cities of Rockhampton, Mackay, Townsville and Cairns has now passed the one-million mark with implications for potential viability of a separate Northern State. However, residential population figures for each of the four regions consist of two elements, an immediate region defined by a Statistical Area Level 4 (SA4) and sections of Outback Queensland areas that are primarily serviced by each city.

Residential population (2023) in these regions was led by the Cairns/Far North/Gulf Region at 304,024; followed by Townsville/Mt Isa/North West Region at 269,763; Rockhampton/Gladstone/Central Highlands/Central West Region at 249,020 and Mackay/Issac/Whitsunday Region at 189,643.

Chart 1: Wider Northern Regional Areas Estimated Residential Population 2023

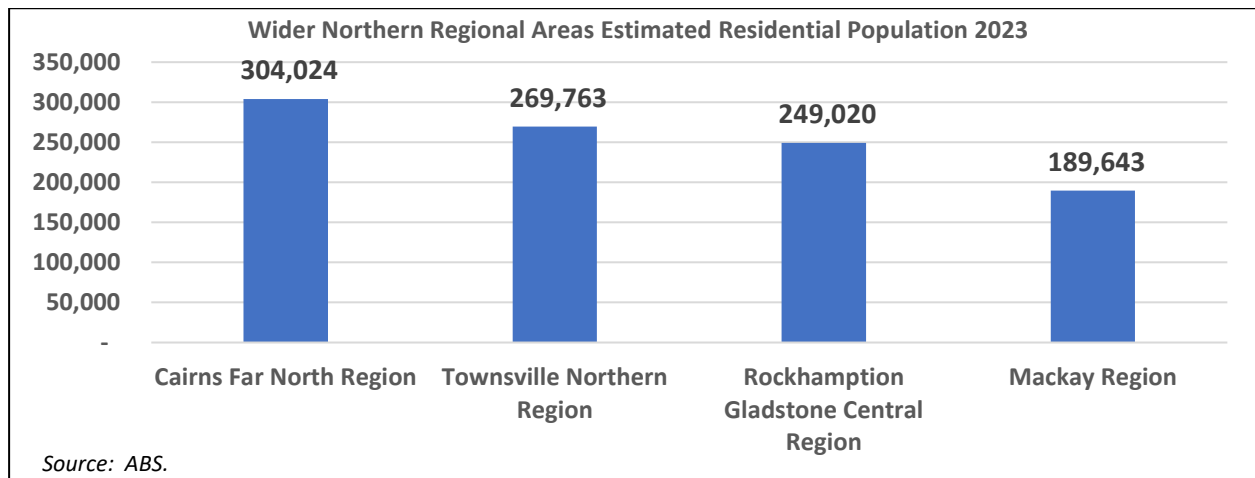
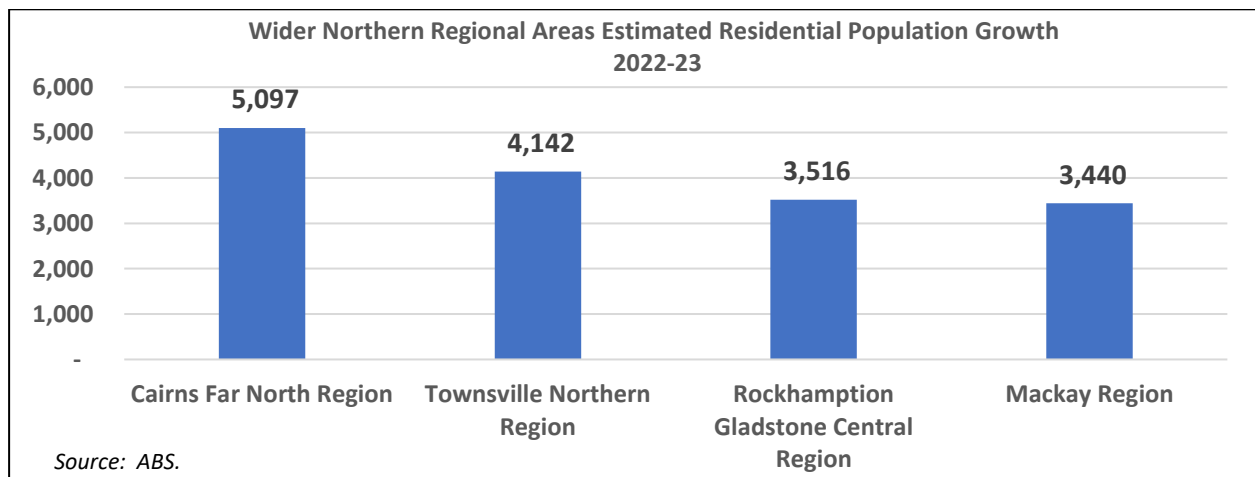


Chart 2: Wider Northern Regional Areas Estimated Residential Population Growth 2022-23



While Cairns City LGA led in population growth in 2022-23 (see **Chart 3**), Townsville City LGA reached a milestone population of 200,000 as against Cairns City 175,000 (see **Chart 4**). On recent growth rates, Cairns should be expected to also follow and pass over the 200,000 mark in about an eight (8) year timeframe. That is about the time of the Brisbane Olympics.

Chart 3: Northern Cities Estimated Residential Population Growth 2022-23

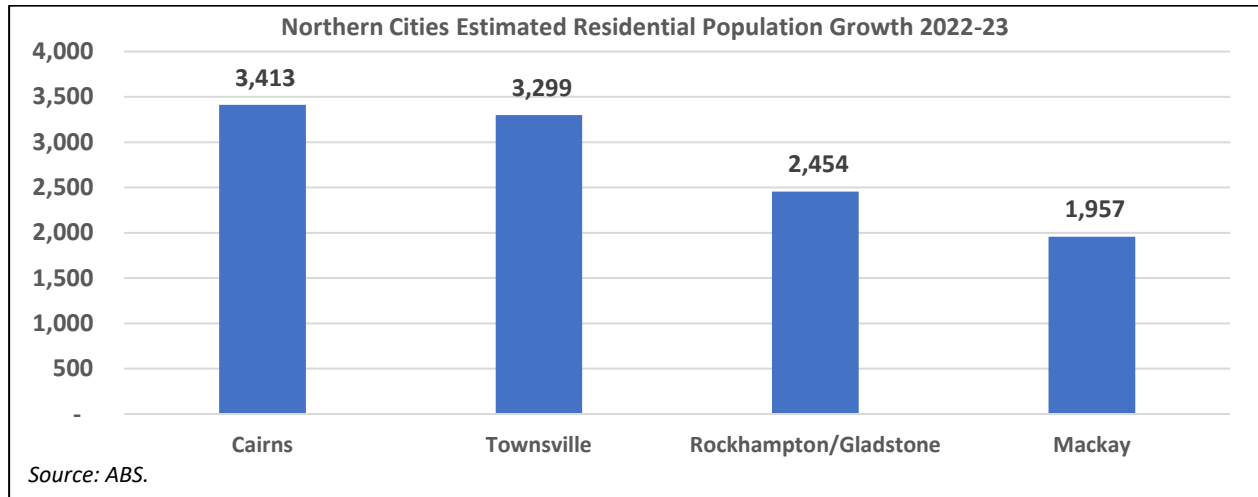
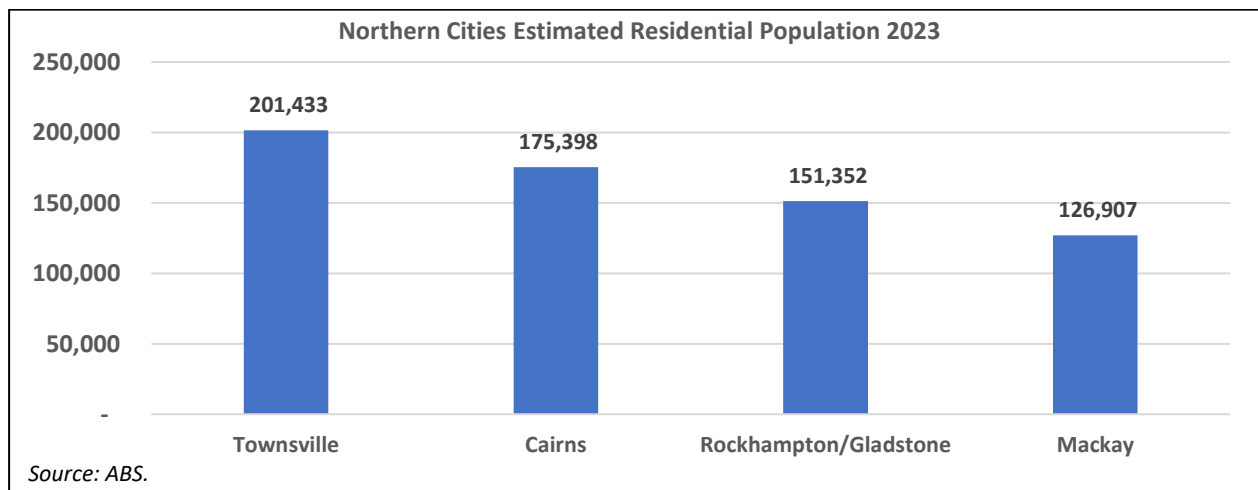


Chart 4: Northern Cities Estimated Residential Population 2023



Note: Rockhampton is inland and much of the recent urban growth has been in its port, Gladstone.

In 2022, the population of the four (4) Tropical QLD Regions grew by 16,195 to reach 1,012,450 compared with the growth of the State of Tasmania of 2,105 to reach 573,156. Each of the four (4) Queensland regions recorded a population growth substantially higher than the State of Tasmania.

Population growth across Northern Australia including the Tropical QLD Regions, Northern Territory and Western Australia Outback North was 19,897 to reach a total population of 1,364,329 in 2023.

Note: Cities equal - Local Government Areas. Wider Regions equal - (Cairns/ Far North Region made up of Cairns SA4, Queensland Outback Far North SA3 & 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 & the Outback South SA2s of Barcaldine-Blackall, Far Central West & Longreach.)

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July 2024

