CUMMINGS ECONOMICS

38 Grafton St (PO Box 2148) CAIRNS Q 4870 ABN 99 734 489 175
Tel : 07 4031 2888
Email : cummings@cummings.net.au
Website : www.cummings.net.au

"The Northern Professionals"

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CAIRNS – LEADING MARITIME INDUSTRY CENTRE

Cairns' importance as a maritime centre is strongly illustrated by latest statistics on registration of commercial vessels in Queensland.

In number of commercial vessels registered in different Queensland ports with the Australian Marine Safety Authority and Marine Safety Queensland, Cairns leads, even outranking the port of Brisbane, by about 35%. The leadership is almost right across the board.

The region's large Reef Fleet, probably the largest tourism fleet in Australia, means that it leads in passenger vessels registered – double the number of the next ranking Brisbane.

With 60% of Queensland's coastal areas in the Peninsula Australia region north to Cape York and down and around to the Northern Territory border, Cairns leads in fishing vessel registrations, some 55% more than the next ranking Brisbane.

The operations of commercial vessels, especially of Seaswift based in Cairns with its fleet of trading and work vessels, leads it to have the largest number of registrations of those types of commercial vessels ahead of next ranking Brisbane.

Only in Hire and Drive vessels do the Whitsundays and Gold and Sunshine Coasts lead and Cairns comes fourth.

Not counted in these statistics is the fact that Cairns, as the location of the Australian Navy's north-eastern operational base, has the largest number of naval vessels in the State.

Against this background, it is not surprising that Cairns plays a leading role in the State in having a large marine servicing sector including three shipyards that not only service local vessels but also vessels down the Queensland coast, across the North and into the Papua New Guinea Pacific area.

Latest estimates put the turnover of the marine sector in the Peninsula Australia (Far North Queensland) region at about $1 billion a year and creating direct employment of the order of 5,000.

Table: Count of Commercial Ships with National Law Certificate of Operation (CoO) Queensland Regions, April 2017

CoO issued at	Class 1 - Passenger	Class 2 - Non-pax	Class 3 - Fishing	Class 4 - Hire & Drive	Total
AIRLIE BEACH	90	196	48	160	494
BRISBANE	93	608	453	34	1188
BUNDABERG	16	61	171	9	257
CAIRNS	187	628	700	88	1603
GLADSTONE	43	263	265	23	594
GOLD COAST	56	358	96	153	663
MACKAY	5	107	132	1	245
SUNSHINE COAST	30	255	340	183	808
TOWNSVILLE	14	292	275	31	612
URANGAN	18	130	327	29	504
Total	**552**	**2898**	**2807**	**711**	**6968**

Source: MSQ from AMSA Data.