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Statistical Note

POPULATION GROWTH 2018-19

Recently released Australian Bureau of Statistics Estimated Resident Population growth figures indicate the following.

The year 2018-19 was another disappointing year of growth for centres and regions across the north.

The Cairns/ Tropical North Queensland region, the largest in population in the north, continued to lead growth, but with population in Cairns City LGA down to 1400, ie. 0.8%, one of the lowest in this city’s history of the past 50 years.

Table – Estimated Residential Population Growth – Major Northern Regions, 2018-19

Major northern regions	Population 2018-19 No.	Growth 2018-19 No.	Growth 2018-19 %
Cairns TNQ Region	295,346	2570	0.9%
Cairns City LGA	166,862	1400	0.8%
Townsville/ North West Region	261,840	416	0.2%
Townsville City LGA	195,032	1013	0.5%
Northern Territory	245,929	(-1129)	(-0.5%)
Darwin City LGA	82,886	(-1614)	(-1.9%)
Central Qld Region	226,811	1306	0.6%
Rockhampton LGA	81,512	461	0.6%
Mackay Region	173,066	525	0.3%
Mackay City LGA	116,763	249	0.2%

A relatively strong growth in Cairns’ hinterland area saw regional growth slightly higher at 0.9%.

While Townsville city growth recorded 0.5%, the rest of the Townsville/ Mt Isa region continued its decline and brought the region’s growth back to a meagre 0.2%.

The Rockhampton/ Central Queensland and Mackay regions have now moved out of the slump in population following the mining boom collapse, but are still recording relatively slow growth.

The Northern Territory and Darwin continued the decline that set in with the end of the major offshore gas project.

Within the Cairns/ TNQ region, the outlying areas of the Peninsula, Torres and Gulf areas recorded growth faster than the city at 1.7% and moved past the 40,000 mark.

In the core areas, the local government areas all recorded growth with Mareeba leading at 1.0%, Douglas 0.9%, Cassowary Coast 0.4% and Tablelands 0.2%.