

# CUMMINGS ECONOMICS

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## Statistical Note CAIRNS HOSPITAL FUNDING COMPARED

The announcement in the Queensland State Budget of additional beds for Cairns Hospital is welcome. The acute need for expanded bed numbers is being recognized with 45 of the State's additional 289 beds over the next two years, to take place at Cairns Hospital, i.e. about 15%.

But examination of the 'Queensland Hospital Capacity Expansion Program' between 2024 to 2028 indicates that the Cairns region is receiving no special treatment and that on some measures, what is proposed is below what could have been expected on a population serviced basis.

The Cairns/ Tropical North Queensland Region serviced by Cairns Hospital at a regional level, now has a residential population of close to 300,000, representing about **6%** of the State population, making it the largest in the north and close to the largest region in population in Queensland outside the south-east corner.

Of a total State expenditure of \$9,398 million, Cairns Hospital is indicated to receive only \$250 million, i.e. **2.7%**. Of a total of 2,279 beds, Cairns is indicated to receive only 96, i.e. **4.2%**.

The following table gives details of the 2024 to 2028 'Queensland Capacity Expansion Program' in terms of expenditure and beds.

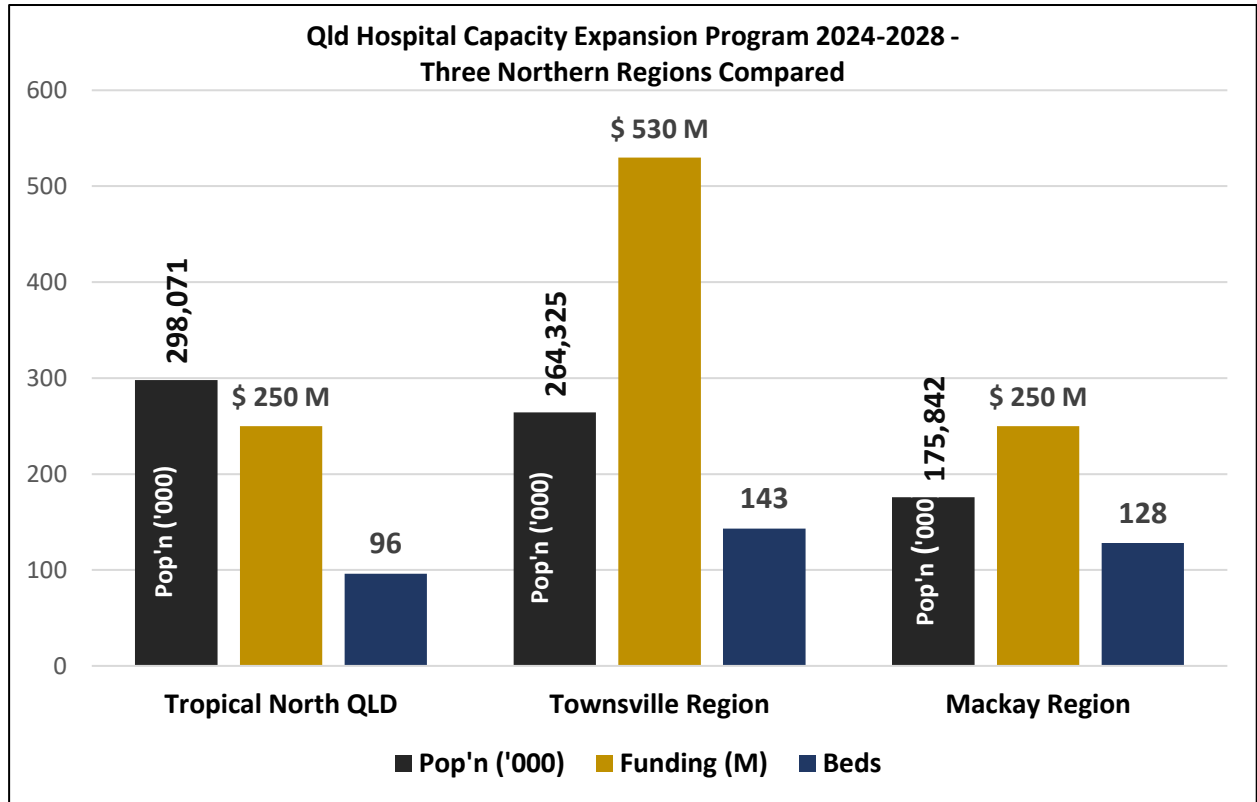
**Table: Queensland Hospital Capacity Expansion Program, 2024 - 2028**

Hospital	Region	\$(M)	Beds
New Coomera Hospital	SEQ	1,300	404
Redcliffe Hospital Expansion	SEQ	1,060	204
New Queensland Cancer Centre	SEQ	750	150
Ipswich Hospital Expansion	SEQ	710	200
Logan Hospital Expansion	SEQ	530	112
QELI Hospital Expansion	SEQ	465	112
Princess Alexandra Hospital Expansion	SEQ	350	249
Prince Charles Hospital Expansion	SEQ	300	93
Robina Hospital Expansion	SEQ		114
<b>SEQ Total</b>	<b>SEQ</b>	<b>5,465</b>	<b>1,638</b>
<b>New Toowoomba Hospital</b>	<b>DD</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>118</b>
New Bundaberg Hospital	WB	1,200	121
Hervey Bay Hospital Expansion	WB	400	35
<b>WB Total</b>	<b>WB</b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>156</b>
<b>Mackay Hospital Expansion</b>	<b>MKY</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>128</b>
<b>Townsville University Hospital Expansion</b>	<b>TVL</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>143</b>
<b>Cairns Hospital Expansion</b>	<b>TNQ</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>96</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>9,395</b>	<b>2,279</b>

Source: Queensland Government Media Release.

The following chart gives comparative wider regional population serviced by the three major northern cities of Cairns, Townsville and Mackay and the comparative expenditure and bed numbers proposed in the ‘Queensland Capacity Expansion Program’.

**Chart: Qld Hospital Capacity Expansion Program 2024 – 2028 – Comparison of Proposed Expenditure and Additional Bed Numbers**



Source: Qld Government Media Statement; Population – ABS data.

**Note:** Wider Regions Serviced – Cairns Region Cairns SA4 plus Outback Far North SA3 plus Carpentaria; Townsville SA4 plus Outback North SA3 less Carpentaria; Mackay SA4.

The chart illustrates that Cairns/ Tropical North Queensland Region is the largest in population, but the Townsville and Mackay regions will be allocated more additional beds. Townsville will receive twice the expenditure level as Cairns. Mackay with a little more than half the population will receive equivalent expenditure to Cairns.