

CUMMINGS ECONOMICS

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Statistical Note

CAIRNS CITY & REGION REACH NEW MILESTONES

Cairns has passed 170,000; Wider Region at 300,000.

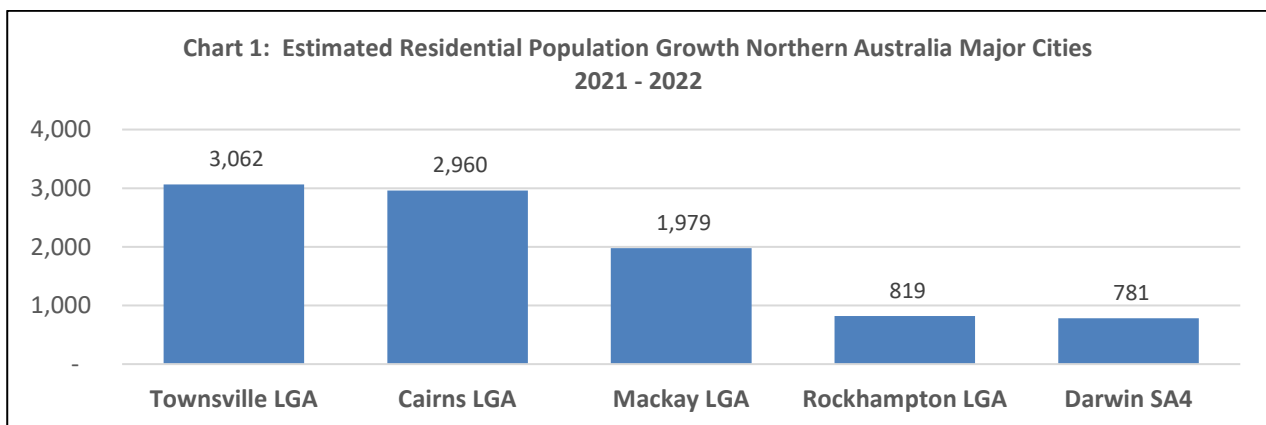
Latest Australian Bureau of Statistics estimated residential population figures for 2022 indicate that the Cairns Local Government Area (LGA) population has passed the 170,000 mark. The Cairns wider region up to the Torres Strait and the Papua New Guinea border and west to the Gulf area and the Northern Territory border recorded at June 2022 as being at 299,400 and now will be the first region in northern Australia to pass over the 300,000 mark.

The figures indicate that Cairns LGA staged a major post-COVID recovery in 2021-22 adding 2,900 in population (+1.7% growth) after plunging to a mere growth of 439 in 2020-21 due to COVID restrictions and well ahead of recent years of less than 1%.

Among the northern cities however, it was pipped in absolute growth by Townsville at 3,062 (+1.5% growth) but Cairns led in percentage growth (+1.7% growth) (see Table 1 & Chart 1).

Table 1: Estimated Residential Population Growth Northern Australia Major Cities 2021-2022

Major Cities	2021	2022	Growth	%
Townsville LGA	195,515	198,577	3,062	1.54%
Cairns LGA	169,312	172,272	2,960	1.72%
Mackay LGA	123,183	125,162	1,979	1.58%
Rockhampton LGA	82,904	83,723	819	0.98%
Darwin SA4	148,801	149,582	781	0.52%

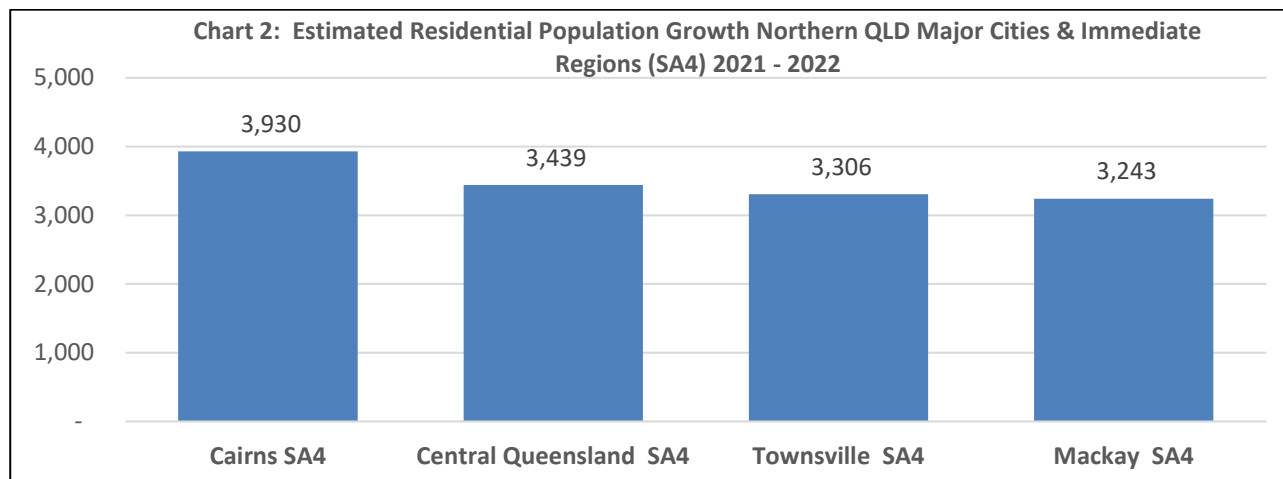


Source: Cummings Economics from Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Cairns' hinterland area recorded strong growth and in terms of city and immediate regions (Statistical Area Level 4), the Cairns region continued to consolidate its leading position across the northern Australia (see Table 2 & Chart 2).

Table 2: Estimated Residential Population Growth Northern QLD Major Cities & Immediate Regions (SA4) 2021-2022

Major Cities & Regions (SA4)	2021	2022	Growth	%
Cairns SA4	257,149	261,079	3,930	1.528%
Central Queensland SA4	231,104	234,543	3,439	1.488%
Townsville SA4	237,452	240,758	3,306	1.392%
Mackay SA4	183,269	186,512	3,243	1.770%

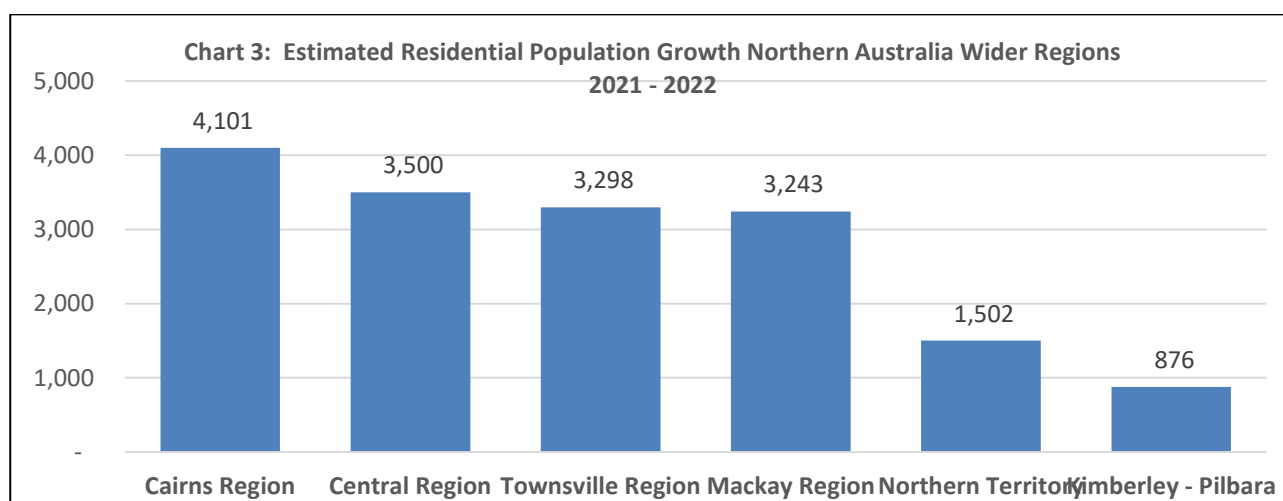


Source: Cummings Economics from Australian Bureau of Statistics.

In terms of wider servicing regions, the Cairns Tropical (Far) North region also continued to consolidate its leading position with a growth of 4,101 (see Table 3 & Chart 3).

Table 3: Estimated Residential Population Growth Northern Australia Wider Regions 2021-2022

Wider Regions	2021	2022	Growth	%
Cairns Region	295,307	299,408	4,101	1.389%
Central Region	241,764	245,264	3,500	1.448%
Townsville Region	263,506	266,804	3,298	1.252%
Mackay Region	183,269	186,512	3,243	1.770%
Northern Territory	249,200	250,702	1,502	0.603%
Kimberley - Pilbara	96,960	97,836	876	0.903%
TOTAL	1,330,006	1,346,526	16,520	1.242%



Source: Cummings Economics from Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Within the Cairns Tropical (Far) North region's LGAs outside of Cairns, Tablelands followed by Douglas and Mareeba recorded the fastest growth (See Table 4). A marked change in recent years has been a slowing of growth in the region's indigenous local government areas compared with past trends.

Table 4: Estimated Residential Population Growth Tropical (Far) North QLD - LGAs Outside of Cairns 2021-2022

Main LGAs	2021	2022	Growth	%
Tablelands	26,488	26,844	356	1.34%
Douglas	12,445	12,693	248	2.00%
Mareeba	23,174	23,372	198	0.85%
Cassowary Coast	29,525	29,651	126	0.43%
Cook	4,631	4,679	48	1.04%
Weipa	4,176	4,216	40	0.96%
Carpentaria	2,159	2,177	18	0.83%
Burke	430	432	2	0.47%
Etheridge	724	724	-	0.00%
Croydon	269	269	-	0.00%
TOTAL	104,021	105,057	1,036	1.00%
Indigenous LGAs	2021	2022	Growth	%
Kowanyama	1,108	1,143	35	3.16%
Yarrabah	2,598	2,624	26	1.00%
Northern Peninsula Area	2,886	2,896	10	0.35%
Doomadgee	1,435	1,445	10	0.70%
Mapoon	442	452	10	2.26%
Hope Vale	999	1,006	7	0.70%
Mornington	1,061	1,067	6	0.57%
Lockhart River	653	659	6	0.92%
Napranum	907	910	3	0.33%
Wujal Wujal	284	286	2	0.70%
Pormpuraaw	632	633	1	0.16%
Aurukun	1,131	1,131	-	0.00%
Torres Strait Islands	4,300	4,295	(-5)	(-0.17%)
Torres	3,533	3,527	(-6)	(-0.17%)
TOTAL	17,328	17,404	76	0.44%
OVERALL TOTAL	121,349	122,461	1,112	0.92%