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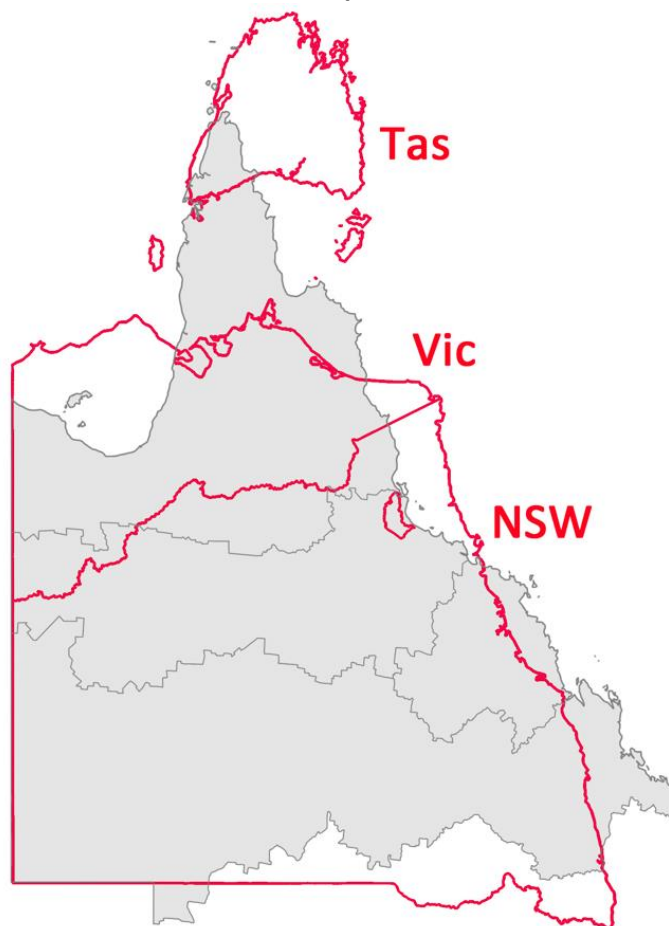
May 2023 / CE Ref-J3465

Statistical Note

POPULATION NOW ONE MILLION

Australia's great Tropical NorthEast that accounts for 73% of the area of the State of QLD and covers an area equivalent to the combined areas of the States of New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania and the main populated parts of South Australia (see Map 1), has reached a major milestone.

Map 1



Residential population in Australia's Tropical NorthEast has reached one million. Estimated residential population of the area published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics as at 30th June 2022 totalled 997,998, an increase of 14,142 on the year before. It can be expected that the population will have well and truly passed the one million mark over the past year (see following Table 1).

Table 1: Estimated Residential Population Growth, Australia’s Tropical NorthEast – Wider Regions 2021-2022 & Preliminary Estimate 2023

	2021	2022	Growth		Preliminary ⁽¹⁾ Est. 2023
	No.	No.	No.	%	No.
Cairns Tropical (Far) North Wider Region	295,307	299,408	4,101	1.4%	303,509
Townsville Northern Wider Region	263,506	266,804	3,298	1.3%	270,102
Rockhampton Central Wider Region	241,764	245,264	3,500	1.4%	248,764
Mackay Wider Region	183,269	186,512	3,243	1.8%	189,755
TOTAL	983,846	997,988	14,142	1.4%	1,012,130

Source: Cummings Economics from Australian Bureau of Statistics data.

Note ⁽¹⁾: Estimated to grow at same number as 2021-22.

Note: Cairns wider region includes Cairns SA4, Outback QLD-Far North SA3 plus Carpentaria SA2; Townsville wider region includes Townsville SA4, Outback QLD North SA3 less Carpentaria SA2; Mackay region covers Mackay SA4; Central region includes Central QLD SA4 plus LGAs Barcaldine, Blackall, Longreach, Winton and Boulia.

Table 2: Estimated Residential Population Growth, Australia’s Tropical NorthEast – Major Cities 2021-2022 & Preliminary Estimate 2023

	2021	2022	Growth		Preliminary ⁽¹⁾ Est. 2023
	No.	No.	No.	%	No.
Townsville LGA	195,515	198,577	3,062	1.5%	201,639
Cairns LGA	169,312	172,272	2,960	1.7%	175,232
Mackay LGA	123,183	125,162	1,979	1.6%	127,141
Rockhampton Gladstone LGAs ⁽²⁾	147,208	149,154	1,946	1.3%	151,100
TOTAL	635,218	645,165	9,947	1.5%	655,112

Source: Cummings Economics from Australian Bureau of Statistics data.

Note ⁽¹⁾: Estimated to grow at same number as 2021-22.

Note ⁽²⁾: In the Central region, the main port is located at Gladstone on the coast east of Rockhampton compared with the other regions where the main port is located at the major city.

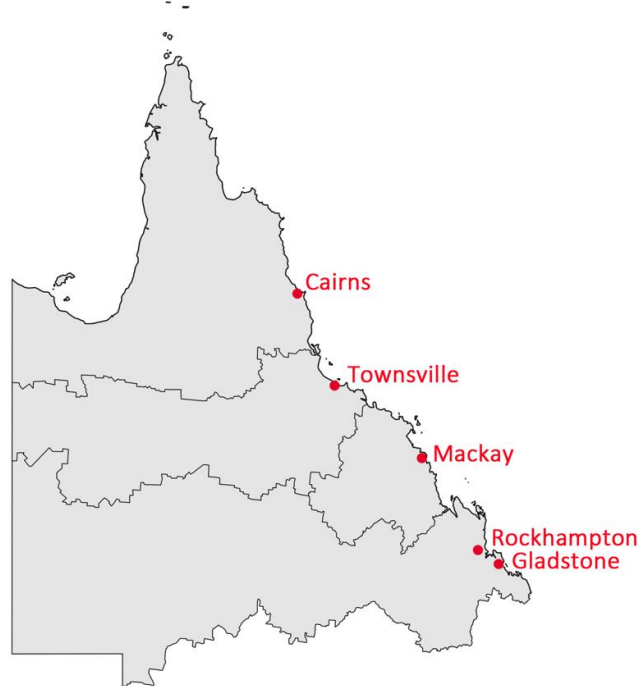
Australia’s Tropical NorthEast is comprised of four major sub-regions that are serviced by the cities of Cairns, Townsville, Mackay and Rockhampton/Gladstone (see following Map 2). This super region stretches from just south of the Tropic of Capricorn at 23° south right up to the Papua New Guinea border at about 10° south.

Each of the four major sub-regions is state-sized.

The Cairns Tropical (Far) North region is over 1½ times the size of Victoria and as deep from north to south as New South Wales. The smallest, the Mackay region, is equivalent in area to the State of Tasmania. The Central region based on Rockhampton and Gladstone has an area more than double Victoria and over 60% of New South Wales. The Townsville Northern region covers an area larger than Victoria.

Among the major cities, Townsville leads with its population also reaching a milestone in 2023, passing the 200,000 mark, ahead of Cairns at around 175,000. Rockhampton/Gladstone is also passing a major milestone at 150,000 and Mackay is about 127,000.

Map 2



This Tropical NorthEast super region plays a major role in the Australian economy.

Value of mineral production based especially on the Central and Mackay regions' coal fields, Mt Isa area base metals and Weipa's bauxite, leads all states except Western Australia.

The Tropical NorthEast super region, based especially on its mineral production, is second only to Western Australia in value of merchandise exports by sea. In total merchandise exports (including those by air), the Tropical NorthEast comes in third, just below New South Wales and ahead of the States of Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania.

In agricultural production, the Tropical NorthEast is almost up to the State of South Australia. It is Australia's largest beef production region with Rockhampton the "Beef Capital of Australia". It is by far Australia's largest sugar producing region with the Mackay region leading. The Cairns region is now Australia's third largest fruit producing region. The Tropical NorthEast is a major fishery region led by activity in the Cairns Tropical (Far) North.

Off the coast is the Great Barrier Reef and apart from playing a major role in domestic tourism, the Tropical NorthEast exceeds the States of Western Australia, South Australia and Tasmania in international holiday visitors. Its seaports record some of the largest cargo tonnages in Australia and Cairns airport has the largest passenger throughput of all airports in Australia outside of the major metropolitan and near-metropolitan areas.

In defence, Townsville is a major army and airforce base and Cairns is location of Australia's north eastern naval base. The Rockhampton region is location of Australia's periodic joint international defence exercises.

Over the years, the population has grown from being about the same as the State of Tasmania in the 1950s to now approaching twice the population of the State of Tasmania.