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Statistical Note

TABLELANDS POPULATION PASSES 50,000

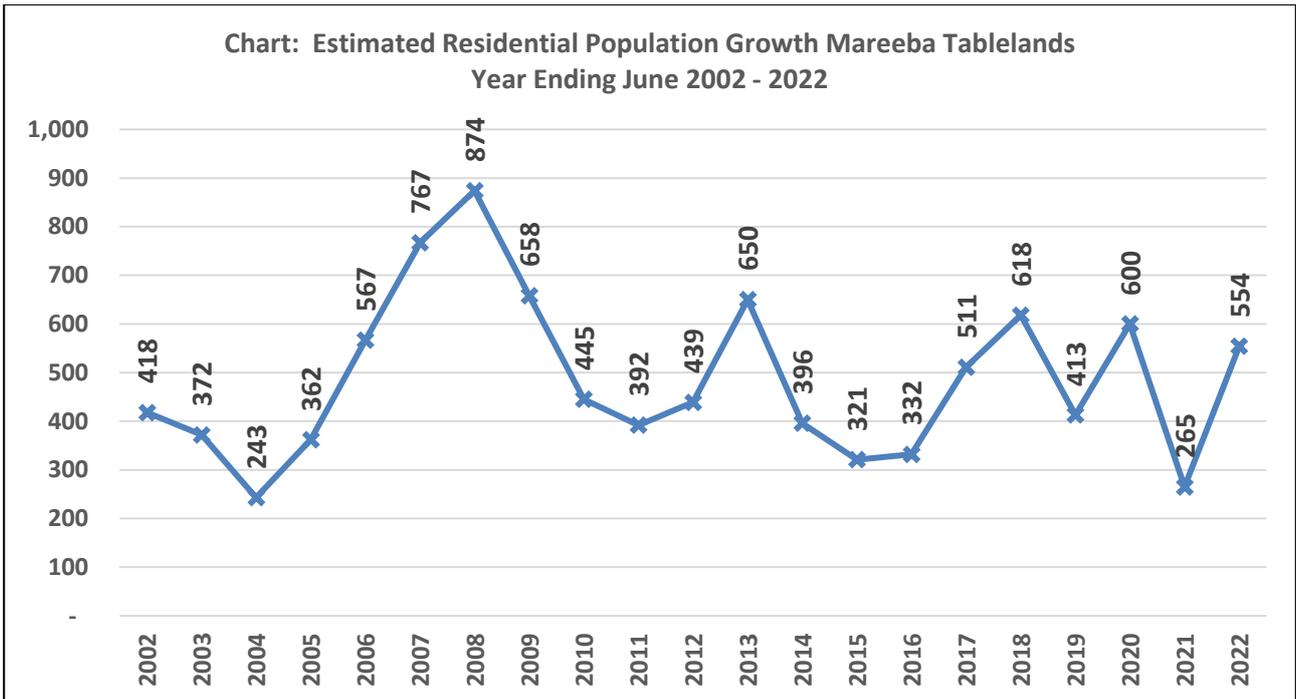
Latest Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) estimated residential population figures for June 2022 indicates the Tablelands area has reached a major milestone.

The Tablelands area as measured by the populations of the Mareeba and Tablelands Local Government Areas (LGAs) has hit the 50,000 milestone (see Table and Chart).

Table: Estimated Residential Population Growth, Tablelands Area (Mareeba & Tablelands LGAs) 2001-2022

Year	Mareeba	Tablelands	TOTAL	Growth
2001	18,125	21,894	40,019	
2002	18,236	22,201	40,437	418
2003	18,307	22,502	40,809	372
2004	18,353	22,699	41,052	243
2005	18,553	22,861	41,414	362
2006	18,753	23,228	41,981	567
2007	19,195	23,553	42,748	767
2008	19,737	23,885	43,622	874
2009	20,177	24,103	44,280	658
2010	20,495	24,230	44,725	445
2011	20,745	24,372	45,117	392
2012	20,953	24,603	45,556	439
2013	21,379	24,827	46,206	650
2014	21,542	25,060	46,602	396
2015	21,812	25,111	46,923	321
2016	22,038	25,217	47,255	332
2017	22,236	25,530	47,766	511
2018	22,517	25,867	48,384	618
2019	22,703	26,094	48,797	413
2020	23,047	26,350	49,397	600
2021	23,174	26,488	49,662	265
2022	23,372	26,844	50,216	554
TOTAL GROWTH	5,247	4,950		10,197

Source: Cummings Economics from Australian Bureau of Statistics data.



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As the table illustrates, the Tablelands area population passed the 40,000 mark in 2001.

While many of Australia’s rural areas have been declining in population, the Tablelands area has stood out as one rural area that has grown steadily over the years. Behind growth, has been a number of factors, especially the role of the Mareeba Dimbulah Water Supply Scheme based on Tinaroo Dam in greatly expanding agricultural production in the area, especially horticultural production to take the Cairns (SA4) region to being the third largest fruit growing area in Australia.

The Tablelands area is one of the most desired lifestyle locations in northern Australia.

Contributing to growth has been tourism and location of population working in other parts of the region including mines and in Cairns. There has been a marked rise in retiree population in the area.

The population of 50,000 makes the Tablelands area one of the largest concentrations of population in northern Australia outside of the major cities, exceeding the Whitsundays area at 39,000, Cassowary Coast at 29,000 and Central Highlands at 29,000.

As the above chart illustrates, recorded growth has fluctuated but never fallen below zero.

Over the period, growth has been shared between the two local government areas at about 5,000 each.