UNDERSTANDING OUR PART OF THE WORLD

CAIRNS CITY – A SUSTAINED LONG TERM GROWTH CENTRE

At the end of World War II, in 1947, Cairns city's population was a mere 16,600. Since then, Cairns has increased its population almost ten-fold. Since 1976, Cairns has more than trebled its population passing seven other Australian cities along the way. On a continuation of long term trends, the city can be expected to have a population of the order of 400,000 by 2050.

SERVICING A STATE SIZED REGION

Cairns services a large tropical frontier region as deep as the State of New South Wales, an area one and a half times the size of Victoria, as large as the British Isles and almost as large as California.
The Cairns / Far North Queensland Region has progressively emerged as the largest in residential population in Tropical Australia and by far the largest in total on-the-ground population count including visitors.

A GROWING ASIA PACIFIC HUB CITY – AUSTRALIA’S NORTH EASTERN GATEWAY

Cairns International Airport is by far the largest in Tropical Australia in passenger movements and sits next to Adelaide and the Gold Coast in international and domestic passenger movements.
26% OF AUSTRALIA’S WATER RUN OFF

The Cairns / Far North Queensland Region accounts for a massive 26% of Australia’s water run-off. At about 105 million megalitres a year, it has four times the water run off of the Murray Darling Basin.

TROPICAL AUSTRALIA’S LEADING AGRICULTURAL REGION

Agriculture has been a major growth sector in recent decades:
- Falling real transport costs to southern markets has led to a realization of the area’s tropical fruit growing potential;
- The introduction of Brahman cattle stock has revolutionised the northern cattle industry, and;
- Locally pioneered mechanization has led to heightened competitiveness in international sugar markets.

A temporary live cattle export ban and other factors steadied the growth rate in recent years but the region is set for a major new growth phase with major private enterprise investment underway and planned.
Next to Sydney & Melbourne in International Holiday Visitors

The outstanding tourism attractions of the Great Barrier Reef, World Heritage Rainforests and tropical ambience are so strong; and the region’s tourism industry is so efficient; that the Cairns Region sits just behind Australia’s two major metropolitan centres in international holiday visitor numbers.

Mining Production

With mineral prices moderating since 2011, rapid growth of value of the region's mining production has been checked. But plans for major new expansion of bauxite production in Cape York along with smaller magnetite, tungsten, copper and tin projects in the immediate hinterland promises to see values trend back upwards over the next five years.
CONSTRUCTION REBOUNDING

“The higher you fly, the harder you fall”. Cairns’ very strong levels of private construction were hit very heavily by the Global Financial Crisis (GFC) after 2008. The past year has seen the tide turned. Planned major new projects will see values soar again over the next five years.

TOURISM REBOUNDING

The Cairns region has shaken off the effects of GFC and the high dollar to start rebounding in 2011. Occupancy rates are on their way back up again towards pre GFC levels.
AIRPORT PASSENGER NUMBERS NOW OVER FOUR MILLION A YEAR

Cairns airport is by far the largest airport in Tropical Australia. Passenger numbers through the airport have increased almost ten-fold since upgrading, to take large wide bodied jets direct from overseas in 1984 from 467,000 to 4,050,000.

A LEADING ROLE IN OPENING UP THE NEW CHINESE MARKET

Cairns is proving very attractive to visitors from the rapidly expanding Chinese tourism market. Over one in five of Chinese visitors to Australia now visit Cairns.

The new world class Aquis project can be expected to see international visitation into the region, especially from China, expand rapidly.
A PRIVATE ENTERPRISE DRIVEN REGION

The Cairns / Far North Queensland Region leads by a long way, in business numbers in Tropical Australia.

NORTHERN AUSTRALIA FLY-IN / FLY-OUT / MINING SERVICES HUB

Location and lifestyle has led to Cairns developing strongly as a mining services hub including mining related air services to seventeen different centres across the north and into Papua New Guinea and Papua Indonesia.

Research in 2013 indicated that the Cairns / Far North Queensland Region was the base for an estimated 2,800 FIFO workers.

Transport to mining operations includes shipping supply services to Weipa and Freeport-McMoRan's giant copper mine in Papua Indonesia.