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Statistical Note – Analysis of Queensland Government's Infrastructure Plan Population Projections

Analysis of Residential Population Growth in Queensland Coastal SA4 Regions

The following gives analysis over periods of 23-years 1991-2014, 10 years 1991-2001, 10 years 2001-2011 and 3 years 2011-2014.

Table: Comparative Growth – 23 years 1991-2014

<u>Region</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Cairns	84,152	53%
Townsville	67,540	40%
Mackay	58,256	47%
Fitzroy	61,958	36%
Wide Bay	95,893	50%

Source : Cummings Economics from, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Cat 3218.0.

Table: Comparative Growth – 10 years 1991-2001

<u>Region</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Cairns	33,496	21%
Townsville	17,529	10%
Mackay	11,109	9%
Fitzroy	11,160	6%
Wide Bay	34,856	18%

Source : Cummings Economics from, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Cat 3218.0.

Table: Comparative Growth – 10 years 2001-2011

<u>Region</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Cairns	38,526	20%
Townsville	34,250	18%
Mackay	33,565	25%
Fitzroy	30,739	17%
Wide Bay	49,945	22%

Source : Cummings Economics from, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Cat 3218.0.

Table: Comparative Growth – 3 years 2011-2014

<u>Region</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Cairns	12,130	5%
Townsville	15,761	7%
Mackay	13,582	8%
Fitzroy	20,059	9%
Wide Bay	11,092	4%

Source : Cummings Economics from, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Cat 3218.0.

The pattern indicates that over the 23-year period, Cairns, Wide Bay and Mackay regions experienced the fastest growth rate and in numbers, Wide Bay and Cairns regions.

Over the first 10 years, 1991-2001, Cairns and Wide Bay led in numbers and percentage growth where Mackay went through a slower period along with Fitzroy and Townsville.

In the next 10 years, 2001-2011, the Wide Bay and Cairns regions continued to lead in growth numbers and percentage growth but with Mackay jumping up to be above them in percentage growth.

The three years, 2011-2014, show a short term atypical situation with Fitzroy, Mackay and Townsville up and Cairns and Wide Bay going through a slower growth period.

Comparison with State Infrastructure Plan Projections

The analysis indicates that the comparative regional population projections on page 15 of the Draft State Infrastructure Plan Part A October 2015 are probably being far too much influenced by relatively short-term recent trends.

These short-term trends have obviously been changing strongly over the past year or so with collapse of mineral prices on the one hand and a lower dollar resulting in rising tourism growth.

A repeat of the growth rates of the past 23 years would result in population growth distribution in 2037 of the following order compared with the Infrastructure Plan projections.

Table: Comparative Growth – Increase in Population

<u>Region</u>	<u>Repeat of past 23 years 2014-2037</u>	<u>Infrastructure Plan Projection - 22 yrs 2014-2036</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Cairns	128,000	104,000	+24,000
Townsville	95,000	124,000	-29,000
Mackay	86,000	102,000	-16,000
Fitzroy	84,000	126,000	-42,000
Wide Bay	144,000	97,000	+47,000

Source : Cummings Economics from, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Cat 3218.0.