THE IMPORTANCE OF MINING TO CAIRNS
PAST : PRESENT : FUTURE
ADDRESS BY
WS (Bill) Cummings | Cummings Economics
CE Ref J3228 / 12th June 2019
DEEP INTO THE TROPICS
MINING LEADS THE WAY

CAIRNS ESTABLISHED AS A PORT IN 1876 FOR NEWLY DISCOVERED MINERAL FIELDS (ALMOST 100 YEARS AFTER SYDNEY)
MINING LEADS THE WAY

RAILWAY OVER THE ESCARTMENT COMMENCED IN 1886

MINING A LEADING FORCE UNTIL 1920’s
OTHER BASE INDUSTRIES DEVELP

- TIMBER INDUSTRIES
- MARINE INDUSTRIES
- AGRICULTURE
  SUGAR ON THE COAST
  MIXED FARMING ON THE TABLELANDS
PASTORAL INDUSTRY PROBLEMS
MINING TOWNS DECLINE
DEPRESSION & SECOND WORLD WAR
MINING LOW POINT IN THE ECONOMY
GROSS VALUE OF PRIMARY PRODUCTION IN 1957-58

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INDUSTRY</th>
<th>GROSS VALUE</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CROPS</td>
<td>$43,604,000</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIVESTOCK</td>
<td>$8,976,000</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FORESTRY</td>
<td>$4,084,000</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FISHERIES</td>
<td>$936,000</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MINING</td>
<td>$1,504,000</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>$59,104,000</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# POST WAR SURGE OF GROWTH

## POPULATION GROWTH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>CAIRNS CITY</th>
<th>REGION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1947 Census</td>
<td>16,644</td>
<td>71,606</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018 Est. Res Pop’n.</td>
<td>165,525</td>
<td>291,885</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FROM 1960’s
THE ECONOMY REALLY STARTED TO FIRE

RESOURCE BASE DEVELOPS UNDER INFLUENCE

- GROWING GLOBAL MARKETS
- TRANSPORT DEVELOPMENTS
- TECHNOLOGY SUITED TO THE TROPICS
- SUCCESS BREEDS SUCCESS

EARNINGS FROM REST OF AUSTRALIA AND OVERSEAS RISE STRONGLY
AGRICULTURE

THREE BIG BREAKTHROUGHS

• COMMERCIAL CANE HARVESTERS / BULK HANDLING
• TROPICAL (BRAHMAN) CATTLE BREEDS
• TRANSPORT & ROAD DEVELOPMENTS

UNLOCKS SUPERIOR POTENTIAL TO GROW TROPICAL & OFF SEASON FRUIT & VEGETABLE

TINAROO DAM EXPANSION

FISHERIES : LARGE PRAWN RESOURCES DISCOVERED
FORRESTRIES : CARIBBEAN PINE

TODAY PRIMARY INDUSTRIES ABOUT $2BN PER ANNUM
TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

POTENTIAL OF WORLD CLASS COMBINATION AND QUALITY OF TOURISM RESOURCES REALISED TODAY EARNING ABOUT $3BN PER ANNUM
MINING ROLE IN UPSURGE SINCE 1960’s
MINING PRODUCTION
A CONSTANT BUT VARIABLE FACTOR

VALUE OF MINING PRODUCTION, TROPICAL NORTH QUEENSLAND

Source: QLD Department of Mining & Energy.
## MINERAL PRODUCTION & SALES 2016/17

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>PRODUCTION $M</th>
<th>SALES $M</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bauxite</td>
<td>$1,195</td>
<td>$808</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silica</td>
<td>$52</td>
<td>$51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold</td>
<td>$3</td>
<td>$3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$4</td>
<td>$4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,254</strong></td>
<td><strong>$866</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Note: Since preparation of this map, the shipping service Cairns Freeport has ceased.
MINING RELATED AIR SERVICES OUT OF CAIRNS

WORKFORCE FIFO, CORPORATE TRAFFIC, SERVICES & CONTRACTOR TRANSFERS, FREIGHT
THE FUTURE

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