

### Far North Region Profile



**Population: 250,227**

#### Local Councils:

- » Aurukun Shire Council
- » Cairns Regional Council
- » Cassowary Coast Regional Council
- » Cook Shire Council
- » Croydon Shire Council
- » Etheridge Shire Council
- » Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council
- » Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council
- » Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council
- » Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council
- » Napranum Aboriginal Shire Council
- » Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council
- » Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council
- » Tablelands Regional Council
- » Torres Shire Council
- » Torres Strait Island Regional Council
- » Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council
- » Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council

#### Estimated population

- As at 30 June 2007, the estimated population of the region was 250,227, representing 6.0% of the state's population.

#### Age profiles

- In June 2007, 21.9% of persons were aged 0 to 14 years, 67.7% were aged 15 to 64 years and 10.4% were aged 65 years and over.

#### Urban centres and localities\*

- The region comprises 70 urban centres and localities.
- Cairns had the largest population at 30 June 2007, with 108,685 persons.
- Wangan had the highest population density in the region, with 1233.5 persons per square kilometre.

\*An urban centre is a population cluster of 1,000 or more people while a locality is a population cluster of between 200 and 999 people (Source: [www.oesr.qld.gov.au](http://www.oesr.qld.gov.au)).

#### Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons

- At the 2006 Census of Population and Housing, the region had 32,635 persons of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin.
- This represents 13.0% of the region's total population.

#### Overseas-born persons

- At the 2006 Census, 34,881 persons were born overseas (13.9% of the total population).
- 173,594 persons were Australian-born (69.4% of the total population).
- Cairns had the largest number of overseas-born persons (25,062), followed by Tablelands (6,004).

#### Proficiency in spoken English

- At the 2006 Census, 10,992 persons born overseas stated that they spoke a language other than English at home (31.5% of the overseas-born population).
- Of these persons, 1,824 stated that they spoke English not well, or not at all.

#### One-parent families

- At the 2006 Census, there were 10,534 one-parent families in the region, representing 18.2% of all families.

#### School students

- In the 12 months ending 31 December 2006, there were 43,769 school students in the region.
- Cairns had the largest number of school students (26,456), followed by Tablelands with 7,500 school students.

#### Post-school qualifications

- At the 2006 Census, there were 89,683 persons aged 15 years and over with a qualification.

- This represents 50.7% of the population in this age group, which was higher than that for Queensland (50.4%).

### **Unemployment rate and labour force**

- At the 2006 Census, the region had 4,955 unemployed persons, representing an unemployment rate of 4.5%.
- The unemployment rate in Queensland was 4.7%.
- Within the region, the highest unemployment rate was recorded in Croydon (12.6%), followed by Wujal Wujal (10.2%).

### **Building approvals**

- In the 12 months ending 30 September 2008, 2,414 dwelling units in new residential buildings were approved in the region.
- Valued at \$570.6 million, the approvals represented 5.3% of the total value of state's approvals.
- The value of non-residential building approvals was \$887.4 million, which represented 10.0% of the state's approvals.

**Reference: [www.oesr.qld.gov.au](http://www.oesr.qld.gov.au)**