



State of Australian Cities 2012

Cairns



Population and Settlement

- The population of Cairns increased from 112,932 in 2001 to 146,477 in 2011. This represents a growth rate of 2.6 per cent, well above the national average of 1.5 per cent, making Cairns Australia's second fastest growing city.
- Cairns is Australia's fourteenth largest city and is home to 3.3 per cent of Queenslanders and 0.7 per cent of Australians.
- Over the five years 2006-11, Cairns' stock of private dwellings increased by 7,447. With a population increase of 17,735 over the same period, there were 2.38 additional people for each new dwelling. Cairns' 2011 household occupancy rate was 2.74 people per dwelling, in line with the 2011 average major city occupancy rate of 2.73.
- Of Cairns' total stock of 57,241 private dwellings in 2011, 10.45 per cent were unoccupied, the fourth highest level of unoccupied dwellings amongst the major cities, well above the major city average of 9.16 per cent.
- Cairns had the third highest proportion of dwellings under finance among the major cities in 2011, with fewer than 40 per cent of dwellings owned outright.
- Both government and non-government social housing grew in Cairns between 2006 and 2011. Cairns saw the largest percentage increase in government housing of any major city and was one of the only major cities to see government housing increase as a proportion of total private dwelling stock.
- In the year to March 2012, Cairns hosted 4.3 million domestic visitor nights, up from 3.7 million in 2008. This helped offset a decline in international visitor nights, which dropped from 5.3 million in 2008 to 4.1 million in 2012.

Productivity

- In 2011-12, Cairns' port handled 571,212 tonnes of bulk imports and 6,683 containers (TEUs). Exports consisted of 254,394 tonnes of bulk exports and 6,773 containers.
- In 2011, 3.6 million domestic passengers and 504,200 international passengers passed through Cairns Airport. This represented 3.2 per cent of Australia's 110 million domestic passenger movements over the same period. Cairns was one of only two major city airports, along with the Gold Coast, to experience a decrease in international passenger movements from the previous year.

Sustainability

- Between 1952 and 2011, average annual minimum and maximum temperatures in Cairns trended very slightly upwards.
- Cairns is one of only two major cities, along with Darwin, which experienced an upward trend in average annual rainfall in this time with the trend increase for Cairns being much less marked than Darwin.

Liveability

- Cairns Regional Council's 'Active Living' Program provides free daily exercise classes for residents and visitors.