



State of Australian Cities 2012

Toowoomba

Population and Settlement

- Toowoomba's population increased from 109,449 in 2001 to 125,265 in 2011. This represents a growth rate of 1.4 per cent, just below the national average of 1.5 per cent.
- Toowoomba is Australia's sixteenth largest city, home to 0.6 per cent of Australians and 2.8 per cent of Queenslanders.
- Over the five years 2006-11, Toowoomba's stock of private dwellings increased by 3,628. With a population increase of 7,600 over the same period, there were 2.09 additional people for each new dwelling constructed. This is lower than Toowoomba's 2011 household occupancy rate and the 2011 average major city rate, both of which are 2.73 people per dwelling.
- Of Toowoomba's total stock of 48,738 private dwellings in 2011, 8.18 per cent were unoccupied, below the major city average of 9.16 per cent.
- Toowoomba has the third highest proportion of separate houses amongst the major cities in 2011, comprising more than 80 per cent of dwellings.
- In the year to March 2012, Toowoomba hosted 1.9 million domestic visitor nights, up from 1.3 million in 2008, and 511,095 international visitor nights, up from 379,378 in 2008.
- Between 2001 and 2011, Toowoomba experienced the second largest proportional growth in government housing stock (13.9%) behind Cairns, as well as the strongest proportional growth in non-government social housing (53.5%). Toowoomba was also one of the only major cities to experience growth in government housing as a proportion of total private dwelling stock over the period.

Sustainability

- Consistent with other inland major cities (Albury-Wodonga and Canberra), Toowoomba has experienced a trend of larger increases in average annual temperatures and decreases in average annual rainfall than major cities in other parts of Australia.
- Between 1952 and 2011 average annual minimum temperatures in Toowoomba have trended markedly upwards in comparison with other major cities, with maximum temperatures also on a rising trend.
- Toowoomba's rainfall trend over this period shows the largest rate of rainfall decrease of all major cities, dropping by one third.

Governance

- Toowoomba is encompassed in the *South East Queensland Regional Plan*, along with Ipswich, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast and Logan.