



## State of Australian Cities 2014 - 15

### Cairns

#### Population and Settlement

- The population of Cairns grew by an average of 2.5% per annum from 130,197 in 2008 to 145,003 in 2013, along with Townsville one of the two fastest growing non-capital major cities.
- The average house price in Cairns rose from \$154,000 in 1999 to \$394,000 in 2010 before declining to \$369,000 in 2012.
- Cairns had the highest proportion of population aged under 15 of the major cities in 2012 at 22%.
- The life expectancy for Cairns SA4 residents increased from 79.8 years in 2006 to 80.4 years in 2012.
- The percentage of overweight or obese adults in Cairns increased by 3.0 percentage points from 56.8% in 2007-08 to 59.8% in 2011-12.
- Cairns saw smoking rates decrease by 7.4 percentage points from 33.4% in 2001 to 26.0% in 2011-12.

#### Economy & Human Capital and Labour

- The labour force participation rate in Cairns dropped from 68.1% in 2001 to 65.7% in 2011.
- Cairns was one of only two cities that did not record an increase in labour force participation rates between 2001 and 2011 with a decrease in labour force participation rates of 2.4 percentage points, although it still had participation rates well above the national average in 2011.
- The largest growth in industry employment between 2006 and 2011 for Cairns was in Health Care and Social Assistance with 2654 workers, whereas the largest decline occurred in Construction with 257 workers.
- Employment in knowledge-intensive industries in Cairns increased their share of employment by 3.4 percentage points from 2006 to 2011.

#### Infrastructure and Transport

- By 2031, Cairns airport is forecast to have 8.0 million movements annually.
- The largest decrease in international visitors of over 2,400 visits per 1,000 residents was in Cairns, down to approximately 4,900 visits per 1,000 residents in 2012. Despite this large decline Cairns still had over double the rate of international visits per 1,000 residents of any other major urban area in 2012.
- The volume of freight through Cairns port increased by 0.5 million tonnes from 0.6 million tonnes in 2008-09 to 1.2 million tonnes in 2012-13.
- The transport mode shares for journey to work is predominantly private (84.6%), followed by active (6.6%), the public (3.1%) and other (1.4%), with 4.2% working from home.
- Cairns had the least number of imports and exports out of the top 10 Australian ports by highest number of shipping containers (full and empty) with 7,890 imports and 7,871 exports.