Townsville

Population and Settlement

- The population of Townsville grew by an average of 2.5% per annum from 156,346 in 2008 to 176,035 in 2013, along with Cairns one of the two fastest growing non-capital major cities.
- The life expectancy for Townsville SA4 residents increased from 80.1 years in 2006 to 80.8 years in 2012.
- Of the major cities, Townsville had the second lowest proportion (after the Sunshine Coast) of people over 65 years (9.7%).
- The percentage of overweight or obese adults in Townsville increased by 27.5 percentage points from 43.6% in 2007-08 to 71.1% in 2011-12. Townsville saw the largest increase in overweight or obese adults in major cities.
- Townsville saw smoking rates decrease by 2.2 percentage points from 22.9% in 2001 to 20.7% in 2011-12.
- The percentage of adults in Townsville who met physical activity guidelines decreased by 3.2 percentage points between 2007-08 and 2011-12, to 48.2%.
- Homelessness in Townsville dropped by 1.8 persons per 10,000 from 2006 to reach 72.9 persons per 10,000 in 2011.
- The percentage of houses in Townsville with overcrowded conditions, based on households that need one or more bedrooms under the Canadian National Occupancy Standard, decreased by 1.1 percentage points 4.1% in 2001 to 3.0% in 2011.
- The percentage of households that owned their own home in Townsville (with or without a mortgage) increased by 1.0 percentage point from 57.0% in 2001 to 58.0% in 2011.
- The average house price in Townsville rose from $144,500 in 1999 to a peak of $391,000 in 2011 declining to $381,000 in 2012.

Economy & Human Capital and Labour

- The unemployment rate in Townsville dropped 3.2 percentage points from 8.3% in 2001 to 5.1% in 2011.
- The largest growth in industry employment between 2006 and 2011 for Townsville was in Health Care and Social Assistance with 2,483 workers, whereas the largest decline occurred in Information Media and Telecommunications with 70 workers.
- Employment in knowledge-intensive industries in Townsville increased their share of employment by 2.1 percentage points from 2006 and 2011, to 28.6%.
- The proportion of people in Townsville with a vocational or higher education qualification rose by 13.0 percentage points from 48.9% in 2001 to 61.9% in 2011.
- Townsville residents with a Certificate III or above, or who were employed in a skilled occupation rose by 8.5 percentage points from 2001 to 56.3% in 2011.
- The average residential property price for both units and houses in Townsville fell in the period 2009 to 2013.
Infrastructure and Transport

- The volume of freight through Townsville ports increased by 2.7 percentage points from 9.6% in 2008-09 to 12.3% in 2012-13.
- Townsville had 1.6 million air passenger movements 2010-11 which is forecast to increase to 3.4 million by 2030-31.