



State of Australian Cities 2012

Townsville



Population and Settlement

- Townsville's population increased from 134,073 in 2001 to 167,636 in 2011. This represents a growth rate of 2.3 per cent, greater than the national average of 1.5 per cent.
- Townsville is Australia's thirteenth largest city, home to 3.7 per cent of Queenslanders and 0.8 per cent of Australians.
- Over the five years 2006-11, Townsville's stock of private dwellings increased by 7,138. With a population increase of 18,684 over the same period, there were 2.62 additional people for each new dwelling constructed. Townsville's 2011 household occupancy rate was 2.86 people per dwelling compared to the 2011 average major city rate of 2.73.
- Of Townsville's total stock of 62,978 private dwellings in 2011, 10.06 per cent were unoccupied, above the major city average of 9.16 per cent.
- Townsville had the second highest proportion of dwellings under finance among the major cities in 2011 with less than 40 per cent of dwellings owned outright.
- In the year to March 2012, Townsville hosted 3.5 million domestic visitor nights, up from 3.1 million in 2008 and almost 900,000 international visitor nights, down from almost 1.2 million in 2008.

Productivity

- In 2011-12, Townsville's port handled 5,605,686 tonnes of bulk imports and 25,662 containers (TEU) and 3,877,720 tonnes of bulk exports and 23,900 containers.
- In 2011, 1.7 million domestic passengers and 2,733 international passengers passed through Townsville Airport in 2011. This represented 1.5 per cent of Australia's 110 million total domestic passenger movements over the same period.

Sustainability

- Between 1952 and 2011, Townsville's average annual minimum and maximum temperatures trended slightly upwards, unlike the other tropical major cities of Darwin and Cairns which remained the same.
- However Townsville's average annual rainfall trend remained relatively constant between 1952 and 2011, unlike Darwin and Cairns which experienced marked increases in annual rainfall over the same period.
- Sea level rise around Australia has been equal to and in some cases greater than the global average of approximately three millimetres a year. Since 1993, Townsville has experienced sea level rises of four to five millimetres per year.
- Townsville is one of seven *Solar Cities* across Australia, part of the Australian Government's Solar Cities Program that works with all levels of government, industry and community to change the way we think about and use energy.

- In 2011, Townsville won the Queensland Regional Award from International Association for Public Participation Australasia for its electricity network expansion deferral initiative focussed on Magnetic Island. The project has seen a reduction in peak electricity demand on Magnetic Island by 44 per cent from business as usual levels in the island's peak season.
- In 2012, Townsville was one of 24 cities worldwide selected for the IBM Smarter Cities Challenge. The IBM Challenge enables city communities to work together to better plan and develop a smart, sustainable and energy efficient city through integrating technologies, data, social media and behaviour change.

Liveability

- A greater proportion of children across all socio-economic groups were reported to be developmentally vulnerable in 'Metropolitan Queensland' (comprising Brisbane, Gold Coast-Tweed and Townsville-Thuringowa) than in other metropolitan areas across Australia in 2009.