

Far North Queensland has a total population of **273,971\*** which is expected to reach **385,000** by 2036

\* persons as at 30 June 2014 growing at an annual average rate of 1.8 % over the past 10 years



Agricultural production  
**\$916 million<sup>1</sup>**  
2012-13

**1,145** residential buildings approved for construction  
in the 12 months ending 31 March 2015



**5,734** residential dwellings sold  
in the 12 months ending 31 December 2014

**23,318** businesses in Far North Queensland in 2013-14

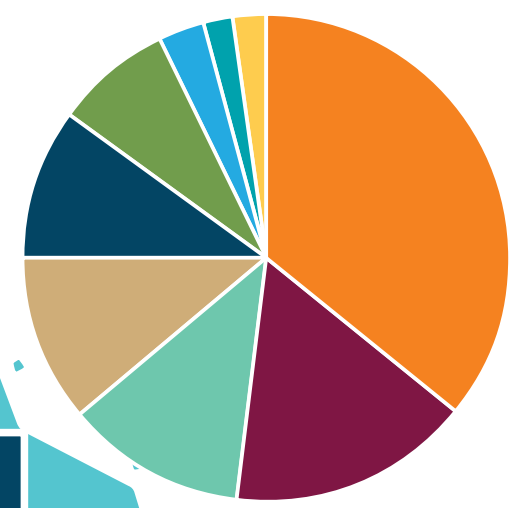


**Top 5 Industries<sup>1</sup>**  
by number of workers



**Infrastructure improvement budget<sup>1</sup>**

- 37% Transport and Main Roads
- 16% Health
- 11% Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning
- 11% Housing and Public Works
- 10% Energy and Water
- 8% Education and Training
- 3% State Development
- 2% Science, Information Technology and Innovation
- 2% Other



**Major private sector investment projects currently under construction**

Project	Investment
Stage One of the NOVA8 residential and commercial tower project by Aspiat Corporation (total project \$400 million)	<b>\$120 million</b>
Stage One construction of a solar power plant for Rio Tinto's Weipa bauxite mine by First Solar	<b>\$23 million</b>

<sup>1</sup>Based on the Australian Bureau of Statistics' Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) Statistical Area level 4 (SA4) for Cairns. SA4s provide the best sub-state socio-economic breakdown in the ASGS. For more information, please visit <http://www.abs.gov.au>.



**JOBS NOW, JOBS FOR THE FUTURE**  
for Far North Queensland

**\$892.3M** health budget in 2015-16 for the Torres and Cape, Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Services, the primary providers **UP 6%**

**\$61.7M** over the next four years for maintenance in Far North Queensland schools

**\$81.6M** for disaster relief in 2015-16 in partnership with the Australian Government

**1,000 JOBS** estimated to be supported by the infrastructure program

**Infrastructure improvement budget<sup>1</sup>**

**\$443.8 million** budgeted for infrastructure improvements in 2015-16, including:

Category	Amount
for transport	<b>\$162.7M</b>
for health	<b>\$69.2M</b>
for energy and water	<b>\$42.7M</b>
for housing and public works	<b>\$47.3M</b>
for infrastructure, local government and planning	<b>\$50.8M</b>

**The Queensland Government employs 16,524 people in Far North Queensland and they support:**

Category	Count
7,424 km <sup>2</sup> of national and regional parks	
174 state heritage sites	
52 hospitals and health facilities	
14 customer service centres and 3,247 km of roads	
711 police officers	
2 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnership regional offices and 4 Remote Indigenous Land and Infrastructure Program offices	
25 fire stations	
12 court houses	



For more details visit [www.budget.qld.gov.au](http://www.budget.qld.gov.au)

<sup>1</sup>Based on the Australian Bureau of Statistics' Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) Statistical Area level 4 (SA4) for Cairns. SA4s provide the best sub-state socio-economic breakdown in the ASGS. For more information, please visit <http://www.abs.gov.au>. For further information on Far North Queensland, please also see the Outback Queensland Regional Budget Statement 2015-16.

### Jobs now, jobs for the future for Far North Queensland

The Far North Queensland region stretches from the Torres Strait Islands south to include the Cairns region. It comprises 19 local government areas and includes the major regional towns of Cairns, Innisfail, Weipa and Port Douglas.

#### Statewide Initiatives

- Drought relief**  
\$45 million of \$52.1 million over four years for drought assistance and ongoing drought reform initiatives.
- Resilient communities**  
\$40 million to establish the Community Resilience Fund to help local governments protect the infrastructure of communities vulnerable to natural disasters.
- Tourism and events**  
\$128.3 million over four years to promote Queensland destinations and foster tourism growth. \$10 million of \$40 million over four years to promote events in Queensland.
- Aviation investment**  
\$10 million over three years to attract aviation investment to promote Queensland destinations to international markets.
- Stolen wages**  
\$21 million over three years in reparation for wages stolen from Indigenous workers, a legacy of past government practices.

- 1 Saving the Reef**  
\$12.7 million of \$100 million over 5 years to protect the Great Barrier Reef through water quality initiatives, scientific research and transitioning to improved environmental practices in the primary production, mining and fishing industries. Includes \$10 million to buy back licences to establish three net-free fishing zones in north and central Queensland.
- Far North Queensland Initiatives**
  - Social housing**  
\$151.5 million to expand and improve social housing.
  - Homelessness**  
\$14.2 million for homelessness services.
  - Disaster relief and recovery**  
\$81.6 million, in partnership with the Australian Government, for local government recovery and reconstruction projects.
  - Outback Way upgrade**  
\$24.5 million over 2 years, in partnership with the Australian Government and local councils, to seal and upgrade sections of the Outback Way and other links.

- Backing Indigenous arts**  
\$1.3 million for a network of Indigenous Art Centres and artists' access to space, training, education and enterprise development for artists.
- 2 Cape National Parks**  
\$7.3 million over four years to provide for the continued employment of 15 Indigenous rangers to work across the protected area estate to ensure that parks are adequately managed and maintained. \$7.4 million over four years to manage approximately 2.6 million hectares of park estate on Cape York Peninsula. This includes the employment of seven additional rangers.
- 3 Tackling Panama disease**  
\$9.8 million to tackle the Tropical Race 4 strain of Panama disease in partnership with the Australian Government.
- 4 Schools capital works**  
\$13 million of \$33 million over three years for new classrooms.
- 5 Indigenous land and sea rangers**  
\$4.8 million for the Queensland Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Program to protect the region's environmental and Indigenous cultural heritage.
- 6 Cairns Convention Centre**  
\$7.6 million over two years for roof and associated repairs to the Cairns Convention Centre.
- 7 Torres Strait major infrastructure**  
\$14.6 million of \$41.2 million over six years, in partnership with the Australian Government, for infrastructure projects in the Torres Strait.
- 8 Mountain bike trails**  
\$460,000 for mountain bike trails in the Smithfield Regional Park.
- 9 Sustainable agriculture**  
\$1.7 million to target feral pigs, support sustainable grazing, tackle weeds and improve reef water quality in the Wet Tropics.
- 10 Cairns arts scene**  
\$550,000 for exhibitions and performances at the Cairns Centre of Contemporary Arts.
- 11 Innisfail Wharf**  
\$2.1 million towards the Innisfail Commercial Wharf in partnership with the Cassowary Coast Regional Council.

