Research Brief

Research and Information Service

For Mr Rob Katter, MP and Mr Shane Knuth, MP

Request Population and electors

Date 30 July 2015.

Thank you for your request seeking the following:

- the current population of Queensland;
- the trends in population throughout Queensland since the last redistribution and applicable to the pending redistribution in 2016, (e.g. population increases in South East Queensland in comparison with population increases, or decreases, in regional and rural Queensland);
- the most recently counted number of enrolled electors in Queensland;
- the most recently counted number of electors in each electorate in Queensland;
- the average number of electors for electoral districts in Queensland;
- the current population of South East Queensland;
- the number of electorates in South East Queensland;
- the names of the electorates in South East Queensland;
- the current population outside of South East Queensland;
- the number of electorates outside of South East Queensland;
- the names of the electorates outside of South East Queensland;
- the average number of electors represented by Members of the Legislative Assembly (i.e. lower house) in all other States and Territories throughout Australia, (e.g. NSW, VIC, SA etc.).
Current population

The Queensland Government Statistician’s Office population counter shows an estimate of Queensland’s current population. As at 30 July 2015 the figure was 4,788,026.

Trends

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) publication Regional Population Growth 2010 - 11 notes:

At June 2011, south-east Queensland, comprising the SDs of Brisbane, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, and West Moreton, accounted for around two-thirds of the total population in Queensland. Between June 2010 and June 2011, the population in south-east Queensland increased by 51,300 to reach 3.05 million people. This accounted for 60% of the total growth in the state.

The SD of Brisbane experienced the largest growth of all SDs in Queensland, with an increase of 34,800 people (1.7%) in the year to June 2011. Brisbane SD accounted for 45% of Queensland’s population at June 2011.

The fastest-growing SD in south-east Queensland (and the third fastest-growing in the state) was West Moreton which grew by 1.9% (or 1,900 people) in the year to June 2011.

At June 2011, the three most populous LGAs in Australia were located in south-east Queensland. They were Brisbane (C) (with 1.08 million people), Gold Coast (C) (536,500) and Moreton Bay (R) (389,700). Brisbane (C) had the largest increase in population in Australia between June 2010 and June 2011, up by 14,100 people. Gold Coast (C) had the third-largest increase (9,600) and Moreton Bay (R) the fifth-largest (8,100).

An additional three LGAs within south-east Queensland were among the six largest-growing in Queensland in 2010-11. They were Logan (C) (5,300), Sunshine Coast (R) (5,000) and Ipswich (C) (4,900).

The three fastest-growing LGAs within south-east Queensland in 2010-11 were Somerset (R) and Ipswich (C) which both increased by 2.9%, and Lockyer Valley (R) (2.3%). In 2010-11, the SLA of Somerset (R) - Esk accounted for 80% of the growth in the LGA of Somerset (R), while the SLA of Ipswich (C) - East accounted for 55% of the growth in the LGA of Ipswich (C).

The most recent ABS Regional Population Growth 2013 - 14 notes

The population of Greater Brisbane (which excludes the Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast) was 2,27 million people at June 2014, accounting for nearly half of Queensland’s population. Between 2013 and 2014, the population of Greater Brisbane increased by 1.7% (38,500 people).

Ipswich had the largest growth of all SA4s in Greater Brisbane, with an increase of 8,000 people. This was followed by Logan - Beaudesert (up by 5,200 people) and Moreton Bay - South (5,100). However, Moreton Bay - South had the fastest growth (up by 2.8%), followed by Ipswich (2.6%) and Brisbane Inner City (2.0%).

The SA2 with the largest growth in both Greater Brisbane and Queensland was North Lakes - Mango Hill, up by 2,200 people. Other SA2s in Greater Brisbane with large growth were Redbank Plains (1,000) and Springfield Lakes (930). The fastest-growing SA2s were North Lakes - Mango Hill (up by 9.5%), Bellbird Park - Brookwater (8.8%) and Springfield Lakes (7.9%).

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1 Australian Bureau of Statistics, Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2010-11, cat no 3218.0, 2012.

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In the 12 months to 2014, the population in the rest of Queensland (outside of Greater Brisbane) grew by 1.3%, or 32,000 people, to reach 2.45 million. This was the fastest growth rate of all rest of state regions, ahead of rest of Western Australia (1.1%) and New South Wales (0.9%).

The SA4s of Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast grew by 14,900 people, accounting for 46% of the growth in the rest of Queensland. The SA4s lying further north along the Queensland coast of Fitzroy (which includes Rockhampton and Gladstone), Mackay, Townsville and Cairns accounted for a further 38% (12,100 people).

Gold Coast had the largest growth of all SA4s in Queensland, increasing by 9,100 people to 560,300. Other SA4s in the rest of Queensland with large population increases were Sunshine Coast (up by 5,700 people), Fitzroy (4,500), Townsville (3,000) and Cairns (2,600).

The SA4 of Fitzroy had the fastest growth in the rest of Queensland (up by 2.0%), followed by the Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast (both 1.7%), Townsville (1.3%) and Toowoomba (1.2%).

Population Projections

The Population Projections Advisory Group was responsible for the preparation of the Queensland Government Population Projections for Queensland and statistical divisions in 2006. The publication provided figures for Queensland statistical divisions up to 2026 as seen in the following table.

Actual and projected population, Queensland statistical divisions, at 30 June 1986, 2006 and 2026

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statistical Division</th>
<th>1986</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2026</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brisbane</td>
<td>1,217,348</td>
<td>1,844,600</td>
<td>2,533,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moreton</td>
<td>375,549</td>
<td>839,300</td>
<td>1,310,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South East Queensland</td>
<td>1,592,897</td>
<td>2,683,900</td>
<td>3,843,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wide Bay-Burnett</td>
<td>170,835</td>
<td>263,200</td>
<td>352,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darling Downs</td>
<td>183,112</td>
<td>226,000</td>
<td>274,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South West</td>
<td>28,791</td>
<td>27,000</td>
<td>27,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fitzroy</td>
<td>160,120</td>
<td>192,000</td>
<td>248,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central West</td>
<td>13,619</td>
<td>12,100</td>
<td>12,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mackay</td>
<td>117,511</td>
<td>151,000</td>
<td>207,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern</td>
<td>157,732</td>
<td>209,800</td>
<td>264,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Far North</td>
<td>161,042</td>
<td>242,100</td>
<td>317,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North West</td>
<td>38,332</td>
<td>34,400</td>
<td>35,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queensland</td>
<td>2,623,991</td>
<td>4,041,400</td>
<td>5,584,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Figures have been rounded so totals may not add. Historical figures have been adjusted to reflect boundary changes. For the purposes of these population projections, South East Queensland is the total of Brisbane and Moreton Statistical Divisions.


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The Queensland Government Statistician’s Office prepared statistics on estimated resident population at 30 June for the years 2004, 2009 and 2014 as the table below shows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Greater Brisbane</td>
<td>1,823,496</td>
<td>2,068,479</td>
<td>2,274,560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold Coast</td>
<td>435,960</td>
<td>509,133</td>
<td>560,266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunshine Coast</td>
<td>270,326</td>
<td>308,362</td>
<td>335,874</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queensland total</td>
<td>3,829,970</td>
<td>4,328,771</td>
<td>4,722,447</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All the regional profiles for the table above will be provided as attachments.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics has published a table of Estimated Resident Population by State electorates covering the years 2004 to 2014.

Enrolled electors in Queensland

There are 89 electoral districts in Queensland, with a state total enrolment of 3,015,124 and an average enrolment of 33,877 as at 30 June 2015.

The Electoral Commission of Queensland released the most recent enrolment figures for each electorate as at 30 June 2015.

South East Queensland

South East Queensland is not a defined geographical area of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) or the Government Statistician. For the purposes of this request the following areas will be aggregated:
- Greater Brisbane (which includes Ipswich)(Greater Brisbane Capital City Statistical Area),
- Gold Coast (SA4), and
- Sunshine Coast (SA4).

The current population of South East Queensland as at 30 June 2014 was 3,170,700. There are 57 electorates in this area. The electorates are:

4 Queensland Regional Profiles, Greater Brisbane Capital City Statistical Area, compiled 30 July 2015.
7 Queensland Regional Profiles, Queensland, compiled 30 July 2015.
8 Australian Bureau Statistics, Regional Population Growth, Australia, Table 4 Estimated resident population, State Electoral Divisions (SEDs), Queensland, cat no 3218.0. 2015.

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Noosa | Southport  
Nicklin | Broadwater  
Maroochydore | Coomera  
Buderim | Redlands  
Kawana | Cleveland  
Glass House | Waterford  
Pumicestone | Woodridge  
Morayfield | Stretton  
Pine Rivers | Springwood  
Kallangur | Sunnybank  
Murrumba | Mansfield  
Redcliffe | Capalaba  
Ferny Grove | Chatsworth  
Ashgrove | Yeerongpilly  
Moggill | Mt Ommaney  
Ipswich West | Greenslopes  
Ipswich | Indooroopilly  
Bundamba | South Brisbane  
Inala | Mt Coot-tha  
Algester | Bulimba  
Logan | Brisbane Central  
Albert | Lytton  
Gaven | Clayfield  
Mudgeeraba | Stafford  
Currumbin | Everton  
Burleigh | Nudgee  
Mermaid Beach | Aspley  
Surfers Paradise | Sandgate  
Caloundra |  

**Outside South East Queensland**

The population of Queensland outside South East Queensland is 1,551,747 as at 30 June 2014 with 32 electorates. The electorates are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Electorate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Barron River       | Lockyer  
| Beaudesert         | Mackay  
| Bundaberg          | Maryborough  
| Burdekin           | Mirani  
| Burnett            | Mount Isa  
| Cairns             | Mulgrave  
| Callide            | Mundingburra  
| Condamine          | Nanango  
| Cook               | Rockhampton  
| Dalrymple          | Southern Downs  
| Gladstone          | Thuringowa  
| Gregory            | Toowoomba North  
| Gympie             | Toowoomba South  
| Hervey Bay         | Townsville  
| Hinchinbrook       | Warrego  
| Keppel             | Whitsunday  

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Average number of electors in all States and Territories

New South Wales
There are 93 state electorates in New South Wales. The average number of electors per electorate in New South Wales is 52,537, as at 31 March 2015.  

Victoria
There are 88 electoral districts in Victoria. There are approximately 43,672 electors in each district.

Western Australia
In Western Australia, there are 59 Legislative Assembly districts. The average district enrolment is calculated by dividing the total enrolment (metropolitan and country) by the 59 Legislative Assembly districts. As at 30 June 2015, there is an average district enrolment of 25,806 in Western Australian state electoral districts.

South Australia
The number of electors in South Australia was 1,155,741 as at May 2015, with 47 state electorates. The average number of electors per electorate was therefore 24,590.

Tasmania
In Tasmania there are five House of Assembly divisions: Bass, Braddon, Denison, Franklin and Lyons. There are 25 representatives in the Lower House. As at the 22 July 2015 there were 367,583 electors enrolled thus the average number of electors per representative is 14,703.

Australian Capital Territory
Up until the 2016 election, the Territory has been divided into three electorates, one electing seven members and two electing five members each. On 5 August 2014, the ACT Legislative Assembly voted to increase the size of the Assembly to 25 Members from the 2016 election, consisting of five electorates each returning five Members. This is the first increase in the size of the Assembly, which has consisted of 17 Members since its establishment in 1989.

There were 256,702 people enrolled in the ACT at the close of rolls for the 2012 election. Enrolled voters for each electorate were:
- Brindabella 72,368, 
- Ginninderra 76,140, and 
- Molonglo 108,194.

The average electors per member in the ACT was 15,100, based on 17 members and 256,702 electors. This number will change with the introduction of 25 members representing five electorates in the 2016 election.

13 Found by dividing the number of electors by the number of electorates.
14 The Tasmanian Electoral Commission provided the enrolled electors statistic.

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Northern Territory

On 17 April 2015 the Northern Territory had 128,450 electors and is divided into 25 divisions for Legislative Assembly elections, for an average of 5,138 electors per electorate.\textsuperscript{16}

I trust this information will be of assistance to you.

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<table>
<thead>
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<th>Paper No.</th>
<th>551571637</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>12/11/15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>M. Katter</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tabled</th>
<th>Tabbed, by leave</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Incorporate, by leave</td>
<td>Remainder incorporated, by leave</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Clerk at the Table: