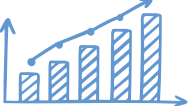


Invest in Cairns



Economy at a glance


GRP
\$12.86B
(NIEIR 2026)


2.92%
**AVERAGE ANNUAL
ECONOMIC GROWTH
SINCE 2021**
(NIEIR 2026)


4.7%
**UNEMPLOYMENT
RATE (LGA)**
(SALM Dec 2025,
quarterly smoothed LGA)


15,166
**LOCAL
BUSINESSES**
(ABS 2025)

Sector strengths



Aviation



Marine & Defence



Healthcare &
Social Assistance



Tourism



Construction



Education &
training



Access to skills

- James Cook University
- CQ University
- Cairns Aviation Skills Centre
- Great Barrier Reef International Marine College
- TAFE Queensland

Why Cairns?

The capital of Far North Queensland

Cairns services communities across Queensland, Northern Territory and the Asia Pacific with one of the largest and fastest growing regional populations in Northern Australia.

Brisbane 2032 co-host city

As a co-host city for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, Cairns will benefit from increased tourism, global exposure, infrastructure investment, and business opportunities, supporting long-term regional economic growth and development.

Globally connected and Australia's northern gateway to Asia-Pacific

Cairns serves as Australia's northern gateway to the Asia-Pacific, connecting the region through trade, transport, education, and tourism. Its strategic location and aviation and maritime linkages support regional growth, and opportunities across business, logistics, and international collaboration. Cairns also plays an important role in Australia's National Security agenda, as a vital forward operating base providing maritime logistics, maintenance, and rapid response capabilities necessary to maintain regional stability across the Indo-Pacific.

World-class universities and industry training

Cairns' workforce is supported by James Cook University and CQUniversity, which provide education and research capability across a broad range of disciplines. Industry-specific skills development is further strengthened through TAFE Queensland, the Great Barrier Reef International Marine College, and the Cairns Aviation Skills Centre, who each deliver training aligned to established industries and sectors with strong future growth prospects.

World Heritage listed reef and rainforest

The Cairns region encompasses two UNESCO World Heritage sites: the Great Barrier Reef and the Wet Tropics Rainforest, both internationally recognised for their rich biodiversity. These ecosystems provide significant environmental and economic value, while also supporting the distinctive lifestyle enjoyed by residents across the region.

Contact us at economicdevelopment@cairns.qld.gov.au

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Property



Commercial

Rent price comparison

(indicative per square metre per annum)

\$450-\$650
CAIRNS

(Knight Frank,
CBD Office)

\$1,076
BRISBANE

(Knight Frank, Prime CBD
Office Market, Q4 2025)

\$1,651
SYDNEY

(Knight Frank, Prime CBD
Office Market, Feb 2026)



Residential

Purchase price comparison

House
(Median)

CAIRNS
\$798,000

SYDNEY
\$1,791,643

Unit
(Median)

CAIRNS
\$470,000

SYDNEY
\$848,227

Cairns Economic
Monitor July 2026

Domain March 2026
House Price Report



Who is already here?

- Accor
- Aecom Australia
- Arup
- Aurecon
- Austal Australia
- Australian Institute of Tropical Health and Medicine
- Aviation Australia
- BAE Systems
- BDO Australia
- BESIX Watpac
- Cairns Airport
- Cairns Aviation Skills Centre
- Cairns Manufacturing Hub
- Cairns Steel Fabricators
- CaPTA Group
- CQUniversity
- Crystalbrook Collection
- Experience Co
- FKG Group
- GHD
- Grant Thornton
- Great Barrier Reef International Marine College
- Hansen Yuncken
- Hilton
- Holiday Inn
- Independent Aviation
- Jacobs
- James Cook University
- Jet Aviation
- Keir
- MSFSugar (Mitr Phol)
- Nautilus Aviation
- Norship
- Norsta Maritime
- Novotel
- Ports North (QIC)
- PWC
- Pullman
- Ramsay Health Care
- Rydges
- Shangri La
- Skytek
- Skytrans
- TAFE Queensland
- Tropical Reef Shipyard



What we can do for you

Cairns Regional Council's Economic Development team is ready to answer your queries and to make the process of setting up your enterprise in Cairns as effortless as possible.

We can assist you by:

- Giving you access to local intelligence
- Undertaking property searches
- Providing development application support, including:
 - Pre-lodgement advice
 - A dedicated project team allocation for significant projects
 - Hosting visits to the area and to potential premises
 - Support access to government funding schemes
 - Provide networking opportunities and connecting with the community
 - Support access to other State and Federal departments