

## 15. Socio-economic environment

### 15.1 Summary of comments

A summary of the comments received during the JRYUP EIS consultation process relevant to socio-economic issues are outlined below:

- Clarifying that the construction workforce accommodation village is to be temporary for the construction workforce only.
- Minor statistical inaccuracies in relation to the Sarina Shire, Mackay Statistical Division (SD) and Queensland data documented in the EIS.

These comments are addressed in the sections below.

### 15.2 Construction workforce accommodation village

A temporary construction workforce accommodation village has been proposed on unused land owned by the Sarina Golf Club, located adjacent to the existing Jilalan Rail Yards. The construction accommodation village is envisaged to be located at this site for a maximum of two (2) years to cater for the Jilalan Rail Yard construction workforce. The village will be decommissioned and removed once the construction phase has concluded (anticipated to be approximately late 2009).

The JRYUP will not affect housing availability in the region, as the majority of construction staff will be housed in the construction workforce accommodation village that is being provided for the project.

The temporary accommodation village is for 280 people, consisting of 70 accommodation units, housing up to four persons in each unit. Facilities associated with the temporary housing are also proposed, including two male and female toilet blocks, a kitchen and dining facility, a recreation room, a gymnasium, a storage room and a laundry.

A liquor licence will not be provided within the accommodation village, as temporary and permanent residents have ready access to supplies and services from Sarina Golf Club and the Sarina township.

The construction workforce accommodation village could potentially provide opportunities for the facility to be used for other purposes post construction subject to local government planning approval.

### 15.3 Mackay City and Sarina Shire statistics

#### 15.3.1 Population change

Table 15.2 of the EIS has been amended to revise the age profile changes in Mackay SD in 2001 (refer Table 15.1).

Table 15.1 Age profile change 2001- 2006

Age Group (year)	Sarina Shire 2001	Sarina Shire prop'n % 2001	Sarina Shire prop'n % 2006	Mackay SD 2001	Mackay SD prop'n % 2001	Mackay SD prop'n % 2006	QLD prop'n % 2001	QLD prop'n % 2006
0-14	2,328	24.2	22.5	31,171	22.2	21.9	21.3	20.1
15-24	1,096	11.4	12.0	17,909	12.8	13.2	14.1	13.8
25-44	2,652	27.6	26.6	42,416	30.3	29.7	29.8	28.1
45-64	2,466	25.7	29.1	33,708	24.0	25.4	23.2	25.0
65+	1,068	11.1	9.9	14,874	10.6	9.8	11.6	12.4
Total	9,610	100	100	140,078	100	100	100	100

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics Census, 2001 Census and 2006 Census QuickStats and Basic Community Profile

Table Note: Data excludes overseas visitors

In 2001, Sarina Shire contained 12.4% of the Mackay SD population. Due to the significant population growth that has occurred within the Mackay SD, this proportion has decreased between 2001 and 2006, with Sarina Shire representing 7.1% of the Mackay SD population in 2006.

Between 2001 and 2006, the population in Mackay SD increased by 14.3% and Sarina Shire by 11.5%. In comparison the population in Queensland increased by 8.9%.

### 15.3.2 Dwelling tenure

The 2006 Census data indicates the following housing tenure characteristics for Sarina Statistical Local Area (SLA):

- The majority of private occupied housing in Sarina SLA comprises of separate houses, with 35.0% being fully owned and 35.7% being purchased (a total of 70.7% of all housing).
- A total of 26.1% of private occupied dwellings are rented. Of this total, the majority of dwellings are rented from real estate agents (44.4%), a person not in the same household (30.1%) or other landlord type (9.9%).

In comparison, the 2006 Census QuickStats indicate that for Queensland the proportion of private dwellings fully owned or being purchased is 30.4% and 31.4%, respectively (a total of 61.8%) and the proportion of dwellings that are rented is 30.0%. It is also indicated that in comparison to Mackay SD, the proportion of dwellings fully owned or being purchased is 31.1% and 28.1%, respectively (a total of 59.2%) and the proportion of dwellings that are rented is 30.2%.

This demonstrates a higher level of home ownership in the Sarina SLA in comparison to both Queensland and Mackay SD.

A further comparison with Freshwater Point (the local area of the proposed Project) indicates that 37.3% of dwellings are fully owned and 29.9% of dwellings are being purchased (a total of 67.2%, which indicated an overall decrease in owner-occupied dwellings in comparison to Sarina SLA). It was further identified that 19.4% of private dwellings in the Freshwater Point local area are being rented, which is lower than for Sarina SLA, where 26.1% of private dwellings are being rented.

### 15.3.3 Housing availability (during the construction phase)

A key finding in EIS Section 15.3.2 "Housing availability (during the construction phase)" has been amended below.

- From the 2006 Census data, Sarina Shire had a median rental price slightly higher than Mackay (\$165 and \$160 respectively) and a lower median rent than Queensland (\$200).

In addition to the rental accommodation and housing costs data contained in the EIS, data from the Residential Tenancies Authority (RTA 2007) has identified that the median weekly rent for the June Quarter 2007 for Mackay City was \$250 for a two bedroom flat/unit and \$350 for a three bedroom house. The RTA does not have equivalent data for Sarina Shire and Queensland.

### 15.3.4 Economic stability

The statistical information below has been updated to include 2006 Census occupational data, which replaces the EIS occupational data from the 2001 Census.

#### Occupation

The highest degree of specialisation in the Sarina Shire occurred in the technicians and trades workers (19.9%), machinery operators and drivers (19.0%) and labourer occupations (15.5%). This is compared to Queensland where professionals comprise the largest proportion of workers (17.1%), with the second highest degree of specialisation being in technical and trades (15.4%). The people in the workforce age (ie aged over 15) by occupation as a proportion of the total population in Sarina Shire, Mackay SD and Queensland has been summarised in Table 15.2.

**Table 15.2 Occupation, Sarina Shire, 2006**

Occupation	Sarina Shire proportion %	Mackay SD proportion %	Queensland proportion %
Managers	11.3	12.2	12.4
Professionals	7.6	11.5	17.1
Technicians and trades workers	19.9	19.5	15.4
Community and personal service workers	7.2	7.1	9.1
Clerical and administrative works	10.4	11.9	14.8
Sales workers	7.1	8.9	10.4
Machinery operators and drivers	19.0	13.8	7.2
Labourers	15.5	13.4	11.9
Inadequately described/not stated	2.1	1.7	1.7

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics Census data, 2006

**Table Notes:**

Proportion percentages are based on those within the workforce age (ie aged over 15)

Within Sarina Shire, the following trends have been identified:

- Sarina Shire contains a higher proportion of technicians and trades workers (4.5% more), labourers (3.6% more) and machinery operators and drivers (11.8% more) compared to Queensland.
- Queensland contains the highest proportion of managers and professionals in comparison to both Sarina Shire and Mackay SD.
- A higher proportion of Queensland residents work in the fields of professionals (9.5% more than Sarina and 5.6% more than Mackay SD), clerical and administrative workers (4.4% more than Sarina and 2.9% more than Mackay SD) and sales workers (3.3% more than Sarina and 1.5% more than Mackay SD).