KUR-World

Appendix 8a

Social and Economic Profile

Environmental Impact Statement

KUR-WORLD Eco-Resort EIS

Social and Economic Profile

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INTRODUCTION

The following is to provide a social and economic profile for proposed Section 11.1 of the EIS.

It also assists to meet, in full or in part, the requirements of the TOR as follows.

Social and cultural area

11.33. Define the project's social and cultural area of influence, including the local, regional and state level as relevant taking into account the:

a) potential for social and cultural impacts to occur
b) population and demographics of the affected area
c) history and settlement pattern of the local area
d) location and types of physical and social infrastructure
e) social values that might be affected by the project integrity of social conditions, liveability, social harmony and wellbeing and sense of community
f) Indigenous social and cultural characteristics, such as native title rights

Social baseline study

11.37. Undertake a targeted baseline study of the people residing in the project's social and cultural area, to identify the project's social issues, potential adverse and positive social impacts, and strategies, measures and outcomes developed to address the impacts. The social baseline study should be based on qualitative and quantitative and participatory methods. It should be supplemented by community engagement processes, and reference relevant data contained in local and state government publications, reports, plans, guidelines and documentation, including regional and community plans.

11.38. The social baseline study should take account of social issues such as:

a) the social infrastructure, civic facilities, services and networks—for the definition, see the Far North Queensland Regional Plan 2009–31
b) the identity, values, lifestyle, vitality, characteristics and aspirations of those living in the social and cultural area, including Indigenous communities
c) the use of the social and cultural area for recreation, fishing, business and industry, tourism and indigenous cultural use of the land and flora and fauna
d) housing availability and affordability: rental market (size, vacancy rates, seasonal variations, weekly rent, the availability and typical costs of housing for purchase and the availability of social house).

11.49. Describe the local and regional economies likely to be impacted by the project and identify the relevant stakeholders.

1.0 LOCATION & REGIONAL CONTEXT

1.1 Geographical Background

1.1.1 Kuranda & the Tablelands area

The Kuranda area is located in the north-eastern section of the Tablelands geographic area west of the regional city of Cairns. (See maps Appendix 2.)

The Tablelands area is comprised of upland plateau areas at an altitude of about 300 – 400 metres in the north rising to 700 metres in the middle and 1000 metres in the south.

They are defined by the coastal escarpment mountains in the east and in the west by ranges that form part of the Great Dividing Range.

Rainfall tends to be highest along the coastal escarpment and in the higher altitude areas of the southern and central Tablelands area.

In this area, high year-round rainfall leads to dense rainforest vegetation and year-round crop and pasture growth conditions.

In the lower altitude northern area, rainfall is more seasonal with natural vegetation, savannah woodland. Agriculture in this area mainly depends on irrigation with a major water source being the Barron River that flows south from the high southern Tablelands to the north and then east through Kuranda to the coast via the Barron Falls and Gorge. Located in the middle Tablelands on the Barron River is the major Tinaroo Dam water storage.

For local government administration, the northern end of the Tablelands is covered by the Mareeba Shire Council with a large area extending further west of the Great Dividing Range area into hilly mineralised areas and then onto the plains of the Gulf of Carpentaria. Shire headquarters is in Mareeba.

The southern (middle and higher level), areas form part of the Tablelands Regional Council area with headquarters at Atherton. The Tablelands Regional Council's area also extends to the west into the mineralised hilly area around Herberton but also south into the savannah woodland medium rainfall area of the upper Herbert River and the volcanic McBride Tablelands. (See maps Appendix 1.)

Total population is about 47,000. This makes it the most populous region west of the coastal ranges in Queensland north of the Darling Downs area west of Brisbane.

1.1.2 The Cairns region

In economic and social terms, the Tablelands area in turn forms a very important part of what is termed the Cairns region for statistical purposes that comprises the Tablelands area (but not including the areas of Mareeba Shire west of the Dividing Range, the city of Cairns and the tropical coastal areas to the south covered by Cassowary Coast Regional Council, and to the north, covered by Douglas Shire Council. (See maps Appendix 1.)

Population of the Cairns region is currently over 245,000 (Cairns 160,000, Tablelands 47,000, Cassowary Coast and Douglas 40,000).

However, the economic and social influence of Cairns as a regional city spreads wider than the immediate Cairns region. Effectively the whole of the Peninsula Australia geographic region looks to Cairns city for major regional economic and social services including the whole of Cape York Peninsula and the Torres Strait Islands to the north and the Gulf savannah region west to the Gulf and the Northern Territory border. (See maps Appendix 1.)

The Peninsula Australia geographic region is referred to as Tropical North Queensland for tourism marketing purposes and often as Far North Queensland. Economic and social influences from this wider region affect the growth of Cairns as a service centre.

In this, the major Tablelands centres of Mareeba and Atherton play an important sub regional servicing role with Mareeba servicing especially north and north-west into the Peninsula and Atherton south and south west into the Gulf Savannah area.

1.1.3 Definition of communities affected

For the purposes of this study, the communities affected are identified as follows:

1) Local area – Kuranda area as defined by Australian Bureau of Statistics Kuranda Statistical Area Level 2 (see Appendix 1, Map 1).
2) District – Tablelands geographical area as defined by the local government areas of Mareeba Shire Council and Tablelands Regional Council which are also defined by ABS by Tablelands East – Kuranda Statistical Area Level 3 plus Queensland Outback Far North – Tablelands SA2 (see maps Appendix 1). Note: Where appropriate for 2016 Census data, Tablelands East – Kuranda SA3 only has been used to describe the Tablelands area.
3) The Cairns region as defined by Cairns Statistical Area Level 4 comprising the local government areas of Cairns, Cassowary Coast, Douglas, Tablelands and Mareeba (less Queensland Outback Far North – Tablelands) (see maps Appendix 1).
4) State of Queensland.

1.2 Historical Background

1.2.1 Regional development

The Cairns and Peninsula Australia geographic region lies deep into the tropics and historically posed greater challenges to development for a society with most of its population and technology drawn from north western Europe.

Cairns was not founded until 1876, almost 100 years after Sydney. Sheep did not prosper in the area and early pastoral development received a further major setback when tick-born "Redwater" fever swept through the mainly British bred cattle herds in the 1890s.

Most early development was based on mining in the area west of the Tablelands which went into decline in the 1920s.

Development of tropical agriculture was slow and beset by problems of remoteness from major Australian, let alone world, markets and high labour costs.

By 1947, population in the Peninsula Australia region (1½ times the size of Victoria and equivalent in area to the British Isles), was only 70,000 and Cairns city 16,000.

However, the region is not poor in underlying resources and in the post-war period through to the present, there has been major growth in population.

The region's population has expanded four-fold and is now the largest in northern Australia with a residential population of 280,000. Cairns as a city has expanded ten-fold to about 160,000.

Behind this growth has been very strong increases in earnings from outside the region - from the rest of Australia and overseas, driven by four underlying major factors.

1) Growing global markets reaching out for additional goods and services, with the region being close to the major global growth economies of Eastern Asia.
2) Transport developments that have broken down old cost barriers of remoteness including bulk ore carriers, improved roads and road transport vehicles, jumbo jets but also satellites and the internet in communication.
3) Development of technology suited to the tropics not just in plants and animals but in technology to transport people to and to view the reef and rainforests and relating to everyday living including airconditioning, medical advances and the like
4) And as population, infrastructure and services build up, "success breeds success" factors have come into play lowering everyday real costs of production and living.

With 26% of Australia's water runoff, agricultural output and earnings have expanded and diversified as sugar harvesting was mechanised, as superior tropical beef breeds were introduced and as lower transport costs underpinned a whole major new sector in the economy in tropical horticulture products grown for markets in southern Australia. In this, the Tablelands area has played a major role.

With a coastline almost equivalent to Brisbane around to Adelaide, fisheries production expanded, especially in the 1970s and 1980s.

Value of primary industries and processing is now of the order of $2 billion per annum.

Mining output has been more erratic in its growth but stands today, especially through expansion at Weipa, at towards $1 billion per annum.

On top of this growth, the region has developed a major new sector in the economy based on world class tourism attributes of the reef, rainforests and outback. The Cairns/Tropical North Queensland region is now one of Australia's leading international tourism regions. Visitor expenditure is now over $3 billion per annum.

Cairns is strategically located in relation to the Pacific/Asia area and in the 1960s became the location of Australia's north-east naval base. The city has strong trading and servicing links with Papua New Guinea and Papua Indonesia to the near north.

Based on its large reef fleet, fishing fleet, a fleet of trading and work vessels and the navy base, Cairns has become the leading marine servicing centre in northern Australia including three ship yards and a marine training college.

Based on its growing population and large tourism numbers, Cairns International Airport has developed as the leading airport by far in northern Australia with direct international links to ten Asia Pacific cities.

A large fleet of smaller aircraft provided the basis for a major aviation maintenance and servicing and training sector at Cairns airport and Mareeba airport.

University development was late coming but the city now has two growing university campuses. Cairns has the largest number of international education visitors outside metropolitan centres and the Gold Coast (especially in English language schools).

The Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service area has grown steadily to lead regional Queensland outside the south-east corner in hospital admissions.

1.2.2 Regional demographics

Before European settlement, the wider Peninsula Australia geographic region had a relatively dense Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population remains the majority population in Cape York Peninsula, Torres Strait and parts of the Gulf area and remains a higher than average proportion of population in the immediate Cairns region than in Queensland overall.

There is a strong proportion of the population descendent from settlers prior to World War II of British and North European descent but also from early migration from Italy, Greece Malta and Lebanon, many initially arriving to take up work as canecutters.

Early non-European migration included a large number of Chinese, Indians (Sikh, Hindu and Muslim), Indonesians (Malays), Japanese and, pre federation, from the Pacific Islands. Thus, the region has traditionally had a high proportion of its population of non-British Isles origin.

The early post-war period saw strong inward migration occurring from Europe including a strong proportion from Italy and the Balkans. A number of European origin families also migrated to the area from other tropical countries as they received independence, including from Indonesia, Africa, South America, Caribbean and in the 1970s from Papua New Guinea.

Very strong growth from the 1970s saw substantial inward movement of population from southern Australia, especially into Cairns and the coastal tourism areas. They were mainly of Anglo/European origin, at times with different values to the old settler population. More recently, tourism has brought with it young people from UK/Europe, USA and Japan deciding to settle in the area, and more recently from China.

International tourism adds to the demographics on the street with substantial Asian, European and North American elements including a large "backpacker" trade.

The region's population, while remaining predominantly Anglo Australian, has a long history of relatively smooth integration into the community of relatively large numbers from other backgrounds over a long period of time.

1.2.3 Tablelands area development

The Tablelands have played a very important role in the region's historical development.

Initial impetus for settlement was heavily influenced by pastoral industry movements into the area, logging of rainforest timbers of the southern Tablelands and escarpments, and especially, by the early gold rushes and development of the base metal mining (tin, copper, lead zinc) on the western margins of the Tablelands.

By comparison, the development of agriculture in the region was slower to occur. Early development was primarily in the southern Tablelands area of dairying and mixed farming of maize, peanuts, potatoes, etc., for local markets. After the Tinaroo Dam was completed in 1956, substantial development of tobacco growing occurred in the northern Tablelands area and in the Mareeba Dimbulah Irrigation Area.

Wet Tropics World Heritage listing saw logging in rainforests banned and sawmilling greatly reduced. Tobacco growing ceased in the mid-1990s when tariff by-law protection was removed.

However, the challenge was met. Improved transport vehicles and roads to southern Australia led to major markets opening up for offseason temperate zone produce and tropical crops. A rapid development and diversification of cropping took place, especially in the irrigation areas around Mareeba.

The advent of B-double freight vehicles also saw sugar growing, previously confined to the coast, commence on the Tablelands initially to supply coastal mills via the coastal escarpment roads. This was followed by establishment of a mill west of Mareeba.

In more recent years, especially after cyclones Larry and Yasi affected coastal banana growing, substantial banana cropping developed on the Tablelands and further north at Lakeland Downs.

Expanding tourism in the region assisted development of a number of crops for the restaurant trade, and establishment of coffee works and wineries.

As in the rest of the North, the cattle industry has recorded long-term steady growth in numbers and turnoff.

Mining was greatly reduced after the 1920s but has had sporadic upsurges, especially around Mt Garnet and Chillagoe.

Most overnight tourism into the Tablelands area tends to be local recreational visitors from the coast, grey nomad business and some farm stay. There is a large day-tripper trade out of Cairns to Kuranda but also on circuits around the Tablelands, but the former widely-used circuits around the Tablelands have fallen drastically in popularity since Skyrail 'closed the loop' with the Kuranda Railway from Cairns. Since then, tourism on the wider Tablelands has languished and the development of an iconic accommodation facility has been a goal of a number of economic development studies.

1.2.4 Tablelands demographics

After the decline of mining from the 1920s on, much of the early settler population from the mining towns moved into the expanding Tablelands agricultural areas and to the coast and Cairns.

The post-World War II expansion of tobacco growing saw heavy migrant entry from Italy and the Balkans, especially into irrigation farming in the Mareeba Dimbulah Irrigation Area.

Unlike many Australian rural areas, expansion of agriculture supplemented by tourism and mining surges has seen steady growth of population. However, the population remains dominated by early settler families and post-war migrant families.

More recently, a farming and mining background led to significant numbers entering into the FIFO (fly-in/fly-out) arrangements to mines outside the region during the recent mining boom period.

As in most rural communities, there is a significant element of what has been termed "spiralist" population – typically bank managers, police, school teachers, hospital staff who move through community towns on postings as they work their way up to larger centres. They are mainly from elsewhere in Queensland including substantial numbers from south-east Queensland.

Recently, requirements for labour for the expanding horticultural industries has led to employment of substantial numbers of backpackers, mainly from Europe.

A substantial Aboriginal population is still located in the area.

1.2.5 Kuranda area development

The location of the Kuranda area at the top of the east coast escarpment immediately west of the major regional city and port of Cairns, gives it a special mix of social and economic attributes. In the first place, Kuranda lies at a critical point on the major road and rail links via the historically difficult ascent of the escarpment, between Cairns and the bulk of the city's very extensive hinterland.

Of special significance for Kuranda, the road and rail routes provide strong linkages with the nearby city of Cairns (albeit modified by the need to travel a winding range section), but also strong links with the rest of the Mareeba Shire and the Tablelands area.

For traffic coming from Cairns, the ascent of the range by road or rail (or these days, by Skyrail), gives a “sense of arrival”. Because of its altitude, there is also a “sense of difference” to the coast. The heavy rainforest in the area also gives a sense of difference from the savannah woodland country to the west around Mareeba.

Historically, Kuranda had two initial socio economic influences:

- a substantial Aboriginal population, especially at the old Mona Mona Mission but also in the Mantaka Korowa areas
- a small local early settler family population, mainly engaged in farming, the timber industry and servicing the railway.

Right from earliest days, the spectacular views of the Kuranda Rail trip and the heavy rainforests in the area were attractive to visitors.

For Cairns residents, Kuranda was something of a “Hill Station” and recreation area.

A visit to Kuranda by rail via the Barron Falls also became part of the experience of a growing number of visitors coming to the region first by coastal steamships, then by rail, then by road and finally by air.

In the post-Pacific war period, Kuranda became a viable dormitory area for Cairns. Residential population grew. In the 1960s, a special element started to arrive in the form of the alternative lifestyle culture attracted by Kuranda’s rainforest environment and its separateness from urban Cairns.

This culture with its emphasis on lifestyle and folk art in turn enriched Kuranda as a tourism destination. The Kuranda markets became a special feature.

By the 1970s, tourism was based on a day trip to Kuranda by train and then by coach around the Tablelands. Under the influence of the Kuranda Markets and the Tjapukai cultural experience, as well as the ‘closing of the rail loop’ in the 1990s by Skyrail, Kuranda has increasingly become a destination in its own right; currently attracting about a million day-visitors a year.

1.2.6 Kuranda demographics

Thus today, Kuranda area’s history leads to a number of special elements in its economy and social structure:

- A substantial Aboriginal population.
- A small local generally small scale and hobby farming population, with land use increasingly reflecting urban fringe activities like nurseries, horticulture, horse riding stables and the like.
- A significant residential population catering for the large number of tourist day trippers and a small (mainly B&B), accommodation sector. Very significantly, this also includes a substantial creative industries element. This group includes substantial alternative lifestyle influences.
- A substantial “dormitory suburb” element who work in Cairns and other Tablelands centres. This element is not poor. It includes substantial professional and higher socio economic families as well as a substantial component of more recent inflow families from southern Australia.
- A business and trades population servicing local needs.

The next section provides data especially from Census 2016 revealed to date and 2011 on demographics of Kuranda, the Tablelands and the Cairns region.

2.0 OVERALL POPULATION SIZE & GROWTH

2.1 Residential Population

For statistical purposes, Kuranda is defined by the Statistical Area level 2 of Kuranda. (See Appendix 1, Map 1.)

The following table gives residential population size and growth for the Kuranda area.

Table 1: Estimated Residential Population – Kuranda (Statistical Area Level 2), 1991-2016 (1)

Year	No.	
1991	3309	
1992	3448	
1993	3589	
1994	3649	
1995	3687	
1996	3762	
1997	3714	
1998	3666	
1999	3656	
2000	3690	
2001	3679	
2002	3704	
2003	3722	
2004	3710	
2005	3778	
2006	3785	
2007	3857	
2008	4135	
2009	4309	
2010	4449	
2011	4555	
2012	4606	
2013	4654	
2014	4678	
2015	4752	
2016	4766	
Average Annual Growth		
1991-2016	1.5% pa	
5 years 2006-2011	2.8% pa	
5 years 2011-2016	0.9% pa	

(1)Note: The figures for 2011-2016 are inter-censual estimates subject to revision after actual 2016 Census figures become available. The 2016 Census data indicates that growth of usual place of residence population at 3.6% for 2011-2016 was lower than the above estimated at 4.6% leading to a probably minor downward revision for 2016 by about 40.
Source: Cummings Economics from Australian Bureau of Statistics, Cat No. 3218.00.

The indications are that the long term population growth of the Kuranda area has been about 1.5% per annum.

In the context of the Tablelands community however, it represents about 22% of Mareeba Shire and about 10% of the Mareeba/Tablelands area.

Table 2: Overall Estimated Residential Population and Growth, Tablelands Community

	Mareeba Shire Council area	Tablelands Regional Council area	Total Tablelands
1991	17,032	19,808	**36,840**
2001	18,125	21,894	**40,019**
2011	20,691	24,372	**45,063**
2016	22,025	25,064	**47,089**
Average Annual Growth			
1991-2016	1.0% pa	0.9% pa	**1.0% pa**

Source: Cummings Economics from Australian Bureau of Statistics, Cat No. 3218.00.

Kuranda is located next to the growing regional city of Cairns and as part of the Cairns SA4 region.

Table 3: Overall Estimated Residential Population and Growth, Cairns SA4 Region

	No.	
1991	158,340	
2001	191,842	
2011	232,781	
2016	248,110	
Average Annual Growth		
1991-2016	1.8% pa	

Source: Cummings Economics from Australian Bureau of Statistics, Cat No. 3218.00.

Cairns SA4 estimated residential population is the largest in northern Queensland and across northern Australia. Along with Darwin and the Top End, it has recorded the fastest in long-term growth since 1991.

Table 4: Estimated Residential Population and Growth, Northern Australia, 2016[(1)]

	No.	Growth 1991-2016
Cairns SA4 region	246,110	*+55%*
Townsville SA4 region	239,800	*+42%*
Fitzroy SA4 region	235,470	*+37%*
Mackay SA4 region	181,786	*+47%*
Darwin and Top End	200,614	*+59%*
Kimberley Pilbara SA3 regions	104,500	*+49%*

(1) Note: Census 2016 figures compared with 2011, usual place of residence, indicate that post census revised figures will be slightly higher for Cairns and Northern Territory but lower for the other regions.

Source: Cummings Economics from Australian Bureau of Statistics, Cat No. 3218.00.

2.2 Visitor Population

At the time of the 2016 Census, overnight visitor population in the area was estimated as follows.

Table 5: Overnight Visitor Population, Census 2016

	Kuranda SA2	Tablelands East SA3	Cairns SA4 region
Queensland	116	2,071	13,457
Interstate	118	1,257	18,442
Total Domestic	**234**	**3,328**	**31,899**
International	**73**	**862**	**14,670**
Overall Total	**307**	**4,190**	**46,569**
% of Total Census count population, Place of enumeration	**6.7% (cf 2011) (5.4%)**	**9.9% (cf 2011) (8.3%)**	**16.4% (cf 2011) (15.9%)**

Source: Cummings Economics from Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census 2016.

Overnight visitors in the Kuranda area were not high compared with population.

However, day visitor numbers to the Kuranda area are extremely high. Total annual day visitation is estimated at about 1 million a year, ie. an average of about 2700 a day and at peak period about equal to the entire residential population of the area.

The great bulk could be expected to be on a day visit from Cairns and will visit between the hours of 10.00am – 3.00pm.

3.0 WORKFORCE

3.1 Workforce Status

The following table compares workforce totals in the region from the 2016 Census.

Table 6: Total Workforce(1) (usual place of residence), Census 2016

	No.	
Kuranda SA2	2,010	
Tablelands SA3	17,200	
Cairns SA4	115,176	

(1) Note: Includes unemployed.
Source: Cummings Economics from Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census 2016.

The following Table 7 compares workforce status from the 2016 Census and that the Kuranda area had around a 20% greater unemployment than the Queensland average and 17% higher than the Cairns region.

Table 7: Workforce Status (usual place of residence), Census 2016

	Kuranda SA2	Mareeba/ Tablelands LGAs	Cairns SA4 region	Queensland
Worked full time	50.1%	53.1%	58.6%	57.7%
Worked part time	34.4%	32.8%	28.1%	29.9.%
Away from work	4.6%	4.1%	4.0%	3.2%
Unemployed	9.1%	8.0%	7.8%	7.6%

Source: Cummings Economics from Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census 2016.

Kuranda has a higher proportion of part time work and unemployed.

Indigenous population in the Kuranda area in the 2016 Census was given as 517, some 11.5% of the population.

The following table gives figures for the Indigenous workforce.

Table 8: Indigenous & non-Indigenous Workforce, Kuranda SA2 & Mareeba/Tablelands region, Census 2016

	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous	
	Kuranda SA2	Mareeba/ Tablelands region	Kuranda SA2	Mareeba/ Tablelands region
% unemployed	31.9%	29.3%	7.9%	6.5%
% workforce participation (population 15 plus)	36.6%	44.4%	63.2%	58.0%

Source: Cummings Economics from Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census 2016.

The table indicates a very high unemployment rate and a low workforce participation rate for the Indigenous community compared with the non-Indigenous community.

The following is a table for workforce among the 142 residents of the Kurowa-Mantaka – Mona Mona Indigenous area.

Table 9: Kurowa-Mantaka-Mona Mona Indigenous Area Labour Force Status, Age 15 plus, Census 2016

	No.	% of workforce	% of total 15 plus
Employed full time	10	*31.3%*	
Employed part time	8	*25%*	
Away from work	0	*0%*	
Total employed	**18**	***56.3%***	
Unemployed	11	*34.4%*	
Total in workforce	**32**	***100%***	***23%***
% not in workforce	**105**		***75.5%***
Overall Total	**139**		***100%***

Source: Cummings Economics from Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census 2016.

The indications are that the relatively high unemployment rate recorded for Kuranda SA2 is in substantial part due to the relatively high Indigenous population. Targeting Indigenous employment would help bring the relatively high unemployment rate in the area down.

There is a large nearby supply of workforce available in the Mareeba/Tablelands area and Cairns.

Census 2016 indicates that youth unemployment in the Cairns SA4 region was relatively high and about double that of the overall workforce but in the Kuranda SA2 area, it was very high at 21.1%.

Table 10: Youth Unemployment Rate, Cairns SA4 Region

	Average Unemployment Rate	
	Age 15 – 24	**Workforce Total**
Kuranda SA2	21.1%	9.1%
Mareeba LGA	15.5%	8.3%
Tablelands LGA	13.0%	7.7%
Cains SA4 region	15.1%	7.8%

Source: Cummings Economics from Census 2016 data.

This indicates a special need to attend to employment opportunities for young people in the region but especially in the Kuranda area.

More recent data available on number of persons on labour force support payments (Newstart, etc.), indicates the following.

Table 11: Number on Labour Market Support Payments (Newstart, etc.)

	Atherton	Mareeba	Cairns
July 2016	929	1007	5771
July 2017	908	1082	5860
July 2017 as % of estimated persons in workforce (1)	8.9%	12.0%	7.5%

Note (1): Tablelands, Mareeba & Cairns LGAs, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census 2016.
Source: Cummings Economics from Labour Market & Related Payments, Australian Dept of Social Services.

The table indicates a mild rise in registered unemployment in Cairns and Mareeba, July 2017 over 2016, and a relatively high unemployment rate as measured on those registered for unemployment benefits.

3.2 Location of Work

The following gives Census 2016 indication of where residents of Kuranda worked.

Table 12: Kuranda Residents, Place of Work (usual place of residence), Census 2016

	No.	No.	%
Kuranda		735	*41%*
Other Tablelands		196	*10.9%*
Mareeba LGA	166		
Tablelands LGA	30		
Cairns		680	*37.9%*
Other Cairns Region		24	*1.3%*
Douglas	11		
Cassowary Coast	13		
Other QLD		157	*8.8%*
Total		**1792**	***100%***

Note: This table does not include those who work outside Queensland.
Source: Cummings Economics from Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census 2016.

The following table gives those who live outside the region but worked in Kuranda at the time of the 2016 Census.

Table 13: Worked in Kuranda (usual place of residence), Census 2016

	No.	No.	%
Kuranda		735	*70%*
Cairns		225	*21%*
Mareeba/Tablelands		50	*5%*
Mareeba	33		
Tablelands	17		
Other Queensland		57	*5%*
Douglas	0		
Cassowary Coast	0		
Other Queensland	57		
Total		**1067**	***100%***

Source: Cummings Economics from Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census 2016.

The following summarises.

Table 14: Total Local Employment, Kuranda SA2, Census 2016

	No.	%
Kuranda residents	735	*68.9%*
Residents from outside (especially Cairns North SA3)	332	*31.1%*
Total Kuranda place of work	**1067**	***100%***
Kuranda residents working outside Kuranda	1057	

Source: See preceding tables.

Thus, of Kuranda residents working, the majority (59%) work outside, mostly in Cairns (38%) but with a significant proportion (11%) in the Mareeba/Tablelands area.

Of jobs in Kuranda area itself, 31% were filled by persons from outside the Kuranda area, mostly from Cairns (21%), but 50 from the Mareeba/Tablelands area.

These figures imply that the creation of additional jobs in the area could lead to significant numbers of the existing population choosing to work locally rather than commute to more distant centres.

3.3 Workforce by Occupation

The following table gives composition of the residential workforce by occupation from the 2016 Census.

Table 15: Residential Workforce by Industry (usual place of residence), Census 2016

	Kuranda SA2	Mareeba/Tablelands LGAs	Cairns SA4	Queensland
Managers	14.7%	**14.8%**	12.2%	12.1%
Professionals	**21.4%**	15.1%	17.3%	19.8%
Technicians & Trades	15.2%	14.0%	**14.7%**	14.3%
Community & Personal Services	12.6%	12.2%	**13.2%**	11.3%
Clerical & Administration	11.8%	11.6%	12.4%	**13.6%**
Sales	8.7%	9.3%	**10.1%**	9.7%
Machinery Operators & Drivers	4.7%	**7.0%**	6.2%	6.9%
Labourers	9.2%	**14.5%**	12.0%	10.5%
Inadequately described	1.5%	1.6%	1.7%	1.6%
Total	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**

Source: Cummings Economics from Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census 2016. ☐ Denotes highest.

Thus overall, regional (Cairns SA4) figures are relatively close to State patterns but with professional lower and community and personal services, sales and labourers higher. The stand out figure for the Kuranda area is a high level of professionals, well above the regional figures and even slightly above the Queensland average. Labourers and machine operators and drivers are well below the regional average but the nearby Tablelands area is high.

The indications are that a high proportion of those living in the Kuranda area and working elsewhere are in the professional category.

3.4 Workforce by Industry

The following gives composition of the residential workforce by industry from the 2016 Census.

Table 16: Residential Workforce by Industry Group (usual place of residence), Census 2016

	Kuranda SA2		Mareeba/Tablelands LGAs		Cairns SA4		Queensland
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	%.
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	87	*4.8%*	2,038	***12.9%***	6,041	*5.7%*	*2.8%*
Mining	41	*2.2%*	412	***2.6%***	1,716	*1.6%*	*2.3%*
Manufacturing	56	*3.1%*	714	*4.5%*	4,583	*4.3%*	***6.0%***
Electricity, gas, water & waste services	10	*0.5%*	171	***1.1%***	997	*0.9%*	*1.1%*
Construction	149	***8.2%***	1,257	*7.9%*	8,304	*7.8%*	*9.0%*
Wholesale trade	26	*1.4%*	297	*1.9%*	2,228	*2.1%*	***2.6%***
Retail trade	190	*10.4%*	1,665	*10.5%*	10,935	***10.3%***	*9.9%*
Accommodation & food services	130	*7.1%*	1,007	*6.4%*	10,390	***9.8%***	*7.3%*
Transport, postal & warehousing	101	***5.5%***	605	*3.8%*	6,109	*5.8%*	*5.1%*
Information media & telecommunications	18	***1.0%***	104	*0.7%*	776	*0.7%*	*1.2%*
Financial & insurance services	18	*1.0%*	185	*1.2%*	1,439	*1.4%*	***2.5%***
Rental, hiring & real estate services	30	*1.6%*	208	*1.3%*	1,910	***1.8%***	***2.0%***
Professional, scientific & technical services	97	*5.3%*	582	*3.7%*	4,479	*4.2%*	***6.3%***
Administrative & support services	89	***4.9%***	479	*3.0%*	4,349	*4.1%*	*3.5%*
Public administration & safety	138	***7.6%***	1,090	*6.9%*	7,823	***7.4%***	*6.6%*
Education & training	194	*10.6%*	1,479	***9.3%***	9,330	*8.8%*	*9.0%*
Health care & social assistance	237	*13.0%*	2,020	*12.8%*	14,080	***13.3%***	***13.0%***
Arts & recreation services	77	***4.2%***	230	*1.5%*	1,921	*1.8%*	*1.6%*
Other services	48	*2.6%*	602	*3.8%*	4,330	***4.1%***	*3.9%*
Inadequately described/Not stated	95	***5.2%***	669	*4.2%*	4,395	*4.1%*	*4.3%*
Total	**1,823**	*100.0%*	**15,824**	*100.0%*	**106,148**	*100.0%*	*100.0%*

Source: ABS, 2016 Census. ☐ Denotes highest.

The table indicates a high proportion of workforce in Kuranda in construction, transport, information media, administrative support services, public administration and safety and very high in arts and recreation services. (Note: These figures are for workforce residing in Kuranda and include a majority working outside Kuranda, especially in Cairns.)

4.0 DEMOGRAPHICS & SOCIAL PROFILE

4.1 Age & Gender

Table 17: Age Profile, Census 2016

Years	Kuranda SA2		Tablelands East SA3	Cairns SA4	Queensland
	2016	(cf 2011)			
0-14	19.1%	(20.4%)	18.6%	19.9%	19.4%
15-29	10.7%	(13.1%)	14.6%	17.4%	19.8%
30-44	18.6%	(19.2%)	15.5%	19.7%	20.3%
45-64	34.5%	(33.9%)	29.0%	27.6%	25.2%
65 plus	17.1%	(13.4%)	22.4%	15.2%	15.4%
Total	**100.0%**	**(100.0%)**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**
Median Age	**45 yrs**	**(43 yrs)**	**45 yrs**	**39 yrs**	**37 yrs**

Source: Cummings Economics from Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census 2016.

The table indicates the Kuranda area has an abnormally high proportion of population in the 45 – 64 age group and very low in the 15 – 29 age group. However, 0 – 14 and 30 – 44 are roughly in line with Queensland and Cairns regional proportions. The Tablelands region is very high in 65 plus. Compared with 2011 Census, it indicates a strong aging of population in Kuranda with part of the large 45 – 64 age group passing into the 65 plus age group.

However within this population, the Indigenous population has a very different profile.

Table 18: Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Population by Age, Kuranda SA2, Census 2016

Years	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
0-14	38%	17%
15-29	19%	13%
30-44	19%	22%
45-64	18%	29%
65 plus	6%	19%
Total	**100%**	**100%**

Note: Excluding “not stated”.
Source: Cummings Economics from Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census 2016.

The proportion of the Indigenous population under 29 years is almost twice that of the non-Indigenous and that over 44 half the non-Indigenous.

The table further serves to illustrate the very strong grouping of the Kuranda area of the non-Indigenous population in the 45 – 64 age group and a strong movement since the 2011 Census into the 65 plus age group at 19% in 2016 compared with 15% in 2011..

Table 19: Gender, Census 2016

	Kuranda SA2	Tablelands East SA3	Cairns SA4	Queensland
Male	49.7%	49.3%	49.7%	49.4%
Female	50.3%	50.7%	50.3%	50.6%
Total	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**

Source: Cummings Economics from Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census 2016.

Gender balance is close to State and Cairns SA4 averages.

4.2 Family Composition/Household Structure

The following provides information on household structures in the Kuranda area with comparisons to Queensland.

Table 20: Kuranda – Registered Marital Status, Census 2016

Status	Kuranda SA2	(cf Qld)
Married	42.0%	46.9%
Separated	4.1%	3.6%
Divorced	13.8%	9.3%
Widowed	3.8%	4.9%
Not Married	36.3%	35.4%

Source: Cummings Economics from ABS Census 2016.

Clearly, the Kuranda area has a substantially lower proportion married but higher separated, divorced and slightly higher never married.

Table 21: Family Composition, Census 2016

	Kuranda SA2	Tablelands East SA3	Cairns SA4	Queensland
Couple families without children	46.3%	46.7%	41.1%	39.4%
Couple families with children	34.9%	34.6%	38.4%	42.5%
One parent families	17.1%	17.1%	18.9%	16.5%
Other families	1.7%	1.6%	1.6%	1.6%
Total	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**

Source: Cummings Economics from Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census 2016.

Family composition shows a relatively high proportion of couples without children and low proportion of couple families with children. This would mainly reflect Kuranda's relatively larger older population. Proportion of one-parent families is moderately higher than Queensland averages. The 2016 Census data also indicates a lower level of registered marriages and a relative high level of de facto marriages.

Table 22: Social Marital Status % of Population 15 plus, Census 2016

	Kuranda SA2	Tablelands East SA3	Cairns SA4	Queensland
Registered marriage	41.3%	46.4%	43.2%	47.7%
De facto	18.3%	12.8%	14.0%	10.4%
Not married	40.4%	40.8%	42.8%	41.9%
Total	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**
Separated	4.1%	3.6%	3.7%	3.2%
Divorced	13.6%	10.9%	10.5%	8.5%
Total	**17.7%**	**14.5%**	**14.2%**	**11.7%**

Source: Cummings Economics from Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census 2016.

Although indigenous statistics do not give a profile for Kuranda SA2 for the foregoing tables, based on typical community profiles in the indigenous population, a different profile could be expected to the above of relatively high families and children (lower proportion of older age group) but in the families a lower proportion in registered marriage, higher de facto and higher one-parent families.

This profile in the indigenous community in the Kuranda area would have contributed to the slightly higher proportion never married and one parent families, the low proportion of registered marriages and relatively high de facto.

However, clearly the non-indigenous population is still likely to have relatively low registered marriages and relatively high separated and divorced and de facto marriages.

4.3 Education

Table 23: Per cent of those Attending an Education Institution, Census 2016

	Kuranda SA2	Tablelands East SA3	Cairns SA4	Queensland
Preschool	2.9%	3.1%	3.3%	4.8%
Primary School	27.8%	29.0%	27.5%	26.7%
Secondary	19.9%	21.3%	20.4%	20.1%
Technical & further	2.8%	3.4%	4.7%	5.9%
University or Tertiary	7.9%	5.3%	8.6%	16.1%
Other	1.8%	2.0%	2.3%	2.8%
Not stated	37.1%	36.0%	33.1	23.7%
Total	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**

Source: Cummings Economics from Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census 2016.

There was a low proportion attending TAFE level. There was a lower proportion of population attending university/tertiary level compared with Queensland averages but, close to regional levels and above the overall Tablelands community.

Table 24: Post School Education Qualification - % of Population with a Qualification, Census 2016

	Kuranda SA2	Cairns SA4
University degree or higher	35%	30%
Diploma level	19%	18%
Certificate level	47%	53%
Total	**100%**	**100%**
% of Population aged 15 plus with a qualification	**47%**	**42%**

Source: Cummings Economics from Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census 2016.

The Kuranda community has a higher level of education qualification beyond school than the regional average and of those, a higher proportion were at university level.

Table 25: Non-School Qualification, Fields of Study, Census 2016

	Kuranda SA2 %	Cairns SA4 %	Kuranda +/-
Natural and Physical Sciences	3.5	2.1	+
Information Technology	1.3	1.1	+
Engineering and Related Technologies	16.3	17.4	-
Architecture and Building	6.7	7.6	-
Agriculture, Environmental and Related Studies	4.2	2.5	+
Health	9.2	8.8	+
Education	7.8	7.5	+
Management and Commerce	10.0	13.7	-
Society and Culture	10.6	8.9	+
Creative Arts	4.4	2.1	+
Food, Hospitality and Personal Services	6.0	6.7	-
Mixed Field Programmes	0.2	0.1	+
Field of study inadequately descried	0.6	1.1	na
Field of study not stated	19.0	20.9	na
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	

Source: Cummings Economics from Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census 2016.

Although the Kuranda profile of field of study of non-school qualifications is similar to the region, Kuranda is higher in natural and physical science, information technology, agriculture, environment and related studies, health, education and society and culture and very high in creative arts.

Although the Kuranda SA2 has a high proportion of population with trade and vocational qualifications, the proportion attending TAFE or further education institution is low at 2.8% compared with 5.3% for Queensland (see Table 23).

Table 26: Kuranda – Population 15 years & over with Trade & Vocational Education Qualification, Census 2016

Status	Kuranda SA2	(cf Qld)
Advanced Diploma & Diploma Level	10.0%	8.7%
Certificate Level IV	3.7%	3.0%
Certificate Level III	13.4%	12.2%
Total	**27.1%**	**23.9%**

Source: Cummings Economics from ABS Census 2016.

Table 27: Kuranda – Proportion of Population in Younger Age Groups, Census 2016

Age	Kuranda SA2	(cf Qld)
School Ages		
5 - 9	6.9%	6.7%
10 - 14	7.1%	6.4%
Technical & Further Education Ages		
15 - 19	5.0%	6.3%
20 - 24	2.9%	6.7%

Source: Cummings Economics from ABS Census 2016.

Much of the reason for this can be found in the age structure of the population. While there is no TAFE facilities in Kuranda, one of the largest TAFE colleges in regional Queensland is located close by in Cairns and a further facility at Mareeba.

4.4 Ancestry

Table 28: Ancestry of Population – Top Proportions, Census 2016

Kuranda SA2	Tablelands East SA3	Cairns SA4	Queensland
English – 26.5%	Australian – 28.9%	Australian – 25.8%	English – 25.0%
Australian – 24.0%	English – 25.8%	English – 24.9%	Australian – 23.3%
Irish - 8.4%	Irish - 8.6%	Irish - 8.3%	Irish – 7.5%
Scottish - 7.2%	Scottish – 7.2%	Scottish - 6.8%	Scottish - 6.4%
German - 5.0%	Italian – 5.8%	Italian – 4.4%	Italian – 3.1%

Source: Cummings Economics from Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census 2016.

Population is dominantly of British Isles/Australian origin ancestry. A relatively high German and Dutch origin is illustrated by the fact when put together they are about equal to those saying Irish or Scottish ancestry. Italian proportion is lower than for the rest of the region.

Table 29: Parents Born Overseas, Census 2016

	Kuranda SA2	Tablelands East SA3	Cairns SA4	Queensland
Both parents born overseas	26.2%	18.5%	23.6%	34.4%
Father only born overseas	6.4%	5.9%	6.3%	6.4%
Mother only born overseas	5.1%	4.4%	5.4%	4.7%
Both parents born in Australia	51.3%	61.0%	54.6%	47.3%
Total	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**

Source: Cummings Economics from Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census 2016.

Kuranda has a higher proportion of population with both or one parent born overseas than the Tablelands and the Cairns region but not as high as the Queensland average.

4.5 Religion

Table 30: Religion, Census 2016

	Kuranda SA2	Tablelands East SA3	Cairns SA4	Queensland
No religion	38.7%	28.5%	30.2%	29.6%
Catholic	13.5%	23.5%	23.3%	22.6%
Anglican	11.3%	14.2%	14.4%	13.3%
Seventh Day Adventist	6.0%			0.3%
Christian nfd	3.2%			3.0%
Uniting		5.3%	4.0%	3.7%

Source: Cummings Economics from Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census 2016.

Religious profile compared with the rest of the region includes very high proportion “No religion”, very high Seventh Day Adventist and Christian not further defined, low in main religions Catholic, Anglican and Uniting. (Note: The high Seventh Day Adventist proportion is influenced by the old Mona Mona Mission being Seventh Day Adventist.

Adding to the difference to regional and State patterns is that Buddhism 109, exceeds Uniting 106 and Presbyterian and Reformed 92.

4.6 Median Weekly Incomes

Table 31: Median Weekly Incomes, Census 2016

	Kuranda SA2	Tablelands East SA3	Cairns SA4	Queensland
Person	530	528	642	660
Family	1,293	1242	1475	1,661
Household	1,125	1009	1226	1,402

Source: Cummings Economics from Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census 2016.

Median weekly incomes recorded in the 2016 Census were slightly above those for the Tablelands community but below those for the Cairns region and Queensland.

4.7 Motor Vehicles

Table 32: Number of Registered Motor Vehicles, Census 2016

	Kuranda SA2	Tablelands East SA3	Cairns SA4	Queensland
None	4.5%	5.6%	6.7%	7.5%
1 motor vehicle	33.0%	34.2%	36.2%	34.8%
2 motor vehicles	37.9%	36.3%	36.7%	36.2%
3 or more motor vehicles	20.1%	19.5%	16.2%	18.1%
Not stated	4.5%	4.5%	4.3%	3.4%
Total	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**

Source: Cummings Economics from Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census 2016.

Number of vehicles per household is relatively high.

4.8 Socio Economic Disadvantage Indexes

SEIFA Indices for Kuranda SA2 place it in a mid-position in the immediate Tablelands/Cairns area (see Table 34).

The SEIFA Indices for Kuranda place it at 4 in the regional rankings that run from 1 to 8. However, for Education and Occupation, Kuranda ranks comparatively high at 6.

As identified elsewhere in the EIS, the mixed nature of the community would affect the Indices. The relatively higher older age groups and the relatively high indigenous component make the overall Index lower but the relatively high socio economic profile of those living in Kuranda and commuting to work in Cairns lift it. This group would contribute to the relatively high score in the Index of Education and Occupation.

As seen elsewhere in the analysis, a tendency for high Education and type of Occupation levels to not be reflected strongly in incomes would be consistent with an "alternative lifestyle" element in the community.

This diversity is reflected in the SA1 areas that comprise the Kuranda SA2 area. (see Table 35)

The eleven SA1s recorded in the area are distributed as follows:

Table 33: SEIFA Indices – Kuranda SA2

Decile No.	Number of SA1s
1	1
2	1
3	2
4	2
5	3
6	1
7	1
8	0
9	0
10	0

Source: Cummings Economics from ABS Cat No. 2033.0.55.001.

The modal group has a decile number of 5 but the SA2 is pulled down to an overall Index of 4 by one with a SEIFA rating of 1 and one with a SEIFA rating of 2.

The general Index ranges from as high as 7 to a low of 1. However, the Education and Occupation Index is fairly consistent in the 5 to 7 range.

Map 1 plots the locations.

Map 1: SEIFA Indices – SA1 Areas , Kuranda SA2

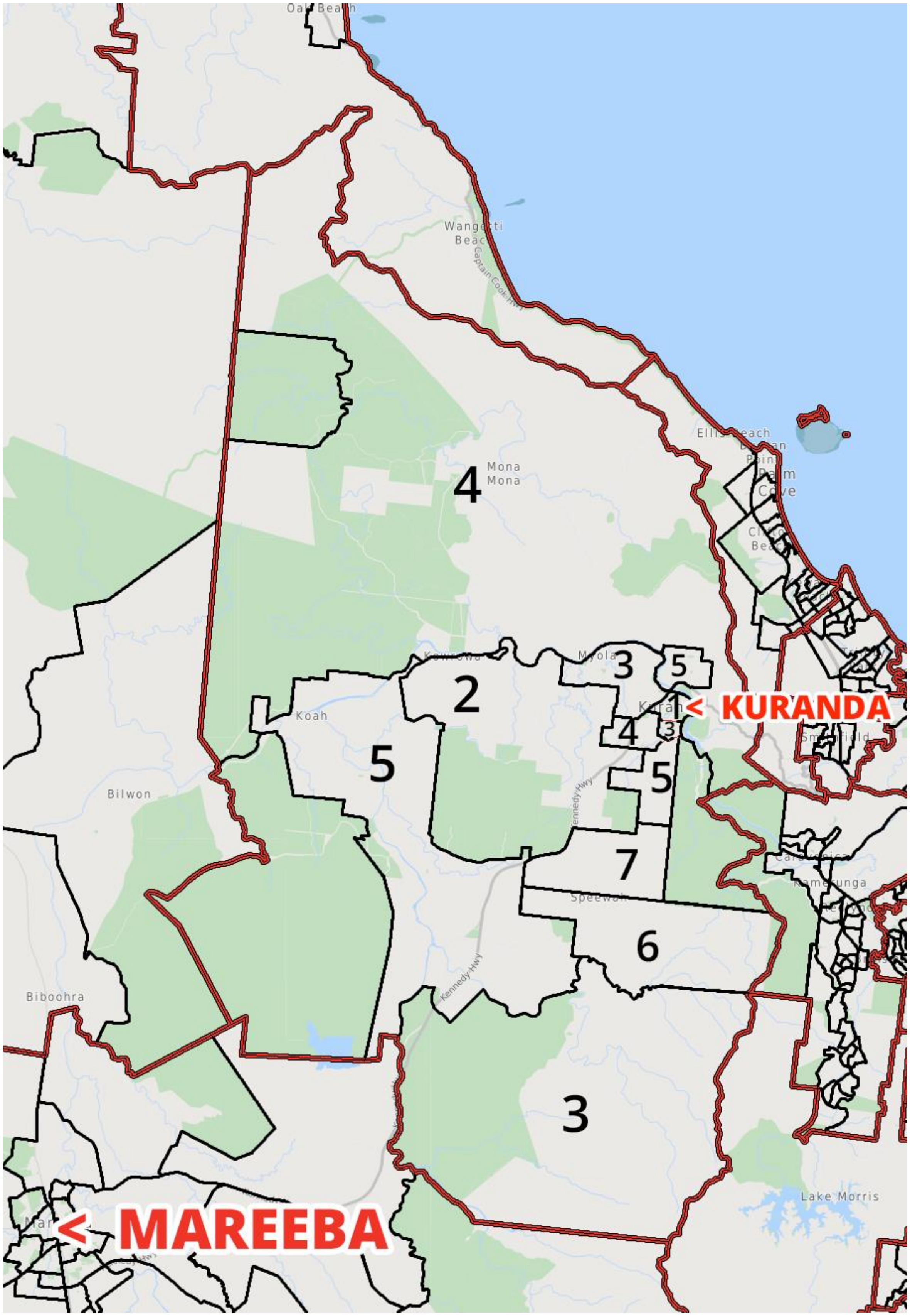


Table 34: SEIFA Indices – Cairns Region

2016 Statistical Area Level 2 (SA2) Name	Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage		Index of Relative Socio-economic Advantage and Disadvantage		Index of Economic Resources		Index of Education and Occupation		Usual Resident Population
	Score	Decile	Score	Decile	Score	Decile	Score	Decile	
Brinsmead	1074	9	1058	8	1066	9	1049	8	5,362
Clifton Beach - Kewarra Beach	1039	7	1027	7	1025	7	1038	7	10,830
Freshwater - Stratford	1046	7	1043	7	1017	6	1079	8	3,566
Redlynch	1065	8	1053	8	1068	9	1045	8	12,808
Trinity Beach - Smithfield	1037	7	1025	7	1019	7	1028	7	13,936
Yorkeys Knob - Machans Beach	973	4	960	4	936	2	1003	6	6,152
Bentley Park	979	4	959	4	994	5	941	3	8,018
Cairns City	959	3	970	4	863	1	1033	7	11,439
Earlville - Bayview Hts	994	5	975	4	986	5	973	5	8,265
Edmonton	956	3	932	3	974	4	910	2	10,753
Gordonvale - Trinity	985	4	964	4	1002	5	952	4	8,664
Kanimbla - Mooroobool	985	4	979	5	992	5	974	5	9,888
Manoora	795	1	818	1	780	1	893	1	6,027
Manunda	829	1	845	1	812	1	888	1	5,390
Mt Sheridan	1025	6	999	6	1020	7	987	5	8,271
Westcourt - Bungalow	854	1	870	1	823	1	926	3	6,333
White Rock	928	2	911	2	934	2	906	2	4,730
Whitfield - Edge Hill	1018	6	1016	6	992	5	1040	7	8,192
Woree	868	1	865	1	850	1	888	1	4,821
Babinda	967	3	943	3	987	5	925	2	4,239
Innisfail	879	1	877	1	893	1	887	1	9,377
Johnstone	965	3	935	3	983	4	911	2	7,889
Tully	944	3	922	2	957	3	906	2	10,661
Yarrabah	518	1	651	1	566	1	789	1	2,559
Daintree	953	3	929	3	957	3	939	3	6,348
Port Douglas	1017	6	996	5	977	4	1017	7	5,260
Atherton	958	3	937	3	961	3	939	3	10,708
Herberton	866	1	861	1	913	2	888	1	5,638
Kuranda	976	4	969	4	980	4	1010	6	4,496
Malanda - Yungaburra	992	5	973	4	996	5	982	5	8,478
Mareeba	919	2	907	2	942	2	899	2	11,079

Source: Cummings Economics from ABS Cat No. 2033.0.55.001.

Table 35: SEIFA Indices – SA1s in Kuranda SA2

2016 Statistical Area Level 1 (SA1) 7-Digit Code	2016 Statistical Area Level 1 (SA1) 11-Digit Code	Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage		Index of Relative Socio-economic Advantage & Disadvantage		Index of Economic Resources		Index of Education & Occupation		Usual Resident Population
		Score	Decile	Score	Decile	Score	Decile	Score	Decile	
3116803	30605116803	940	3	934	3	912	2	1021	6	251
3116805	30605116805	863	1	867	1	828	1	935	3	305
3116806	30605116806	932	3	932	3	921	2	999	6	427
3116807	30605116807	1010	5	1013	6	1051	7	1041	7	481
3116808	30605116808	983	4	968	4	978	4	990	5	339
3116809	30605116809	1011	5	993	5	1007	5	1037	7	439
3116810	30605116810	1026	6	1004	5	1006	5	989	5	285
3116811	30605116811	1047	7	1026	6	1059	8	1019	6	570
3116812	30605116812	996	5	986	5	1011	6	1024	6	602
3116813	30605116813	883	2	905	2	899	2	999	6	468
3116814	30605116814	993	4	976	4	1029	6	1013	6	197

Source: Cummings Economics from ABS Cat No. 2033.0.55.001.

4.9 Health & Wellbeing

Kuranda is located within about a half-hour drive of Cairns Hospital, one of the largest hospitals in regional Queensland. About a half-hour drive to the west is Mareeba Hospital, a substantial district hospital. Kuranda is serviced by six resident GPs, the Kuranda Community Health Centre and an Ambulance Station. Kuranda is about a half-hour drive from the major Cairns North Community Health Centre.

Appendix 1 gives a health snapshot for Mareeba Shire as compiled by the Primary Health Network for 2016. Appendix 2 gives a Community Services Map of Family & Cultural Wellbeing, Social & Wellbeing and Health & Wellbeing as provided by the Kuranda Neighbourhood Centre.

A special issue raised by the PHN (Primary Health North) has been that Kuranda records the second lowest rate of immunised 5-year olds in the northern region that extends over the Mackay, Townsville and Cairns regions.

Special Indigenous Social Issues

The indigenous population in the area has traditionally been based on the former Seventh Day Adventist Mission at Mona Mona north-west of Kuranda but with other population especially located at Korowa and Mantaka closer to Kuranda.

The University of Western Australia as part of the National Empowerment Program (NEP) surveyed population in Mona Mona in partnership with the Bulmba Aboriginal Corporation about issues confronting individuals with the following ranking of issues.

	Ranking
Family Issues/Community breakdown	1
Drugs, alcohol, gambling	2
Transport	3
Employment related	4
Issues relating to children	5
Health/mental issues	6
Other	7

It is notable that housing was not listed as a prime issue.

4.10 Crime

Kuranda Police Station services approximately a 500 sq km Division of the Mareeba Police District in the Far North.

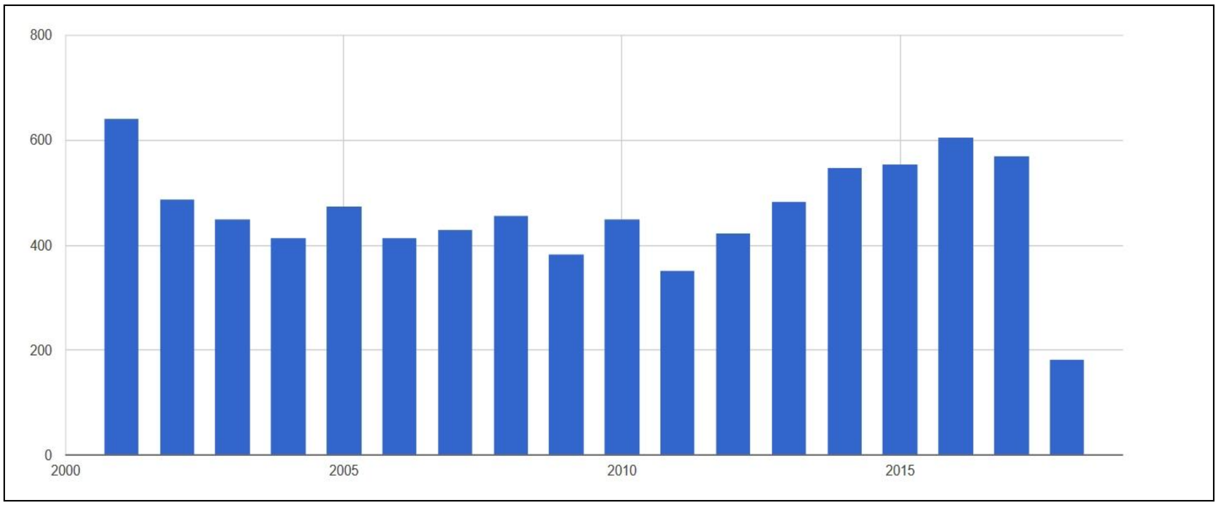
The Division covers an area similar to the ABS Kuranda SA2 area. The station is not a 24-hour station being open 8am to 3.45pm Monday to Friday but with officers on call-related duties.

Analysis of Crime Statistics

The following chart gives statistics for all offences 2001 to 2017 indicating a downward trend to almost 2011 but a rise since then. Note: This pattern is fairly typical of the whole State and each region.

At a total of just short of 600, this represents a rate of about 13 per 100 population. This compares with State average of about 10% but a bit below the Far North average of about 15%.

Chart 1: Kuranda Crime Statistics



Source: Queensland Police.

5.0 HOUSING

5.1 Census Profile

The following gives information on housing.

Table 36: Dwelling Types, Census 2016

	Kuranda SA2	Tablelands East SA3	Cairns SA4	Queensland
Separate house	95.1%	90.3%	76.6%	76.6%
Semi detached	0.6%	2.4%	7.5%	10.6%
Flat Unit	1.3%	4.4%	13.4%	11.3%
Other	2.2%	2.4%	1.7%	1.0%
Not stated	0.8%	0.5%	0.8%	0.5%
Total	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**

Source: Cummings Economics from Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census 2016.

Kuranda has a very high proportion of separate houses and low proportion of semi-detached and few flats units.

Table 37: Dwelling Tenure, Census 2016

	Kuranda SA2	Tablelands East SA3	Cairns SA4	Queensland
Owned outright	36.0%	40.8%	28.8%	31.0%
Owned with mortgage	37.2%	27.1%	31.0%	34.5%
Rented	22.4%	28.2%	36.3%	30.9%
Other tenure type or not stated	4.4%	4.0%	4.0%	3.7%
Total	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**

Source: Cummings Economics from Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census 2016.

Kuranda area has a high proportion owned outright but not as high as the Tablelands area, a relatively high proportion owned with mortgage and lower rented.

Table 38: Number of Bedrooms and Persons per Household, Census 2016

	Kuranda SA2	Tablelands East SA3	Cairns SA4	Queensland
Average No. bedrooms per dwelling	2.9%	3.0%	3.0%	3.1%
Average no. persons per dwelling	2.5%	2.4%	2.5%	2.6%

Source: Cummings Economics from Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census 2016.

Kuranda has a slightly higher number of persons per dwelling than rest of Tablelands, but slightly lower average number of bedrooms per dwelling than Tablelands and Cairns region.

Table 39: Mortgage and Rents, Census 2016

	Kuranda SA2	Tablelands East SA3	Cairns SA4	Queensland
Median rents	225	240	280	335
Households where rent more than 30% of household income	8.0%	10.5%	13.5%	11.5%
Median mortgage payments	1647	1430	1597	1755
Households where mortgage payments more than 30% of household income	8.7%	5.7%	6.1%	7.2%

Source: Cummings Economics from Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census 2016.

Rents in the Kuranda area are relatively low with indications of rental stress also low compared with the regional and state averages. Thus, the numbers who would be exposed to difficulties if there was a substantial rise in rentals is not large.

More recent information on rentals registered with the Queensland Rental Tenancies Authority indicates for March quarter 2017:

	Kuranda	Cairns PC 4870
House 3br $390	$390	$380
Flats 2 br $270	$270	$300

For comparison, figures recorded for Kuranda, June quarter 2012, were house 3 br $365, flat 2br $250 indicating rises of 7% and 8% respectively roughly in line with inflation. However, mortgage repayments are higher than for the Tablelands and evidence of possible mortgage stress higher than State average and substantially higher than for the rest of the region.

However, median monthly mortgage payments at $1647 (Census 2016) are close to Queensland median of $1733 and proportion with mortgage payments greater or equal to 30% of income is higher at 8.7% compared with State averages of 6.4%.

If a rise in prices occurred, existing home mortgage holders would not be detrimentally affected. On the contrary, they would have greater equity margin. However, a potential impact would be to discourage new residents in a lower income category moving to Kuranda.

5.2 Availability of Social Housing

In Kuranda, there are two distinct requirements:

a) Indigenous

b) Older residents.

For indigenous social housing, there are well established frameworks through the Ngoonbi Community Services Indigenous Corporation that has its offices in the Neighbourhood Centre in Kuranda.

Mareeba Shire provides Community Housing especially for aged and disabled with 14 units in Kuranda and a further 83 in Mareeba.

Homeless assistance is available through the Homelessness Services Hub (the Hub) in Cairns.

5.3 Construction & Market Movements

Steady growth of population leads to active construction activity in the Kuranda area, the Tablelands and the Cairns SA4 region overall. The following table gives building approvals in terms of dwellings and overall value of approvals over the period 2011-12 to 2016-17.

It is notable that the rate has slowed in the last two years.

Table 40: Building Approvals

Dwelling Numbers	Kuranda SA2	Tablelands LGAs	Cairns SA4
	Dwellings No.	Dwellings No.	Dwellings No.
2011-12	29	244	906
2012-13	33	180	878
2013-14	31	225	1064
2014-15	33	228	1241
2015-16	10	262	1255
2016-17	27	230	956
Total Value all buildings	**Kuranda SA2**	**Tablelands LGAs**	**Cairns SA4**
	$m	$m	$m
2011-12	$9 m	$86 m	$554 m
2012-13	$10 m	$86 m	$442 m
2013-14	$10 m	$98 m	$577 m
2014-15	$11 m	$83 m	$584 m
2015-16	$3 m	$96 m	$612 m
2016-17	$9 m	$90 m	$591 m

Source: Cummings Economics from ABS Cat. 8731.0..

It should be noted that over this period, construction activity in the Cairns region has been relatively subdued compared to long-term data. Before the Global Financial Crisis and the impact of the high Australian dollar on tourism, building approvals at regional level were running at over $1000m per annum in the region.

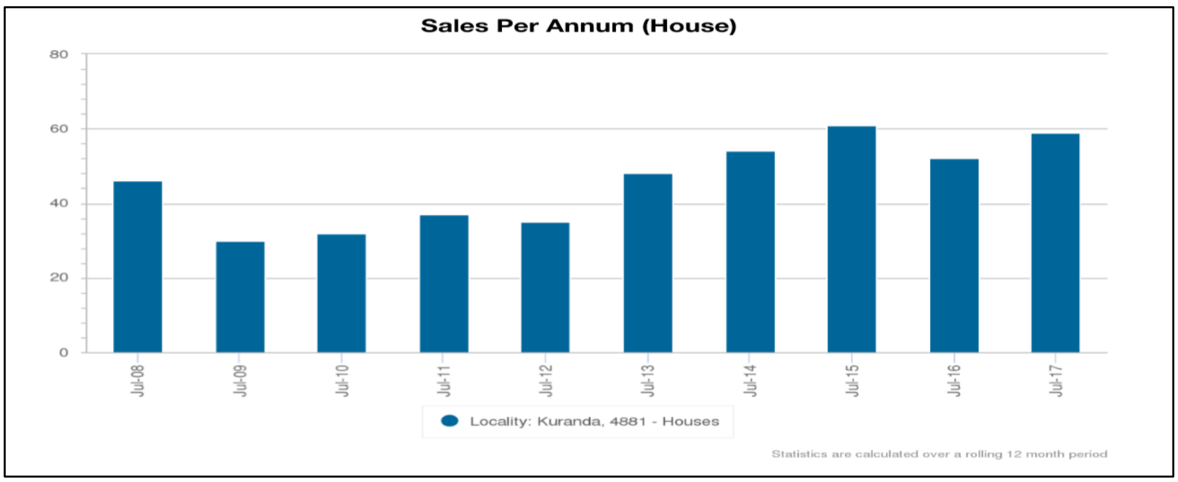
Consistent with the steady growth in population, there is an active market for house properties in the Kuranda area. Data from Core Logic indicates a number of houses sold in the Kuranda area has been running at about 50 - 60 a year.

Average median house price over 12 months to January 2017 was $406,000. This is higher than median house prices for Mareeba which was about $350,000 over the same period. (Source: Core Logic.)

Median allotment sales average about $140,000. There are relatively few units in the Kuranda area.

The following chart shows some sales per annum, years ending July

Chart 2: Sales Per Annum (House), Kuranda Area

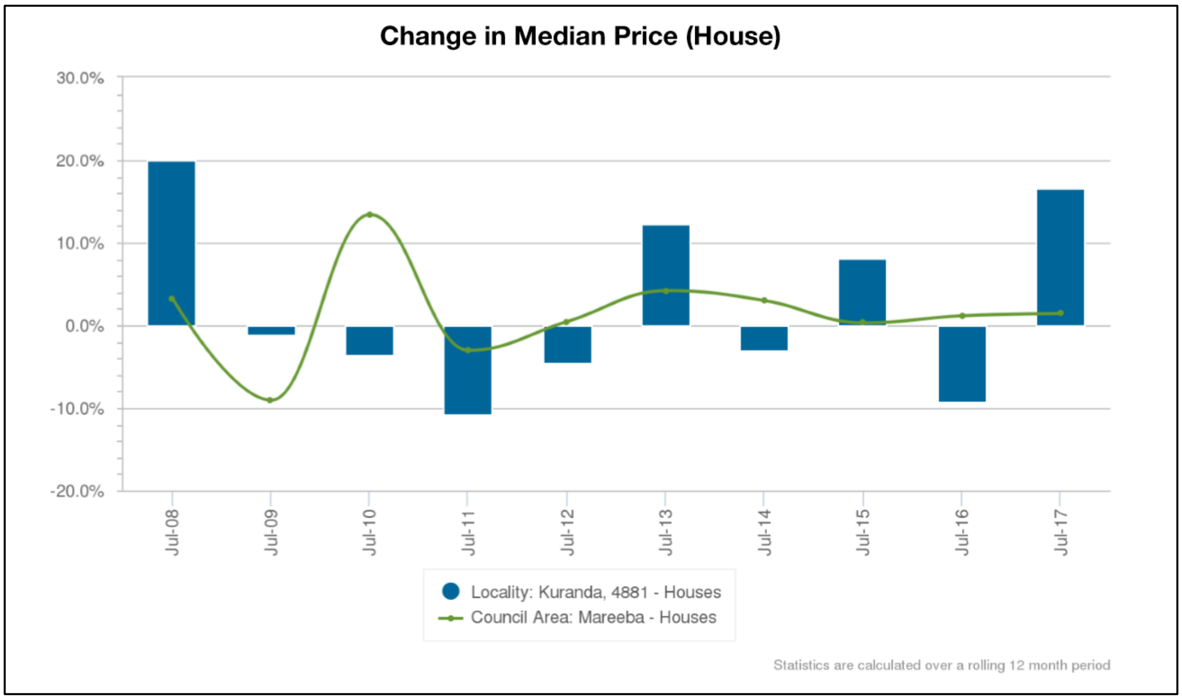


Source: Core Logic.

The chart reflects the general downturn in the economy post GFC and during the high Australian dollar period a recovery in 2013 and 2014 but moderating mildly in 2016 and 2017.

The following chart gives annual changes.

Chart 3: Change in Median House Prices, Kuranda



Source: Core Logic.

The figure indicates that median prices dropped following the GFC and during the high dollar period then rose in 2013-2015 but fell again in 2016 to be 8% above 2007 but in real terms, excluding inflation, down over 20% on 2007 prices.

Local inquiries in the real estate market indicate that there is virtually no stock of houses below $300,000 and prices range up to about $550,000 with mid-range about $450,000 (cf Core Logic $406,000 12 months to January 2017). It is a feature of Kuranda that there are lifestyle acreages available.

In the house rental market, there is little available under $300 a week and it was reported that when rental properties come on the market, they are taken up quickly and vacancy rates are low.

Lower construction rates in recent years (see previous Table 8 Building Approvals), mean that there is currently no oversupply on the market.

Analysis in the Economic Impact Assessment of the EIS indicates that in relation to projected demand generated for housing as a result of the project, there is adequate existing land zoned for home allotments to cater for initial phases of the project but there would be a need for additional zoned land to meet projected local demand for additional housing in the later stages of the project.

It was reported that there is very little light industrial zoned land in Kuranda and if the project proceeds, there would be a need to attend to this.

6.0 ECONOMIC DIMENSIONS

6.1 Economic Structure

Regional economies can most usefully be assessed by looking at activities that earn income from outside the area (base industries) that locate activity in the area.

This activity then generates 'follower' activities in the form of provision of services such as retail, business and government services, utilities and the like that can come to account for more employment than the original "base" industries.

The Kuranda area as part of the Tablelands and wider Cairns regional economy has a number of distinct elements that earn income from outside the Kuranda area.

The dominant elements are:

- Tourism, and
- The earnings of those working outside the area (see Section 2 Workforce).

Minor elements include:

- local primary industries
- art/creative industries
- services to road and rail traffic.

For the Tablelands, the dominant influences are from:

- agricultural and pastoral industries
- sporadic mining activity
- tourism
- Some service functions relating to the wider Cairns regional area.

In the wider Cairns regional area, the dominant influences are from:

- tourism
- primary industries
- mining
- defence and surveillance.

Within this context, Cairns as a regional capital, apart from a direct role in tourism and defence, provides servicing to the whole region in transport (especially seaport, airport), distribution (wholesale and retail), manufacturing (including well developed marine and aviation servicing hubs), construction, administration (law courts, various government offices), education (including university campuses), health (Cairns Base Hospital and surrounding medical precinct) and various other businesses and specialist services.
In some of these services, the city has broken into markets in the wider Australian Asia Pacific region including in international education, marine and aviation sector services.

On top of this, Cairns and the Cairns region earns income from outside the region from mining.

Of great economic importance to the region's economy is Cairns' transport hub role:

- Cairns International Airport is the leading airport in northern Australia with direct links to ten Asia Pacific cities and long distance direct domestic links to Australia's five metropolitan cities, Darwin, Alice Springs, Gold Coast and Toowoomba.
- Cairns seaport is one of the leading seaports in Australia in terms of vessel movements and base for a large reef fleet, fishing fleet, trading and work fleet and the Australian Navy's north east naval base. There are more commercial vessels registered in Cairns than any other Queensland port including Brisbane.

- Cairns is the north-eastern terminus for Australia's rail network and the national highway system, making it a natural transhipment point for supply of commodities further north, much of which takes place by ship.

The following covers those activities earning income from outside of the Kuranda area in the context of the Tablelands and wider Cains region before going on to look at local service industry structures in Kuranda in the context of the wider Tablelands and Cairns region.

6.2 Tourism

6.2.1 Kuranda tourism – day visitors

Current available best estimates put total day visitors towards 900,000 arriving by the Scenic Rail, Skyrail or coach, commonly using a mix of these modes. On top of this is a substantial number of visitors arriving by private cars (visitors and locals from the region) or rental cars (visitors). There are no available estimates of visitor numbers by car. The indications are however, that total visitation is likely to be of the order of one million a year.

Kuranda is promoted as "The Village in the Rainforest". Traditionally, most will visit the Kuranda markets. However, a range of attractions, retail and food outlets have developed over the years along the main street and the central town area. Public facilities in the town area are funded by a levy on rail and Skyrail passengers. Most visitors come between 10.00am and 3.00pm.

In addition to visitors to Kuranda Village, Rainforestation on the Kennedy Highway east of the township, attracts visitors by coach and car to experience its attractions including old army duck rides on lagoons and through the rainforest and the Pamagirri dancers. To the west of Kuranda near the Kennedy Highway is the paintball attraction. In the Myola and Speewah areas also are horse riding facilities.

Data on average expenditure by day visitors is not available. Most of the expenditure on transport to and from Kuranda would not accrue to Kuranda. Expenditure in Kuranda will include food and drink, attraction entrances and retail purchases (at times of quite expensive art pieces). It is estimated that average expenditure per visitor excluding transport is likely to be of the order of $60 and total expenditure generated of the order of $60m per annum excluding transport.

6.2.2 Kuranda tourism - overnight visitors

As at Census 2016, the following visitors were recorded as staying overnight in the Kuranda area by origin. A substantial growth on 2011 is indicated of about 30%.

Table 41: Visitors, Kuranda Area, Census Night 2016

Origin	**2016**	**(cf 2011)**	
Queensland	116	(135)	
New South Wales	37	(24)	
Victoria	35	(27)	
Other Australia	46	(3)	
Sub total	**234**	**(189)**	
Overseas	73	(43)	
Total	**307**	**(232)**	

Source: Cummings Economics from Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census 2016.

Census is taken at a time of above average visitor numbers and average over the year is estimated to be of the order of 220 and total visitor nights is estimated to be of the order of 80,000 per annum. Most of these, especially from within Queensland are likely to have been staying with friends and relatives.

Tourism Research Australia IVS and NVS data for the four years ending 2015-16 for Kuranda SA2 indicates an average of about 15,000 overnight visitors a year. At an average of five nights each, this would give a figure of about 75,000 nights. Given that numbers of visitors staying overnight has been increasing, this would equate approximately with the estimate of 80,000 visitor nights.

Tourism Kuranda lists five small establishments in the area offering overnight accommodation - Cedar Park Rainforest Resort, Honeybee House, Platypus Springs Rainforest Retreat, Kuranda Ngorongoro Lodge and Rainforest House. All are small and total room numbers are estimated at about 10.

Other accommodation is listed elsewhere including at hotels in the township and B&Bs. Total undercover accommodation in the Kuranda area is small and estimated to be no more than about 40 rooms. In addition, Kuranda Rainforest Accommodation offers camping and caravan sites.

It is estimated that visitor nights in commercial accommodation is probably of the order of 30,000. It seems likely that overnight visitors in commercial accommodation would contribute something in the order of $5m to the Kuranda economy.

6.2.3 Tablelands & Cairns region tourism

The Kuranda area is located in one of Australia's leading tourism destination areas. As at Census 2016, the following visitor numbers were recorded.

Table 42: Visitor Numbers, Census 2016

	Tablelands East SA3	Cairns SA4
Queensland	2,071	13,457
New South Wales	420	5,203
Victoria	407	8,254
Other Domestic	428	4,985
Total Domestic	**3,326**	**31,899**
International	862	14,670
Total	**4,190**	**47,569**

Source: Cummings Economics from Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census 2016.

Allowing for Census to be towards peak and annual average be about 40,000 for the Cairns SA4 region and 3600 for Tablelands, total visitor nights at the time of the Census was likely to be of the order of 15 million per annum Cairns Region SA4 and about 1.3 million per annum on the Tablelands.

Total visitor numbers to the Cairns region are large.

Table 43: Visitor Numbers, Tropical North Queensland, 2005-06 to 2015-16

	Domestic '000	International '000	Total '000
2005-06	1512	865	**2378**
2006-07	1501	842	**2343**
2007-08	1498	818	**2316**
2008-09	1578	703	**2221**
2009-10	1467	655	**2122**
2010-11	1315	647	**1962**
2011-12	1576	614	**2190**
2012-13	1645	707	**2352**
2013-14	1626	691	**2317**
2014-15	1798	759	**2557**
2015-16	2043	860	**2903**

Source: Cummings Economics from Tourism Research Australia.

In international holiday purpose visitors, the Cairns/TNQ region exceeds Brisbane, equals the Gold Coast, and is next to Sydney and Melbourne in numbers.

Table 44: International Holiday Purpose Visitors, Main Regions Visited, 2015-16

	Number	
Sydney	1,890,000	
Melbourne	1,296,000	
Gold coast	721,000	
Cairns	711,000	
Brisbane	633,000	
Perth	389,000	
Northern Territory	200,000	
Adelaide	193,000	
Tasmania	135,000	

Source: Cummings Economics from Tourism Research Australia.

Origin of international visitors in 2015-16 was as follows.

Table 45: Origin of International Visitors to Cairns/Tropical North Queensland Region, 2015-16

	Number	
China	217,000	
Japan	104,000	
Other Asia	84,000	
Total Asia	**405,000**	
UK/Europe	245,000	
US/Canada	132,000	
New Zealand	43,000	
Other	35,000	
Total	**860,000**	

Source: Cummings Economics from Tourism Research Australia.

The Cairns/Tropical North Queensland region has hotel/motel serviced apartment rooms just less than Perth and above the Adelaide tourism region.

Table 46: Number of Hotel/Motel & Serviced Apartment Rooms, September Quarter, 2016

	Number	
Brisbane TR	15,726	
Gold Coast TR	14,020	
Perth TR	11,935	
Cairns/Tropical north Queensland	11,202	
Northern Territory	8,864	
Adelaide TR	8,169	
Tasmania	6,863	
Sunshine Coast TR	6,046	
Canberra	6,093	

(Note: TR Tourism Region.)
Source: Cummings Economics from ABS Cat. 8635.0.

The Global Financial Crisis (GFC) followed by a period of an extremely high Australian dollar led to a contraction of the tourism sector in the region. The lower dollar in more recent years has seen a strong recovery take place with domestic visitors moving back above pre GFC peaks by 2014 and the international visitors in 2016.

A feature of growth of tourism in recent years has been the emergence of China as a major source of visitors.

Table 47: International Visitor Numbers from China to the Cairns/Tropical North Queensland Region

	Number	
2005-06	39,529	
2006-07	43,533	
2007-08	53,783	
2008-09	35,763	
2009-10	53,932	
2010-11	72,600	
2011-12	92,274	
2012-13	133,937	
2013-14	142,218	
2014-15	165,103	
2015-16	216,726	
2016-17	214,082	
Av annual Growth 2005-06 to 2016-17	**16.6% pa**	

Source: Cummings Economics from Tourism Research Australia IVS.

While 2016-17 saw the growth steady, advent of direct flights to mainland Chinese cities in December 2017 is expected to see major growth in 2017-18.

6.3 Income of Kuranda residents working outside the Kuranda area

Census data 2016 indicated that 1057 Kuranda residents were working outside the Kuranda area, ie. 59% of total. These residents would bring income into the area.

The indications from the demographics is that this working population includes a substantial proportion of professionals and others with relatively high incomes. At an average of $70,000 net of tax, the amount earned by an estimated 1000 at present would total about $70 million.

Not all of this would be spent in the area. However, it would make a substantial contribution to local economic activity.

6.4 Primary Industries

Australian Bureau of Statistics does not publish primary industry production data at Kuranda SA2 level.

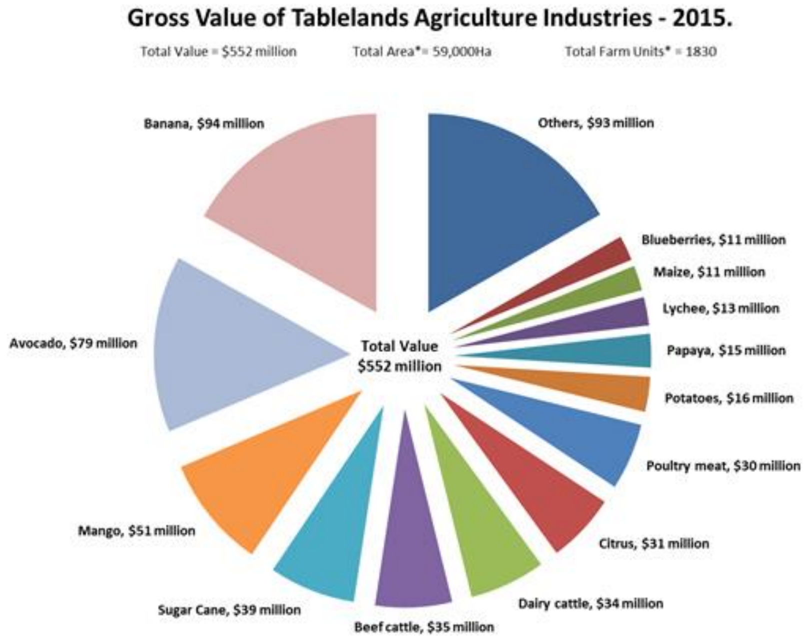
However, the 2016 Census indicates the following workforce in the Kuranda area in a range of activities.

Nursery production outdoor....................................12
Vegetable growing outdoor.....................................12
Fruit and tree nut growing...5
Citrus fruit growing..3
Beef cattle farming (specialised)................................4
Onshore aquaculture..3
Other farming...3
Total.. 42

Typical input/output ratio of employment in this field to output is 3 per $1m. This ratio would give an estimated turnover based on employment recorded of the order of $14m.

The Mareeba/Tablelands area is a major diversified area for agricultural, pastoral and other primary industry production. Latest available figures produced by the Queensland Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries indicate a value of production of $550m spread over a wide range of activities.

Chart 4: Tablelands Value of Agricultural Production



Source: Queensland Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Mareeba..

This production is split between dairying and crops under natural rainfall in the Southern Tablelands area and a growing amount under irrigation in the Mareeba Dimbulah Irrigation Area.

Apart from rural production on the Tablelands, in the wider region, there is a strong amount of agricultural production along the tropical coast, especially of sugar and bananas. Cropping has spread in recent years north to the Lakeland/Cooktown area (now about $50m). There is an extensive amount of cattle production from the Gulf and Peninsula areas.

The region records significant aquaculture production. Cairns is the home of one of Australia's largest fishing fleets.

Value of primary industries in the region including processing and transport (sugar mills, dairy factories, abattoirs, sawmills, cold storage, bulk terminals) is estimated to be of the order of $2bn a year making the region the leading primary production region in northern Australia. The region is the third largest fruit producing region in Australia.

Primary industries in the region are a growth sector that has been recording a long-term average annual growth of about 2% per annum in real terms.

The region is the most self-sufficient in locally produced food in Northern Australia.

6.5 Creative Industries

Past studies into the Creative Industries in the region have identified a special position of Kuranda as an area with a concentration of creative industries per capita, well above the already relatively high level in the Cairns area, including artists, sculptors, jewellery making, creative writing, performing arts.

This is reflected in the very high proportion of workforce in this field given in Table 14.

Expenditure by Kuranda day visitors would account for part of the value of output including the Pamagirri Dancers at Rainforestation and buskers.

There would be earnings outside of the local tourism market but it is difficult to establish a figure for these earnings.

The 2016 Census indicates workforce in the creative artists, musicians and writers category of 21. The earlier studies indicated very substantial additional amateur and part-time activity in this field.

Typical input/output ratios in this field indicate a relatively high employment per million dollars of output of towards 6, indicating output per employee of the order of $170,000. This would give an estimated turnover for 21 of $3.6 million. However, it is likely that taking into account substantial part-time activity, output of the sector could be up substantially more than this and of the order of $5m per annum. On the other hand, much of this output would be of sales to visitors covered by tourism expenditure.

A high level of creative industries in Kuranda is part of a relatively high level of creative industries in the Cairns region stimulated by:

1) The region having the largest population in the north.
2) A large tourism sector demand for art, souvenirs, music and especially Indigenous dance performances and art.
3) A high proportion of Indigenous population.
4) The stimulation of living in a beautiful tropical environment.

Apart from Kuranda, most of this activity is located in Cairns city and Douglas.

A 2013 study for Cairns Regional Council indicated that the Cairns region clearly led in this field in regional Queensland (outside of south-east Queensland).

6.6 Transport Services

Table 14 indicates a relatively high proportion in the Kuranda area of employment in transport, information media and telecommunications.

The position of the Kuranda township off the Kennedy Highway means that this aspect of outside income common to many rural towns, is relatively low and confined to the substantial service station at the Koah turnoff.

There will be employment associated with the railway, Skyrail and the servicing of communication towers on local hilltops.

No data is readily available on expenditure involved.

In the Mareeba/Tablelands area, the rapid growth of value of produce for markets in southern Australia is leading to strong development of Mareeba as a transport hub with major operators of long distance road transports developing new freight centres on the Council's Industrial Estate. Mareeba airport is developing strongly as a key aviation centre for the Tablelands and as an alternative to Cairns for aviation training and maintenance.

The importance to the Cairns regional economy of Cairns airport, seaport and the location of Cairns as the north-eastern terminus of the national road and rail network is covered in Section 5.1.

6.7 Mining

In the Kuranda SA2 area is a quarry operation that supplies gravel outside the Kuranda area and is recorded in the businesses in the Kuranda area (Table 45).

A mining workforce of 29 was recorded as living in Kuranda SA2 at Census 2011 (Table 16) but none as residing and working in Kuranda (Table 44), indicating that the 29 were probably FIFO/DIDO workers to mines in the region or elsewhere.

The Mareeba/Tablelands area has traditionally had substantial mining activity but it has been quite volatile. Latest production figures 2015-16 indicate that production had fallen to about $17m compared with over $300m at recent peaks. However Mt Garnet, operations have recently recommenced and an investment of $100m is currently being made to restart operations (mainly zinc and gold) at Mungana near Chillagoe.

In the wider Cairns/Peninsula Australia geographic region, there is substantial mining income derived from operations at Weipa (bauxite) and at Cape Flattery (silica sand). Value of output (Queensland Mines and Energy data) in 2015-16 indicates total was over $800m. These mining operations are supplied out of Cairns by air and shipping services and when open, by road.

In addition, there are substantial earnings from mining outside of the Cairns region.

- FIFO workforce and other air delivered services to mines and other industries in Central Queensland, North West Queensland, Northern Territory, Papua Indonesia and Papua New Guinea. At the peak of the mining investment boom, they were estimated to have a value of over $200m a year.
- About $180m per annum of mine supply via shipping services to Freeport-McMoRan giant copper and gold mine in Papua Indonesia.

6.8 Summary of Outside Earnings

Thus, total turnover (output) of Kuranda activities earning income from outside the Kuranda area is estimated to be of the order of magnitude of:

Day visitor expenditure.. $60 m
Overnight visitor expenditure.. $5 m
Earnings of residents working outside Kuranda .... $70 m
Primary industries, creative arts, road services...................... $20 m
Total...$155 m

Major earnings from the Mareeba/Tablelands area industries mainly earning income from outside the region were:

Agriculture and other primary industries (1)........................ $550 m
Tourism (day) (2).. $110 m
Tourism (overnight) (3) .... $103 m
Mining (4).. $17 m
Total (5)...$780 m

Notes:

(1) Source: Queensland Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries 2015. This figure is farm-gate and does not include processing, especially dairy products, stockfeed and chickens.

(2) Tourism Research Australia 2016 for Tablelands LGA was $30m; Cummings Economics estimate for Kuranda (see Section 5.2.1) $60m plus estimate other Mareeba Shire $10m.

(3) Tourism Research Australia 2016.

(4) Queensland Department of Mines & Energy 2015-16. This figures is abnormally low. In recent times, has been as high as about $300m.

(5) This amount does not include substantial turnover of facilities on the Tablelands servicing the wider region including Lotus Glen Correctional Centre, main regional offices, Queensland Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries and significant aviation maintenance services at Mareeba airport.

Major earnings from industries in the Cairns/Peninsula Australia geographic region from outside the region include:

Tourism (1) .... $3100 m
Primary Industries (2)... (est) $2000 m
Mining (3) .... $830 m
Trade Papua New Guinea & Papua Indonesia (4) .... (est) $250 m
FIFO (5) .... (est) $120 m
Defence/Surveillance (6) .... (est) $210 m
Other (7) .... $200 m
Total (5)..$6710 m

Notes:

(1) Tourism Research Australia 2016.

(2) Cummings Economics 2015-16. An order of magnitude estimate including agriculture at farm-gate 2014-15 $1467m (ABS), (Cairns SA4 plus Northern Gulf and Cook Resource Management Area) plus estimate for processing (sugar, dairy, chicken, meat, etc., plus fisheries.

(3) Queensland Department of Mines & Energy 2015-16.

(4) Cummings Economics, includes estimated exports Freeport, Papua Indonesia $180m and airfreight Papua New Guinea $70m.

(5) Cummings Economics based on detailed estimates 2014 of approximately $200m reduced to allow for some loss in recent years.

(6) Cummings Economics includes estimate $200m HMAS Cairns and allowance for north-eastern surveillance operations, Cairns airport.

(7) Cummings Economics – approximate estimate for international education $150m (Study Cairns estimate) and earnings from outside the region of marine and aviation servicing sectors Cairns.

Thus, the Kuranda district is located in a wider Mareeba/Tablelands area and a region based on Cairns, with an economy based on strong and diversified earnings from the rest of Australia and overseas.

7.0 LOCAL SERVICES & LAYOUT

7.1 Local Services

There is a substantial amount of retailing involved with the tourist industry. However, local retailing and most other services are not highly developed in the Kuranda area.

With a small population and a large proportion of the population working elsewhere, Kuranda residents rely for much of their retail and other service needs on the facilities at Cairns (especially the large Smithfield Shopping Centre at the base of the Kuranda Range) and Mareeba.

The following tables give lists of employment by industry of residents working locally compared with State averages.

Table 48: Workforce Residing and Working in Kuranda by Industry, Census 2016

Dwellings	Kuranda SA2		(cf Queensland)
	No.	%	%.
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	42	5.7%	2.8%
Mining	0	0.0%	2.3%
Manufacturing	0	0.0%	6.0%
Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	0	0.0%	1.1%
Construction	48	6.5%	9.0%
Wholesale Trade	13	1.8%	2.6%
Retail Trade	102	13.9%	9.9%
Accommodation and Food Services	77	10.5%	7.3%
Transport, Postal and Warehousing	27	3.7%	5.1%
Information Media and Telecommunications	0	0.0%	1.2%
Financial and Insurance Services	0	0.0%	2.5%
Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	12	1.6%	2.0%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	44	6.0%	6.3%
Administrative and Support Services	37	5.0%	3.5%
Public Administration and Safety	21	2.9%	6.6%
Education and Training	82	11.2%	9.0%
Health Care and Social Assistance	50	6.8%	13.0%
Arts and Recreation Services	40	5.4%	1.6%
Other Services	16	2.2%	3.9%
Inadequately described Not stated Not applicable	124	16.9%	4.3%
Total	**735**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**

Source: Cummings Economics from ABS Census 2016. ☐ Denotes Kuranda higher.

The profile shows a relatively high Agriculture, etc. proportion, Retail Trade, Accommodation and Food Services, Administrative and Support Services, Education and Training and Art and Recreation Services.

The relatively high Retail Trade, Accommodation and Food Services, Arts and Recreation Services would be attributable to the high level of tourism day visitors.

The relatively high Administrative and Support Services could possibly reflect businesses located in Kuranda for lifestyle reasons.

A feature is a low proportion Public Administration and Safety (not a main shire centre) and Health Care and Social Assistance (no local hospital) and low Financial and Insurance Services (low level of bank facilities).

The following table gives number of registered businesses.

Table 49: Registered Businesses Listings – Kuranda SA2 by Industry by Number of Employees, June 2016

Businesses	Non employing	1-4 Employees	5-19 Employees	20-199 Employees	200+ Employees	Total
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	23	9	3	0	0	35
Mining	0	0	3	0	0	3
Manufacturing	14	12	0	0	0	35
Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	0	0	0	0	0	0
Construction	57	23	5	0	0	81
Wholesale Trade	9	3	0	0	0	16
Retail Trade	9	17	4	3	0	30
Accommodation and Food Services	7	3	13	0	0	27
Transport, Postal and Warehousing	5	9	3	0	0	13
Information Media and Telecommunications	5	0	0	0	0	5
Financial and Insurance Services	16	0	0	0	0	16
Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	38	6	3	0	0	44
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	27	15	0	0	0	45
Administrative and Support Services	9	11	0	0	0	22
Public Administration and Safety	0	0	0	0	0	0
Education and Training	3	0	0	3	0	7
Health Care and Social Assistance	8	3	0	0	0	12
Arts and Recreation Services	7	0	3	3	0	11
Other Services	5	0	0	3	0	6
Currently Unknown	3	0	3	0	0	3
Total	**245**	**111**	**40**	**9**	**0**	**411**

Source: Cummings Economics from ABS Cat. No. 8165.0.

Some 60% had no employees and only 12% had five or more employees.

Largest number were in Construction (81) followed by Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (45) and Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services (44).

The 35 classified as Manufacturing all with less than five employees would include bakeries and could include a number of craft type operations.

The relatively high numbers in Professional, Scientific and Technical Services tends to indicate that a number in that field live and operate from Kuranda but offer services outside of Kuranda.

A data base of businesses in the Kuranda area also lists over 400.

The inclusion in the list of a number of barristers, accountants, environmental services, designers, etc., again indicates that there is an element of professional and technical businesses being based in Kuranda but offering services outside of Kuranda.

Previous Table 16 gives workforce in the Mareeba/Tablelands LGAs and the Cairns SA4 region by industry.

In the Mareeba/Tablelands LGAs, it illustrates the strong presence of retail trade, public administration and safety, education and training and health care and services. These services are especially located in the main urban centres of Mareeba and Atherton.

There are regional shopping centres in Atherton and Mareeba and the main local government administration office. The main Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries office is located in Mareeba along with the Tablelands Police headquarters. West of Mareeba is the large Lotus Glen Correctional Centre. The two district hospitals in Atherton and Mareeba have among the highest patient throughput of district hospitals in northern and central Queensland outside the main regional city hospitals.

While wholesale trade, information and media services, financial services, rental living and real estate, professional scientific and technical services and administrative support services are below state average, this is common to most rural areas. Substantial services are available including district newspapers in both centres, Radio 4AM in Mareeba, branches of all major banks, strong real estate and insurance services, equipment hire services, accountancy and legal offices.

At a Cairns regional level, the city of Cairns offers very strong retail services, bolstered by demand from visitors. Census 2016 indicates that, consistent with its larger population, the Cairns SA4 region had more employment in retail than any other region in northern Australia.

In tourism oriented shopping, Cairns has one of the largest offerings in Australia outside of the major metropolitan centres and the Gold Coast. The region has a strong rental, hiring and real estate sector and administrative and support services equal or above state averages.

In public administration and safety, HMAS Cairns pushes the region above state averages. Education and training and health care and safety are at about state averages. There are two university campuses in Cairns (James Cook University (JCU) and Central Queensland University (CQU)) and headquarters of a strong TAFE system. Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Services is the largest in terms of patient admissions in northern and central Queensland.

Table 50: Hospital and Health Services, Central & Northern Queensland, 2015-16

	Total Admissions	
Cairns region	97,180	
Townsville region	75,172	
Mackay region	47,338	
Central Queensland	61,500	

Source: Cummings Economics from Health Service Annual Reports, 2015-16.

While information, media and telecommunication services, financial and insurance, professional scientific and technical services are below state averages, this is typical in regional areas.

7.2 Layout

Examination of the layout of Kuranda indicates a dispersed pattern on comparatively large blocks of land including rural residential and over a large area.

There is only a small proportion of the population in the Kuranda township, with groups of houses to the south, in the area west of the township, north and south of the Kennedy Highway, around Myola/Mantaka/Korowa, around Speewah and around Clohesy River/Koah area. (Table 47 illustrates.)

Table 51: Distribution of Population, Kuranda SA2 (usual place of residence), Census 2016

	Number	
Kuranda township	305	
Warril Drive area	339	
Kuranda south	1094	
Mona Mona	808	
Myola/Korowa	855	
Speewah	795	
Koah	602	
Total	**4789**	

Source: Cummings Economics from ABS Census 2016.

Each of these areas is fairly distinct and without close inter-relationship. They are quite separate from those living in the township area and unaffected by the very large numbers of day visitors to the Kuranda Village Centre.

While most of the area's shopping and social facilities are in the Kuranda township area, a number are scattered through the area including tavern/shop/petrol station at Speewah, petrol station/shop/community hall at Koah, school at Myola and various other businesses operating from houses/farms dispersed through the area.

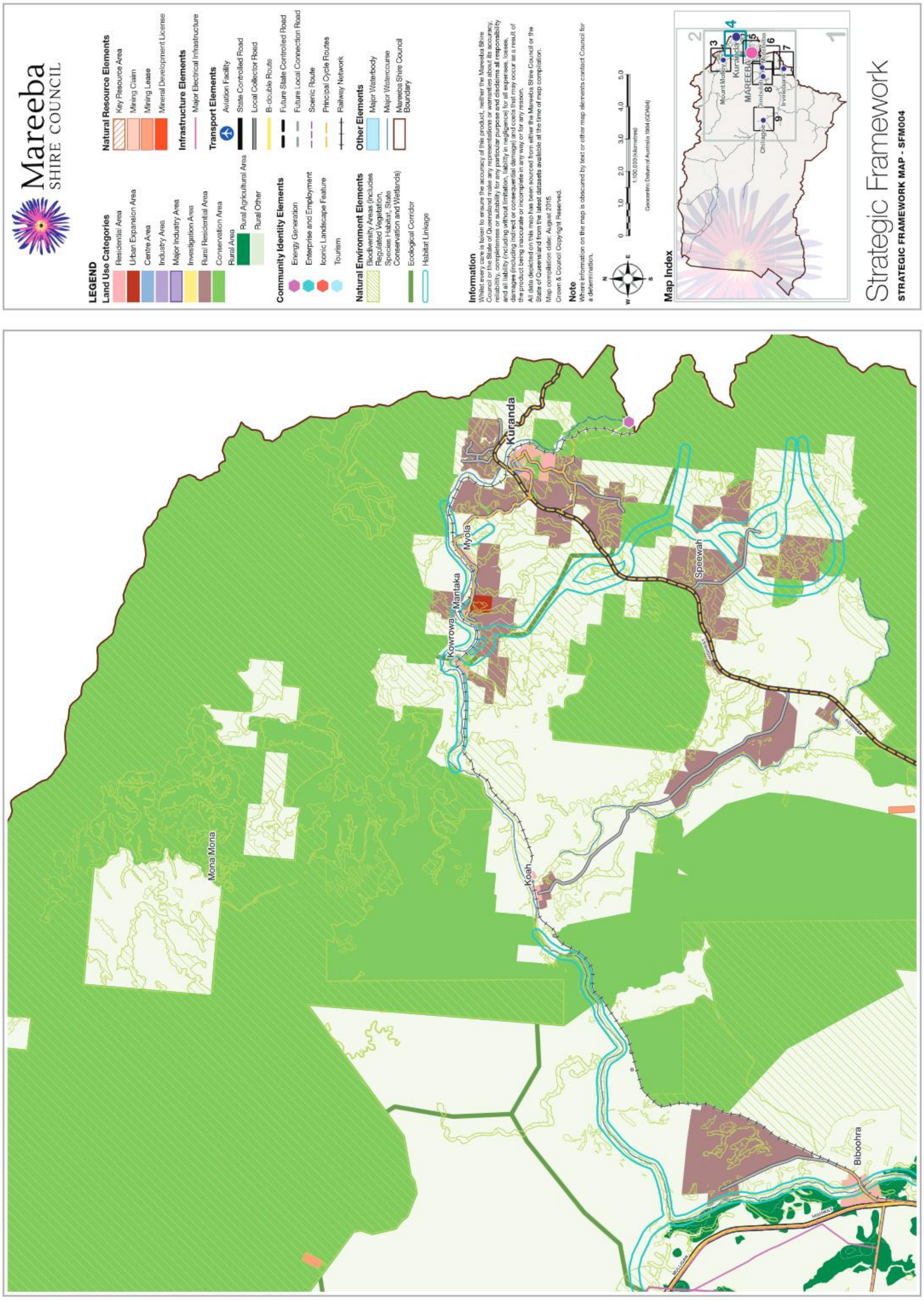
Details of the Mareeba Shire Town Planning Framework for the area are given in the Town Planning Section of the EIS.

Map 2 over gives Mareeba Shire Plan Strategic Framework for Kuranda area. It illustrates the large areas of forested lands, mainly rainforest under conservation that contribute to Kuranda's special atmosphere of the "Village in the Rainforest".

The Far North Queensland Regional Plan specially recognises Kuranda as "a small village activity centre set in the rainforest. It will continue to have a specialist tourism focus and focal point for the Cairns Kuranda Railway and Skyrail Cable Cars".

The Plan records that the cost of upgrading the Kuranda Range Road led to the abandonment of earlier proposals for the area to play a role as the next major urban growth area for Cairns and selects the area between Edmonton and Gordonvale for this purpose.

Map 2: Mareeba Shire Town Planning Framework, Kuranda Area



8.0 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 A Variety of Socio Economic Groups

Thus, the main community affected, Kuranda, has a diverse social structure with a number of major characteristics.

- A relatively prosperous, high socio economic element, that tend to live in large lifestyle land blocks and commute to work in Cairns and elsewhere on the Tablelands.
- An aging alternative lifestyle element associated with development of Kuranda markets, creative and cultural activities.
- A typical small town business, trade and service provider elements.
- A small primary industries element.
- A comparatively large Aboriginal population who have traditionally lived in the area.

8.2 Influences on Community Engagement

The aging alternative lifestyle group have strong views, are articulate and can be expected to present no problems for engagement.

Any engagement problems are likely to be with other elements in the community, especially business, trades and service providers, the rural activities households and the Aboriginal community.

8.3 Key Industries & Land Use

The Kuranda economy is dominated by two major sources of earnings:

i) Those commuting to work in Cairns or elsewhere on the Tablelands;
ii) Day visitors to experience scenic rail/Skyrail/road trip to the “Village in the Rainforest”.

Land use of the first involves residential often on acreage blocks. Land use in relation to the second is heavily concentrated in the village township with some outliers – Rainforestation and rural type attractions.

The small rural element involves substantial land usage.

Aboriginal residence tends to be concentrated in Mona Mona, Mantaka and Korowa.

8.4 Capacity & Accessibility of Infrastructure & Services

The community is relatively small and although local services are often available, it draws heavily on facilities and services nearby in Cairns (especially Smithfield) and Mareeba.

8.5 The Housing & Accommodation Market

The market is relatively small with about 50 – 60 sales a year and neither strongly undersupplied or oversupplied. Population growth leads to a small construction and take up of dwellings – of the order of 20 - 30 a year with average size of allotments, dwellings and prices being above averages for Cairns and the region.

8.6 Labour Market

Over 50% of residential workforce commute to work in Cairns or elsewhere on the Tablelands and this along with underemployed and unemployed represent a substantial potential group to meet expanding workforce needs before a need for additional new residents.

A significant part of local workforce needs are met through workers commuting in from outside the region. The region has a large existing workforce with skills in construction and tourism to draw upon.

8.7 Projects in the Region

Projects in the region that could compete for workforce and other inputs include a current $350 million development by the GA Group in provision of three new or expanded hotel accommodation projects in Cairns. However, these are likely to be completed over the next 18 months.

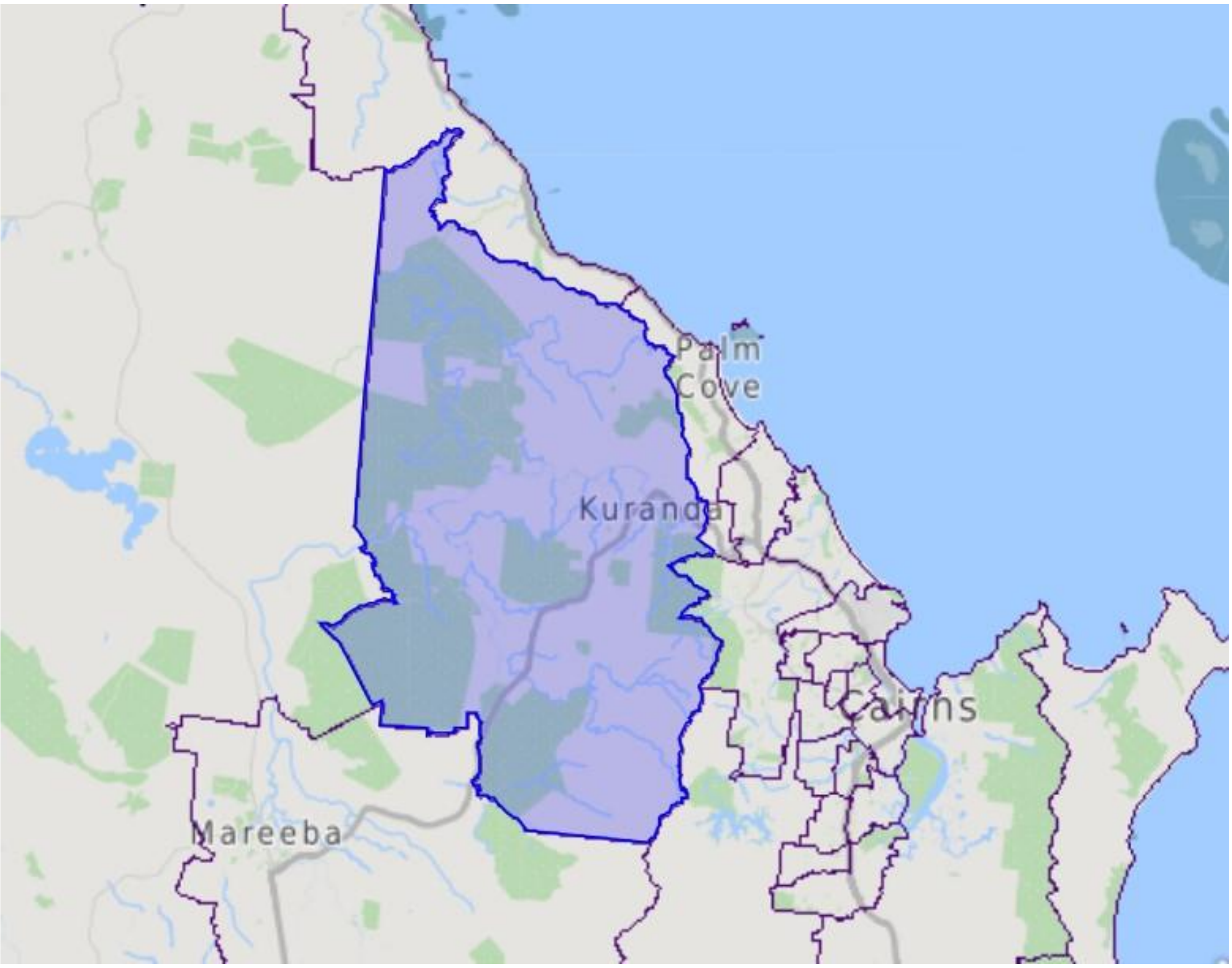
Although there are proposals for the Global Tourism Hub adjacent to the Cairns wharves, this is still conceptual.

The GA Group is proposing to further develop the Marina at Port Douglas including more holiday accommodation and there is a 200 room redevelopment of Castaways Resort at Mission Beach underway.

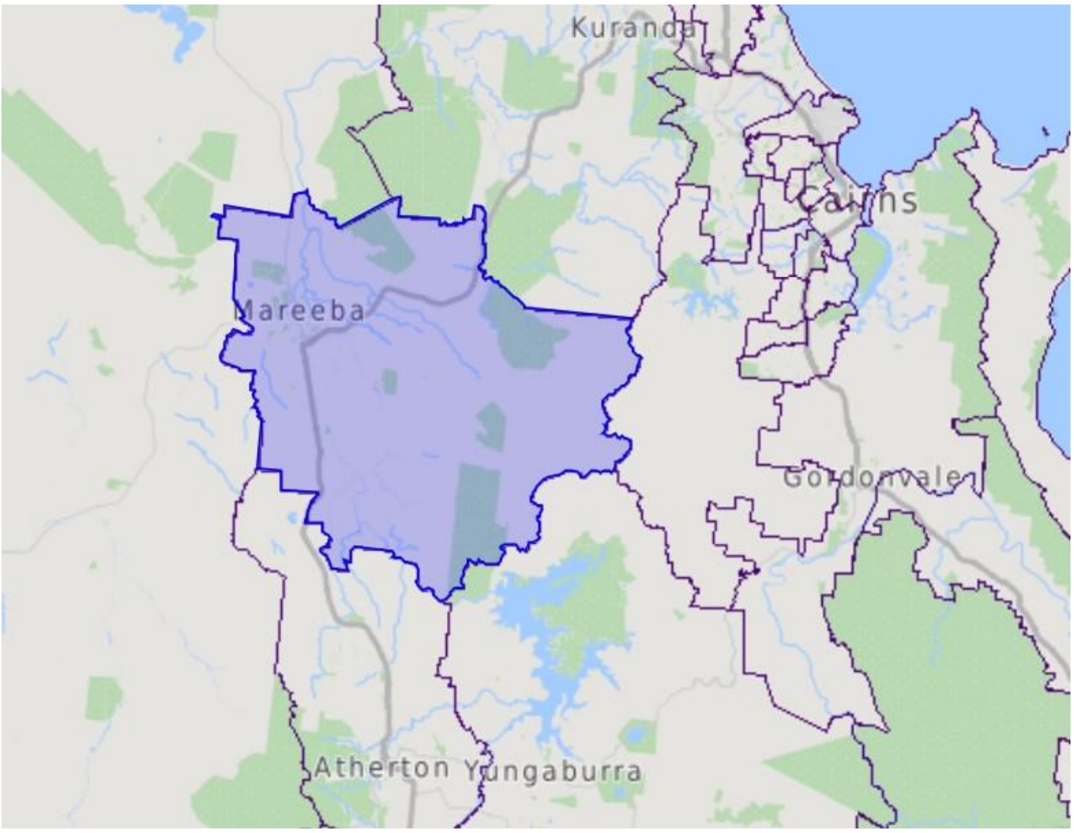
APPENDIX 1

STATISTICAL AREAS DEFINED

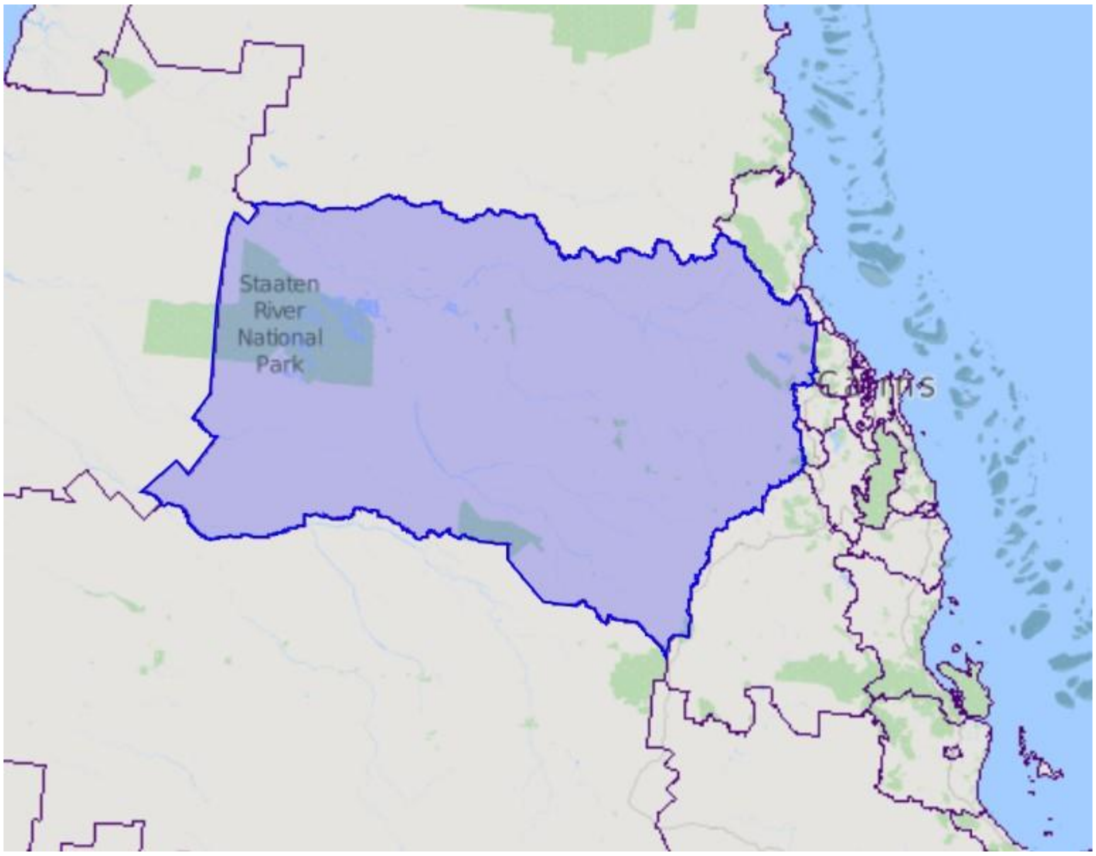
MAP 1 - KURANDA SA2 – (PART MAREEBA SHIRE)



MAP 2A - TABLELANDS COMMUNITY – MAREEBA SA2 – (PART MAREEBA SHIRE)

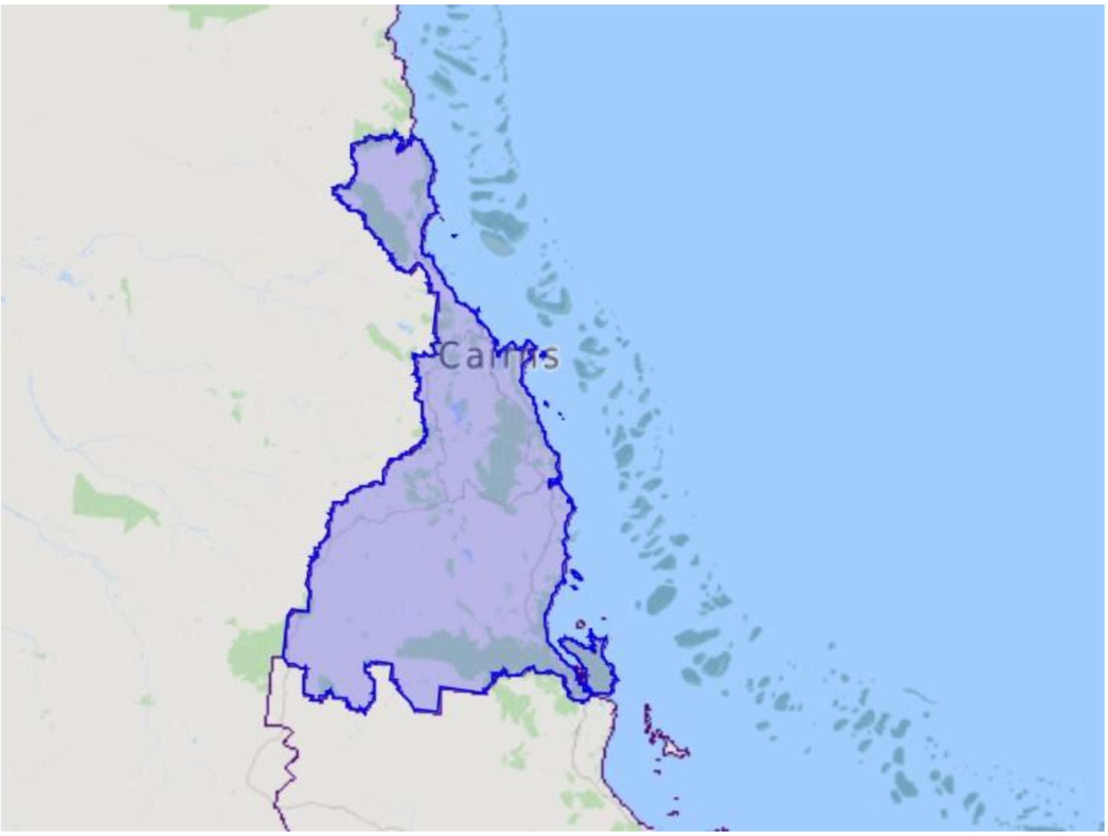


MAP 2B - TABLELANDS COMMUNITY – QUEENSLAND OUTBACK TABLELANDS SA2 – (PART MAREEBA SHIRE)



MAP 2C – TABLELANDS COMMUNITY – TABLELANDS LGAS (MAREEBA AND TABLELANDS)

MAP 3 – CAIRNS REGION COMMUNITY – CAIRNS SA4



MAP 4 – CAIRNS COMMERCIAL SERVICING REGION - PENINSULA QUEENSLAND /AUSTRALIA GEOGRAPHIC REGION