

Population growth – highlights and trends

the Whitsunday, Hinterland and
Mackay Region 2004



Queensland Government

Department of Local Government, Planning,
Sport and Recreation

The Whitsunday, Hinterland and Mackay Region

Minister's message

Welcome to this first edition of *Population growth – highlights and trends, the Whitsunday, Hinterland and Mackay Region 2004*. This report covers the Mackay Statistical Division from Bowen in the north to Broomsound in the south, stretching westward to include Nebo and Belyando Shires.

Queensland's population has continued its rapid climb over the past year, with average growth in the year to June 2003 a massive 30% higher than in the previous four years. Of course with growth come challenges. But, growth can also bring economic prosperity and opportunity.

Taking advantage of the opportunities presented by growth requires not only careful planning, but also information. As businesses involved in development, housing, banking, tourism, and investment make decisions about their future directions, I hope this report has an integral role to play.

The report shows clearly that opportunities and challenges are not limited to the State's south-east. Queensland's major regional centres also continue to grow. Population in the Mackay region grew by more than 4,000 people in the last two years, with last year's growth more than double average levels in the late 1990s.

Interestingly, the largest contributor to Queensland's record population growth is net interstate migration – 39,000 people in the last year, or 46% of our growth in the year to June 2003. In the same period, assumed net migration accounted for 36% of the population growth in the Mackay region.

In recent years, the biggest increases in population have been in the 45 to 64 year age group and this is expected to continue until at least 2011. After that a rapid shift is projected, with increases in the 65 years and over range outpacing all other age groups.

This is the sort of hard information that businesses and governments at all levels need to make decisions about where to provide hospitals, schools, water, roads, and other infrastructure, jobs, and services.

I trust you will find it useful.



Desley Boyle MP
Minister for Local Government, Planning and Women

The Whitsunday, Hinterland and Mackay Region

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Technical notes: The latest estimates available below the State level are preliminary estimates for LGAs and Statistical Local Areas (SLAs) as at 30 June 2003. These latest estimates also include revised estimates for June 2002. These estimates are available as Appendix A of the report “Population growth – highlights and trends, Queensland 2004” and may be downloaded from the PIFU website <http://www.lgp.qld.gov.au/pifu> at no cost. Much of the analysis in this report is based on population estimates for the year to June 2003. However, latest estimates available only at the State level are reported for the year to December 2003.

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Summary of report

Population growth – highlights and trends, the Whitsunday, Hinterland and Mackay Region 2004 contains analysis of the latest available estimates of the resident population of the Whitsunday, Hinterland and Mackay Region (WHAM). These include preliminary estimates of the population as at 30 June 2003 and revised estimates of the population as at 30 June 2002. WHAM covers the Mackay Statistical Division and includes the Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Belyando, Bowen, Broadsound, Mackay, Mirani, Nebo, Sarina and Whitsunday.

This report complements other more detailed reports produced by the Department's Planning Information and Forecasting Unit (PIFU) such as *Population growth – highlights and trends, Queensland 2004*, *Recent Population and Housing Trends in Queensland 2003* and *Queensland's Future Population 2003*. These latter reports contain more detailed analysis of both recent and projected population trends as well as discussion of the implications of these trends. Population growth – highlights and trends reports for other regions will be released progressively during 2004.

Key findings from this report include:

- WHAM's population grew by almost 1,800 people to exceed 141,000 people by June 2003, having rebounded from slower average annual growth in the five years to June 2001;
- Mackay City grew by 1,027 people in the year to June 2003, making it the sixth largest growth LGA outside South East Queensland (SEQ); and
- In the year to June 2004 dwelling approvals in WHAM were up 63% on the previous year and were the highest since the mid 1990s. Mackay City and Whitsunday Shire together accounted for 86% of the region's dwelling approvals in the year to June 2004.

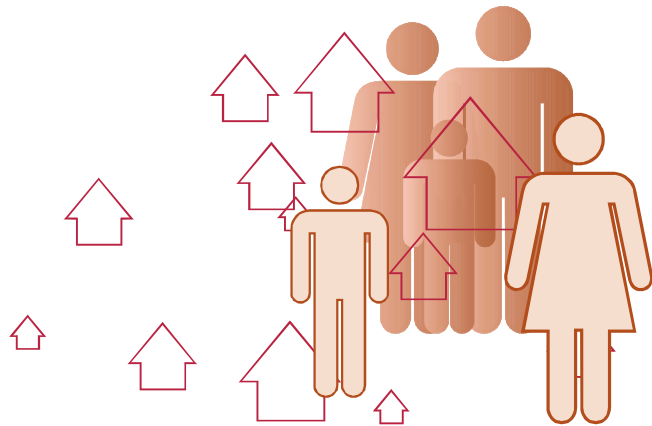
Queensland was the fastest growing Australian state or territory in the year to June 2003, a position held for more than a decade. The population increase in 2003 was the highest annual population growth recorded since 1989 and was substantially above levels of growth in the second half of the 1990s. Growth in the regions has also recovered from the subdued levels of the latter 1990s but has not yet regained the peak levels of the first half of the decade.

Due to the variable nature of population change, it is vital that the most recent data are assessed when they become available. Population change is also location specific, requiring any such changes to be considered at a local scale. Identifying the highlights and trends in these data will contribute to more efficient planning for future infrastructure and services by providing the fundamental information necessary to address the challenges and capitalise on the opportunities created by Queensland's future population growth.

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Queensland in the Australian context

The most recent estimate for Queensland indicates that the population grew to 3.84 million people by December 2003. This equates to an increase of nearly 86,000 people over the year to December 2003, up slightly from growth of 85,300 people in the previous year. Queensland continues to maintain its status as Australia's fastest growing state with a growth rate of 2.3% in the year to December 2003.

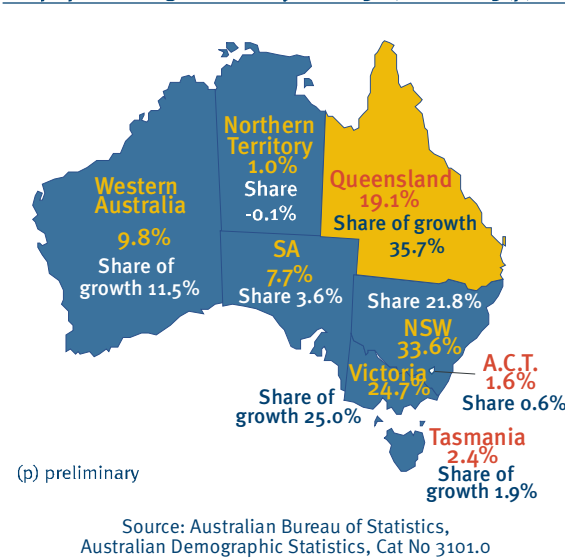


By December 2003, Australia's population reached 20 million people. This represents a doubling of the population since 1959.

New South Wales retains the largest share of the Australian population (33.6%), followed by Victoria (24.7%) with Queensland the third largest state in terms of population share (19.1%) (Figure 1).

Queensland's share of the Australian population continues to increase having risen from 18.6% in 2000 to 19.1% by 2003. However, Queensland accounted for a much larger share of population growth, with more than one-third (35.7%) of Australia's total growth over the year to June 2003 occurring in Queensland.

Figure 1: Proportion of national resident population at 30 June 2003(p) and share of national population growth for year to 30 June 2003(p)



Just the Facts...

Queensland's current population

Size (31 December 2003) 3,840,111

Growth rate (year to 31 Dec 2003) 2.3 %

Increase in year (31 Dec 2003) 85,957

Source: ABS, Australian Demographic Statistics, Cat No 3101.0

The Whitsunday, Hinterland and Mackay Region

WHAM in the Queensland context

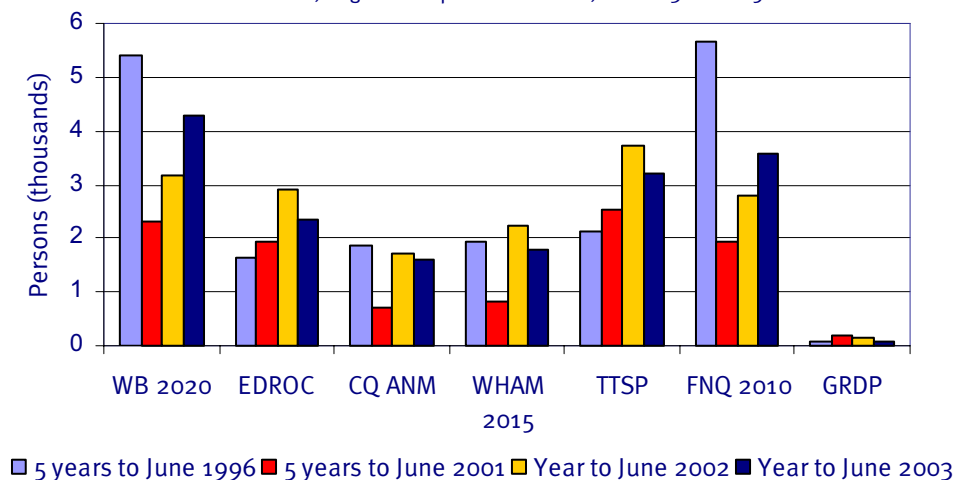
Regional Comparisons

This report compares Queensland regions as defined by the Queensland Department of Local Government, Planning, Sport and Recreation's regional planning project areas (refer to <http://www.lgp.qld.gov.au/?ID=1249> for a list of these areas). In almost all planning areas, population change in the year to June 2003 exceeded average annual change in the five years to June 2001.

Most of Queensland's growth occurred in the south-east corner of the State. The SEQ2021 region recorded the fastest rate of growth and the largest amount of growth of any of Queensland's regions. Outside South East Queensland, growth rates in both Wide Bay (WB 2020) and Townsville Thuringowa (TTSP) exceeded 2%, with Far North Queensland (FNQ 2010) the next fastest growing region. WB 2020 grew by more than 4,200 people in the year to June 2003 and was the largest growing region, followed by FNQ 2010 with almost 3,600 people (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Average annual population change, regional planning project areas excluding SEQ 2021

Source: ABS, Regional Population Growth, Cat No 3218.0.65.001



WHAM's population increased from 139,790 to 141,567 people in the year to June 2003, an increase of 1,777 people or 1.3%. This was lower than growth in the previous year (2,251), but more than double the average annual growth in the latter 1990s (815 people).

Just the Facts...

WHAM's current population	
Size (30 June 2003)	141,567
Growth rate (year to 30 June 2003)	1.3%
Increase in year (30 June 2003)	1,777

Source: ABS, Regional Population Growth, Cat No 3218.0.65.001

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WHAM accounted for 2.1% of Queensland's growth in the year to June 2003, smaller than its share of the State's population (3.7%). In the same period, WHAM experienced a lower average annual growth rate (1.3%) than Queensland as a whole (2.3%).

The WHAM region has consistently recorded growth rates below the State average over the past decade (Figure 3). Regional growth has been strongest in South East Queensland, exceeding the State average in all periods. Growth in WHAM over the past two years is considerably above average growth rates recorded by the region in the latter 1990s.

Just the facts...

WHAM's share of Queensland's growth

Share of Queensland's population (30 June 2003) 3.7%

Share of Queensland's population growth (year ending 30 June 2003) 2.1%

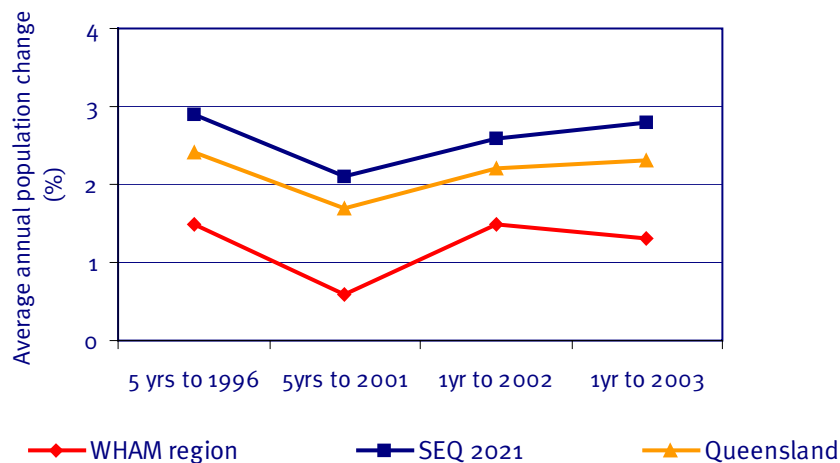
Average annual growth rate (year ending 30 June 2003)

Queensland 2.3%
WHAM 1.3%

Source: ABS, Regional Population Growth, Cat No 3218.0.65.001

Figure 3: Average annual rates of growth, selected regional planning areas in Queensland

Source: ABS, Cat No 3218.0.65.001

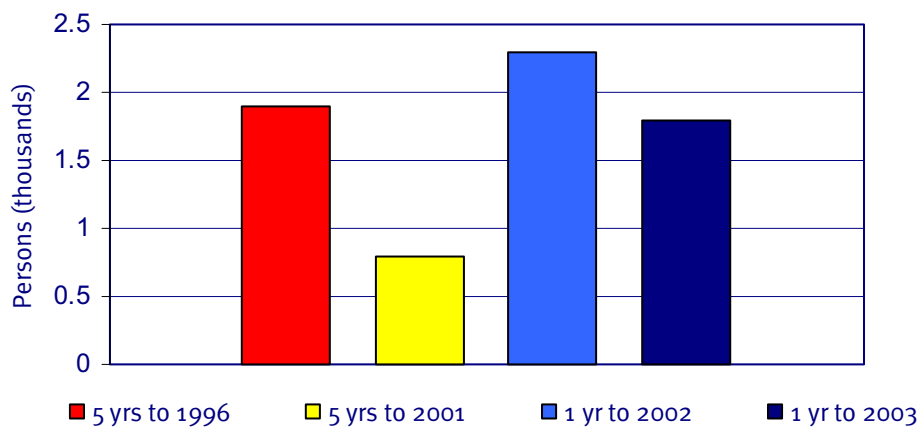


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Population growth in the WHAM region remained at almost 2,000 people each year during the early 1990s (Figure 4). Growth then slumped in the second half of the decade in line with slower growth throughout Queensland. However, the past two years have seen a return to the stronger levels of growth recorded in the region during the early 1990s. An increase of 2,250 people in the year to June 2002 was followed by more modest growth of around 1,780 people in the past year.

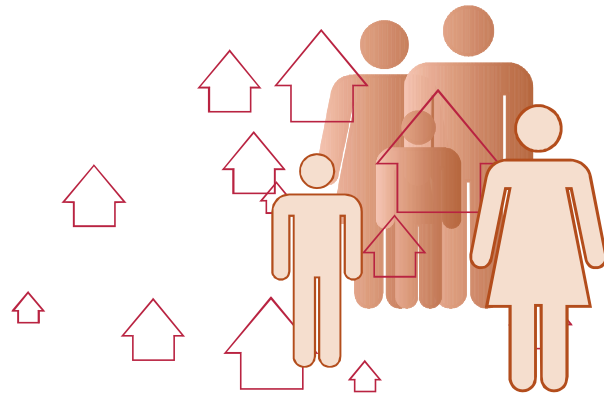
Figure 4: Average annual population change, WHAM region

Source: ABS, Regional Population Growth, Cat No 3218.o.65.001



Components of change

Natural increase and net migration are the two main components of population change. Annual migration statistics are not available for areas within Queensland, though migration movements may be assumed from other information on natural increase (excess of births over deaths) and the change in the estimated resident population.



In the ten years to June 2003, WHAM's population increased from 126,882 to 141,567, an increase of more than 14,500 people or 1.1% growth per year. The source of most (85.2%) of the growth was natural increase and the balance of the population increase (14.8%) came from assumed net migration. Assumed net migration is the difference between estimated total population change and natural increase over the same time.

Natural increase has declined steadily from 1,396 people in 1994 to 1,142 in 2003 (Figure 5). In the same period, the number of births declined from 2,112 to 1,922 while the number of deaths increased from 716 to 780.

In contrast to the steady change in natural increase, assumed net migration has fluctuated considerably from year to year, with the largest apparent increases in 1996 (1,701) and 2002 (1,133).

Between 1997 and 2000, assumed net migration to the WHAM region was negative. In other words, more people left the region than moved there. However, this situation reversed from 2002, when migration resulted in a positive and large contribution to population growth. In the year ending June 2003, the contribution from assumed net migration almost halved leading to a smaller amount of growth compared to the previous year (1,777 people and 2,251 people respectively). Nonetheless, the increase in the population in 2003 was higher than the average increase over the ten-year period (1,469 people) (Table 1).

Just the Facts...

Natural increase, WHAM

	Year ending 30 June 2003	% change over last 10 years
Births	1,922	-9.0
Deaths	780	8.9
Natural increase	1,142	-18.2

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, unpublished data

The Whitsunday, Hinterland and Mackay Region

Figure 5: Natural increase and assumed net migration, WHAM region, years ending June 1994 to June 2003

Source: ABS, Cat No. 3239.0.55.001, and unpublished data

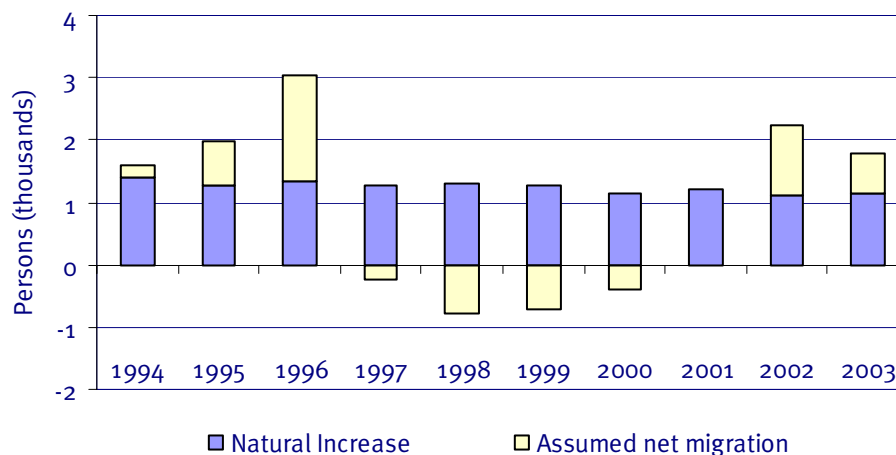


Table 1: Natural increase, assumed net migration and total population change, WHAM region, years ending 30 June 1994 to 2003 (p)

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Regional Population Growth, Cat No 3218.0.65.001, and unpublished data

Year to 30 June	Natural Increase	Assumed net migration	Total population change	Natural Increase	Assumed net migration	Total population change
	No.	No.	No.	%	%	%
1994	1,396	187	1,583	88.2	11.8	100.0
1995	1,266	712	1,978	64.0	36.0	100.0
1996	1,322	1,701	3,023	43.7	56.3	100.0
1997	1,288	-230	1,058	121.7	-21.7	100.0
1998	1,298	-773	525	247.2	-147.2	100.0
1999	1,257	-726	531	236.7	-136.7	100.0
2000	1,232	-475	757	162.7	-62.7	100.0
2001	1,194	8	1,202	99.3	0.7	100.0
2002 (r)	1,118	1,133	2,251	49.7	50.3	100.0
2003 (p)	1,142	635	1,777	64.3	35.7	100.0
10 year average	1,251	217	1,469	85.2	14.8	100.0

(p) preliminary
(r) revised

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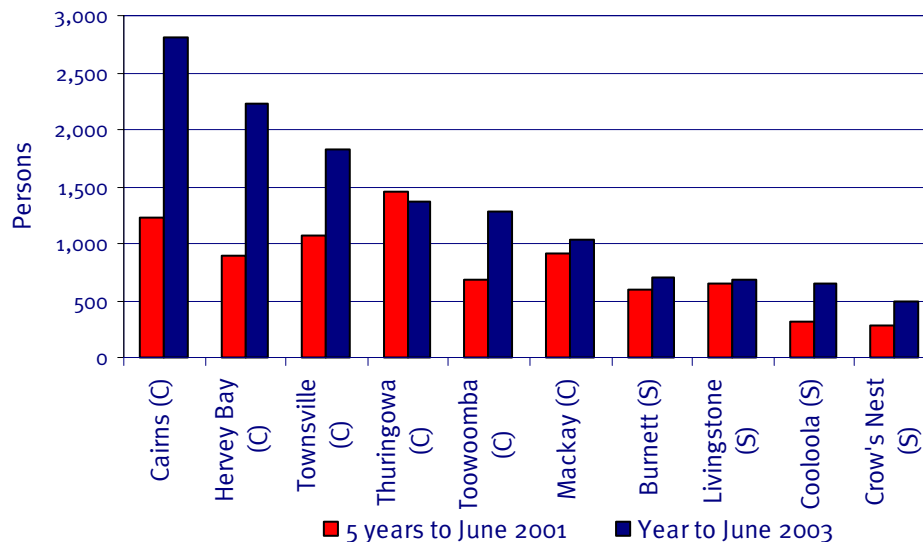
Local population trends

Outside South East Queensland (SEQ), the largest growth Local Government Areas (LGAs) were the major centres along the coast, while Toowoomba City and Crow's Nest Shire were also in the top ten (Figure 6). Both Cairns and Hervey Bay Cities recorded population increases of more than 2,200 people each in the year to June 2003. In contrast, Cairns City grew by an average of around 1,200 people a year in the five years to June 2001 and Hervey Bay City by about 900 people annually in the same period. Thuringowa City, which recorded the largest increase (1,460 people) in the region in the five years to June 2001, was the only LGA in the top ten to record a decline in its level of growth compared with the earlier period.

For population estimates and population growth rates for all Statistical Local Areas, LGAs and regional planning areas in Queensland for the five years to 30 June 2001 and the year to June 2003 refer to PIFU's website at <http://www.lgp.qld.gov.au/?ID=1249> and choose Appendix A. Similar information for all LGAs in the WHAM region is shown in Table 2 of this report.

Figure 6: Average annual population change, top ten largest growth LGAs in Regional Queensland

Source: ABS, Regional Population Growth, Cat No 3218.0.65.001



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WHAM

In terms of its annual population change, Mackay City recorded the sixth largest amount of growth of any Local Government Area (LGA) outside SEQ in the year to June 2003 (Figure 6). In comparison, average annual population growth in Mackay City in the five years to June 2001 (909 people) made it the fourth largest growing LGA in the State outside SEQ. Whitsunday Shire grew by 445 people in the year to June 2003, making it one of the top twelve growth LGAs in regional Queensland.

Just the Facts...

WHAM and Queensland: growth and decline

Year ending 30 June 2003(a)

Growth rate	WHAM LGAs		Qld LGAs	
	No.	%	No.	%
2.0% or above	3	37.5	27	21.4
>0.5% and <2.0%	1	12.5	46	36.5
>-0.5% and <0.5%	4	50.0	29	23.0
Less than -0.5%	0	0.0	24	19.0
Total	8	100.0	126	100.0

(a) ABS was unable to estimate population change for the 32 ICs and ACs to 30 June 2003. These populations have been held constant (no growth or decline).

In the five years to June 2001 and for the years to June 2002 and June 2003, Mackay City recorded the largest average annual growth of any area in the region (Table 2). This was more than double the increase in Whitsunday Shire, which recorded the next largest growth. With the exception of Sarina and Mirani Shires, all LGAs recorded a higher population increase in the year to June 2003 than their average increase in the five years to June 2001. In the case of Belyando, Nebo and Bowen Shires, population growth during 2003 reversed average declines in the five years to June 2001.

Table 2: Estimated resident population and average annual population change, Local Government Areas in WHAM region

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Regional Population Growth, Cat No 3218.o.65.001

LGA	Average annual population change			Estimated resident population at June 2003
	5 yrs to June 2001	Year to June 2002	Year to June 2003	
Mackay (C)	909	1,243	1,027	78,263
Whitsunday (S)	317	489	445	16,456
Belyando (S)	-162	291	249	10,488
Nebo (S)	-33	3	60	2,157
Sarina (S)	91	64	30	9,902
Bowen (S)	-147	122	1	12,532
Broadsound (S)	-214	8	-7	6,483
Mirani (S)	53	31	-28	5,286
WHAM 2015	814	2,251	1,777	141,567
Queensland	58,051	82,026	85,803	3,796,775

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Average annual population growth in the WHAM region was nearly 1,800 people in the year to June 2003. Growth was down from the previous year (2,251 people), but more than double the average annual gain in the five years to June 2001. By comparison, Queensland's growth in the year to June 2003 was almost 50% higher than its growth in the five years to 2002.

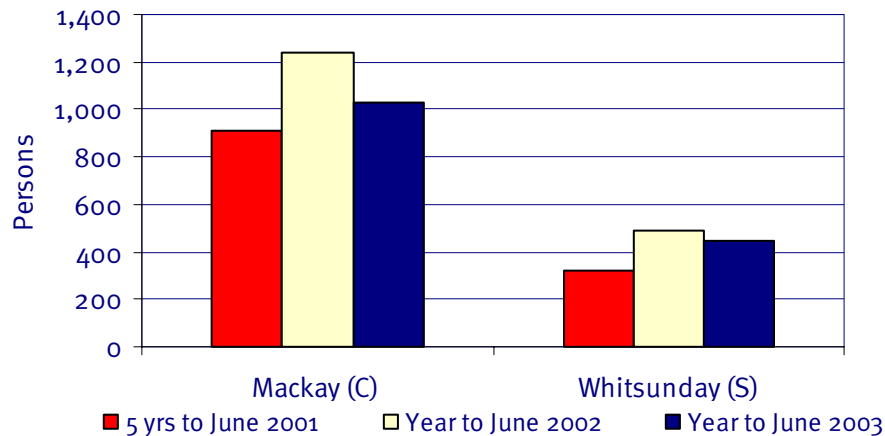
Of the eight Local Government Areas in WHAM, Mackay, Whitsunday and Sarina continued to grow over the year to June 2003, though more slowly than in the previous year (Figure 7). Belyando, Nebo and Bowen reversed the decline evident in the five years to June 2001 (Figure 8). Broadsound and Mirani declined slightly in the year to June 2003.

Belyando, Broadsound and Nebo have each recorded growth in the last two years compared with the decline in the five years to June 2001 as a consequence of increased activity and associated employment in the coal mining industry.

Population growth in Whitsunday Shire in the year to June 2003 (445 people) was up more than one third on the average of the five years to June 2001. The population was stable in Bowen Shire after average losses of nearly 150 people each year since 1996.

Figure 7: Average annual population change, Mackay City and Whitsunday Shire

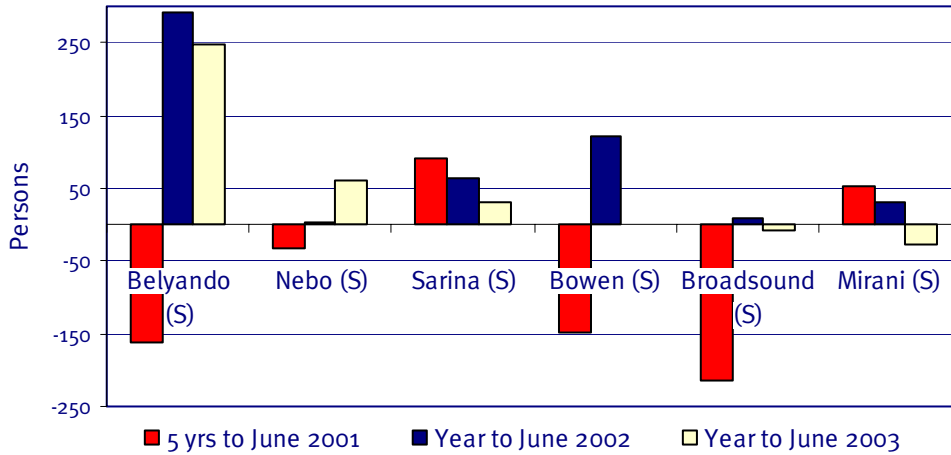
Source: ABS, Regional Population Growth, Cat No 3218.o.65.001



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Figure 8: Average annual population change, other WHAM LGAs

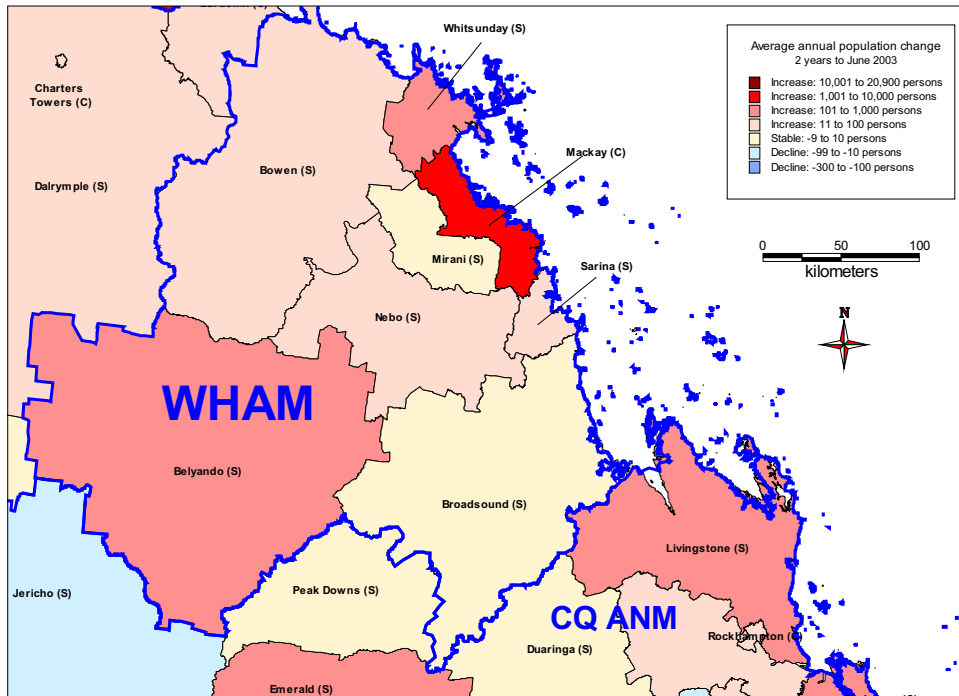
Source: ABS, Regional Population Growth, Cat No 3218.o.65.001



Although higher population growth in the two years to June 2003 occurred in Local Government Areas (LGAs) on the WHAM coast such as Mackay and Whitsunday, there was also sizeable growth inland in Belyando Shire (Figure 9). LGAs with modest growth extended from Sarina through Nebo to Bowen and then into Burdekin and Dalrymple outside the WHAM area. Broadsound maintained a stable population over the two-year period, as did adjacent Peak Downs and Duaringa outside the WHAM region.

Figure 9: Average population change, LGAs in WHAM region, 2 years to June 2003

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Regional Population Growth, Cat No 3218.o.65.001



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Dwelling activity

Dwelling approvals in WHAM have fluctuated considerably since 1996 (Figure 10). Between 1996 and 2000, approvals exceeded 1,000 in all financial years, with a peak of 1,225 in the year to June 2000. In the next year, dwelling approvals fell below 700. Since then, approvals have increased, peaking at 970 in the year to June 2002. In the most recent year (to June 2004) dwelling approvals in WHAM were the highest since the mid 1990s and were up 63% on the previous year reaching a total of 1,282. This comprised almost 1,077 separate houses, 107 townhouses, 51 low-rise units and 47 high-rise units.

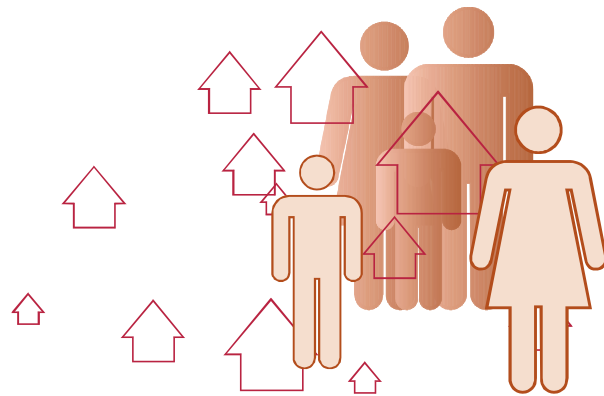
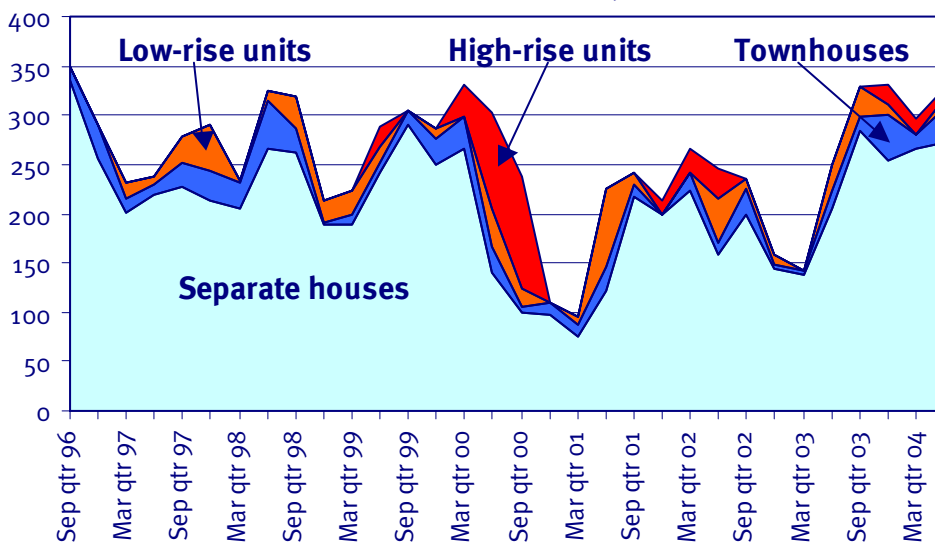


Figure 10: Dwelling approvals, WHAM, Sep qtr 1996 to June qtr 2004

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, unpublished data



The significant numbers of high-rise units approved in the June and September quarters of 2000 were predominantly in Whitsunday Shire, while in the last three quarters the high-rise units have been in Mackay City. The majority of townhouses in the late 1990s, and again in the early 2000s, were approved in Mackay City, whereas low-rise units approved in Whitsunday Shire have exceeded those in Mackay City.

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In all quarters, separate houses have predominated among dwelling types. However, in the year to June 2001, the 113 high-rise units contributed significantly to total approvals, much more than in the other years shown in Table 3. In the year to June 2001, the number of houses approved declined from the levels recorded in the latter 1990s while in the year to June 2004 they jumped to more than 1,000, making up more than 84% of all approvals in the WHAM region.

Table 3: Dwelling approvals by type, years ending June, WHAM region

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, unpublished data

	1998		2001		2004	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Separate houses	913	80.9	395	59.0	1,077	84.0
Townhouses	127	11.3	55	8.2	107	8.3
Low-rise units	88	7.8	106	15.8	51	4.0
High-rise units	0	0.0	113	16.9	47	3.7
Total approvals	1,128	100	669	100	1,282	100

Mackay City accounted for 68% of dwelling approvals in WHAM in the year to June 2004, slightly more than its share (60%) of approvals in the five years to June 2001 (Table 4). Whitsunday Shire accounted for 18% of WHAM's dwelling approvals in the year to June 2004, lower than its share in the five years to June 2001. Approvals of dwellings other than houses were highest in Mackay and Whitsunday. In the year to June 2004, these two Local Government Areas (LGAs) accounted for 184 approvals for units and townhouses, representing 90% of all approvals for dwellings other than separate houses in the region.

Table 4: Average annual dwelling approvals, 1996 to 2004, WHAM region

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, unpublished data

LGA	5 yrs to June 2001		2 yrs to June 2003		Year to June 2004	
	Houses	Other	Houses	Other	Houses	Other
Belyando (S)	37	1	10	4	33	2
Bowen (S)	22	11	18	2	37	10
Broadsound (S)	11	0	4	8	4	0
Mackay City	530	95	529	55	769	104
Mirani (S)	32	1	9	0	16	0
Nebo (S)	4	1	5	2	6	3
Sarina (S)	69	6	48	2	63	6
Whitsunday (S)	122	96	122	60	148	80
WHAM	829	211	743	132	1,076	205

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More detail on these topics is available from the Planning Information and Forecasting Unit

The Planning Information and Forecasting Unit (PIFU) is a business unit located in the Queensland Department of Local Government, Planning, Sport and Recreation. PIFU provides a comprehensive range of professional products and services in the areas of:

- demographic analysis and forecasting
- Geographical Information System applications
- residential building activity
- urban land supply analysis
- high quality customised mapping

PIFU's clients include State Government agencies, local government and private sector businesses.

PIFU also publishes a range of reports on population and housing trends and projections, and urban land supply for Queensland.

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