

Townsville City Plan

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 2020

Preamble

The Townsville City Plan sets out the 25 year vision for how the city should grow to meet the social, environmental, and economic challenges of the future. It articulates Council's vision for where and how development occurs, what infrastructure and spaces are provided for new or changing communities, what environmental and built form features are protected or enhanced, and what land use activities are undertaken in different parts of the municipality. It strikes a balance between encouraging Townsville's continued growth while protecting our unique lifestyle. It is the legal document that guides and regulates the development of land within the city.

Why measure the performance of the Townsville City Plan?

While the Townsville City Plan provides the vision for the city, we need to understand what progress is being made towards achieving that vision. Jointly funded by Council and the Queensland State Government, this project provides a set of Performance Indicators which assess how effectively Council's land use and development vision is being realised. It will help Council to better understand and evaluate the implementation of the Townsville City Plan over time.

About the Townsville City Plan Performance Indicators

The Townsville City Plan Performance Indicators are a set of measures that monitor progress towards achieving different aspects of the stated long-term vision for the City, contained in its strategic framework. It presents the vision for the City across four policy themes and outcomes: Shaping Townsville, a strong and connected community; an environmentally sustainable future; and sustaining economic growth.

The Townsville City Plan Performance Indicators are organised around these four themes, and collectively will contribute to a better understanding of the effectiveness of these policies. The Townsville City Plan Performance Indicators have been influenced by the approach taken by the City of Toronto and their Official Plan Indicators.

Important notes:

The Townsville City Plan is an important document, but it is one tool in a wider system of governance, development, economic, and environmental frameworks that inform land use and development outcomes in the city. These Performance Indicators have been chosen with a view to assessing the impact of the Townsville City Plan but will also be influenced to some degree by this wider system. This report is not intended for commercial use and changes to the indicators may be made over time, as improved data sources and processes are established.

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Shaping Townsville

1 Housing growth and land supply

2 Housing location and type

3 Non-residential gross floor area in key activity centres

4 Mode of transportation

5 Footpath provision



1

Housing growth and land supply



Indicator

Number of new dwellings developed, and total area and number of years of greenfield residential land supply.

Key question

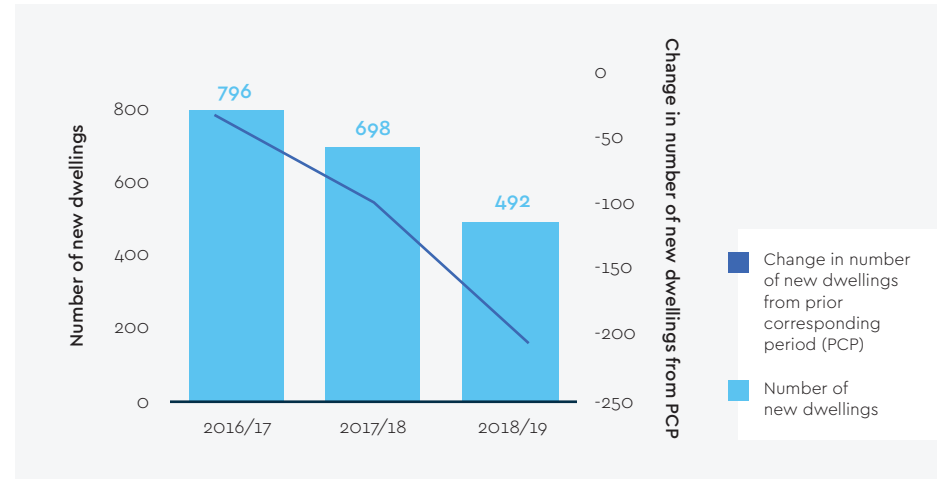
How much housing development is occurring in Townsville and is there at least 15 years land supply available?

Why it matters

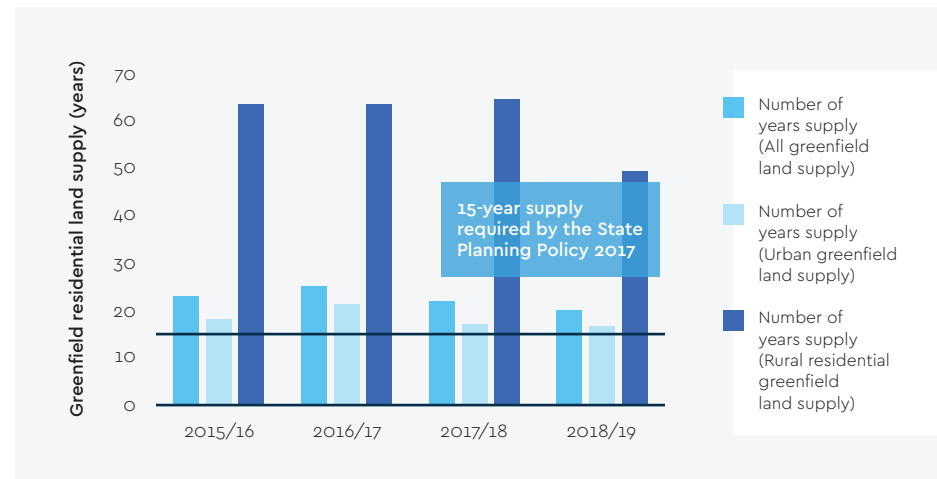
The Townsville City Plan is Council's primary tool for managing housing growth and development. It targets 45,000 new dwellings by 2041 and to maintain at least a 15-year supply of residential land. This indicator monitors how much housing development is occurring across the City, and the adequacy of residential land supply to meet future housing needs.

Results

Townsville is continuing to grow; however, the rate of housing development has slowed in recent years. There are 6,419 hectares of greenfield land available for urban and rural residential development across the municipality; 60% of this land is in urban areas and 40% is in rural residential areas. Overall, the Townsville City Plan currently provides for a 20 year supply of residential greenfield land, exceeding the 15 year supply mandated by the State Planning Policy (July 2017). Urban greenfield land supply has an estimated supply of 17 years, while rural residential greenfield has an estimated supply of 50 years.



Sourced from Townsville City Council Growth Model and LGIP growth assumptions



Sourced from Townsville City Council Growth Model and LGIP growth assumptions

2

Housing location and type



Indicator

Number of new dwellings by housing type and location.

Key question

Where is housing being developed and what types of dwellings are being built?

Why it matters

The Townsville City Plan promotes increased housing diversity across the City in order to provide housing choice to current and future residents. It sets a target for one third of new houses to be multiple dwelling types, such as townhouses and apartments, and the balance to be delivered as detached houses. The Townsville City Plan also identifies the areas where residential growth should occur. This indicator allows us to understand what kind of housing is being delivered and whether it is occurring in strategically identified growth areas.

Results

The majority of new houses constructed in Townsville are detached dwellings. Of all new homes constructed across the municipality over the last three years 1% have been multiple dwelling types and 99% have been separate houses. The majority of housing development has occurred in the emerging community or residential zones. Of the strategically identified residential growth areas, Burdell and Julago have experienced the greatest growth. There has not been any new housing developed in the CBD or North Ward between July 2017 and June 2019.

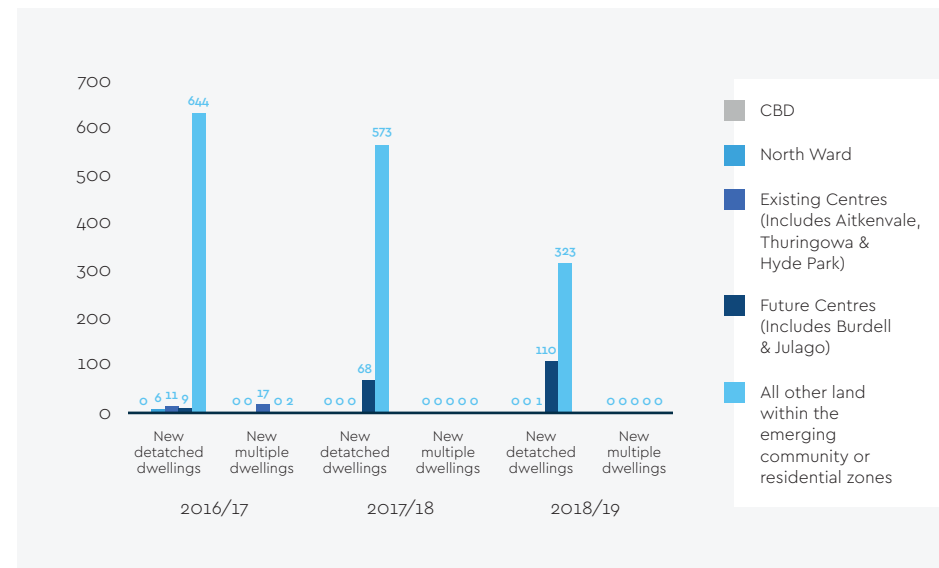


99%

of new dwellings were detached houses

1%

of new dwellings were multiple dwellings



Informed by Townsville City Council Growth Model and LGIP growth assumptions

3

Non-residential gross floor area in key activity centres



Indicator

Square metres of non-residential building area approved within key activity centres.

Key question

How much and what type of non-residential development is occurring in key activity centres?

Why it matters

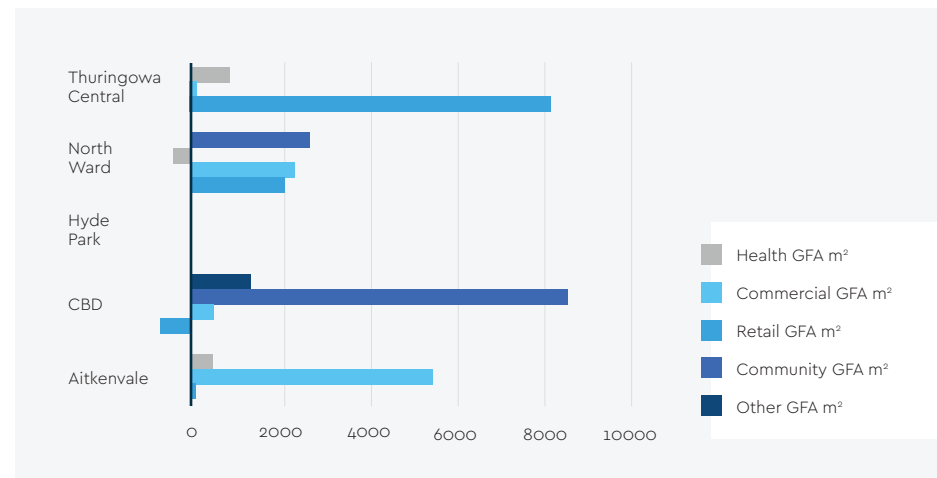
Activity centres are important 'hubs' where people gain access to employment, shopping, personal services, entertainment and socially interact. The Townsville City Plan seeks for Townsville to become a more compact city, structured around a network of activity centres, each with different roles, functions and catchments. This indicator seeks to understand how much, and what type of, new development is occurring in the activity centres to monitor if they are performing their intended role.

Results

Over the last four years, the majority of non-residential floorspace has been developed in either the CBD or in Thuringowa Central activity centres. The Fairfield district centre, James Cook University – Townsville Hospital precinct and Domain Central precinct have also grown. There was no non-residential development in the Hyde Park activity centre during this period. Much of the development in these centres has been either community or retail related.

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	TOTAL
	GFA m ²	GFA m ²	GFA m ²	GFA m ²	GFA m ²
Aitkenvale	4,846	1,205	1	0	6,052
CBD	2,448	-1,185	1,893	7,328	10,484
Hyde Park	0	0	0	0	0
North Ward	4,595	45	0	2,026	6,666
Thuringowa Central	8,670	246	0	0	8,916
District Centre	0	0	6,539	5,619	12,158
Specialised Centre	0	1,966	510	7,175	9,651
Outside Activity Centres	42,418	21,042	34,833	25,201	123,494
TOTAL	62,977	23,319	43,776	47,349	177,421

Sourced from Townsville City Council Development Approvals



Sourced from Townsville City Council Development Approvals

4

Modes of transportation



Indicator

Number of people who drive, take public transport, walk and cycle to work. Trends in bus ticket sales and bicycle riding along the Ross River Road corridor.

Key question

Is the proportion of people commuting by public transport, walking and cycling increasing? Is the number of trips being taken by public transport and bicycle along Ross River Road increasing?

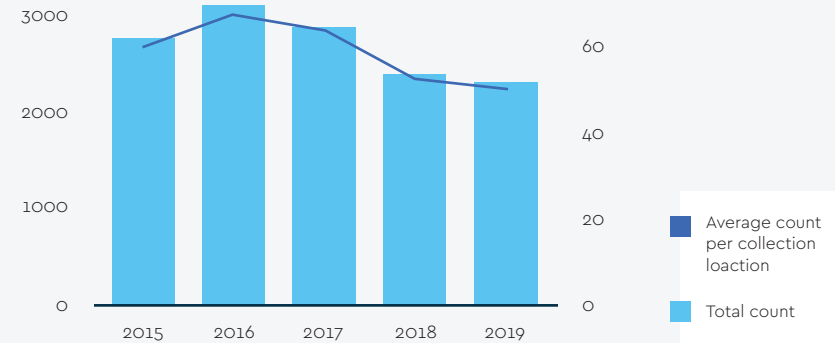
Why it matters

The Townsville City Plan seeks to improve active and public transport usage and reduce car dependence to help create a more sustainable, accessible and inclusive city. Ross River Road is identified as a priority transport corridor for all transport modes, connecting the CBD with surrounding activity centres and the James Cook University – Townsville Hospital precinct. Over time, this indicator will show whether more sustainable transport modes are being used by residents across the municipality and along this priority corridor.

Results

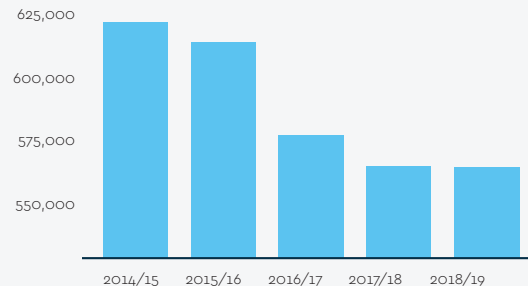
The preferred mode of transport in the City is overwhelmingly the private vehicle. Approximately 93% of the population who travel for work commute via this transport mode. Active transport (walking and cycling) comprised approximately 5% of all work journeys, with public transport making up the remaining 2% of trips. Bicycle riding and public transport patronage (on bus Route 200) have decreased along the Ross River Road corridor in recent years.

Counts of Bicycle Users across Townsville

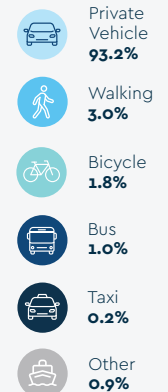


Source: Bicycle Network, Super Tuesday North Commuter Bike Count: Townsville City Council (2015 – 2019)

Annual bus ticket sales along Ross River Road (Route 200)



Source: TransLink, Bus ticket sales (2014 – 2019)



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population of Housing, 2016

5 Footpath provision



Indicator

Kilometres constructed of, and expenditure on, new or upgraded footpaths.

Key question

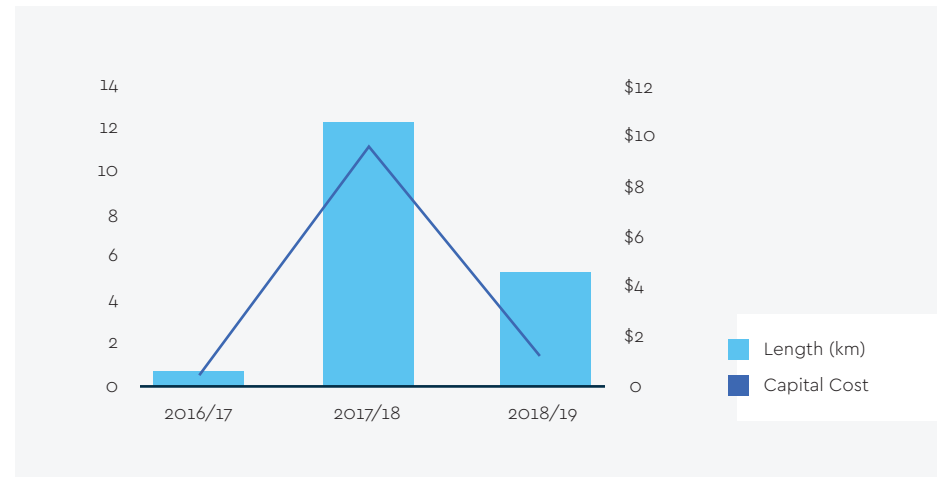
Are we creating an environment that promotes walking?

Why it matters

The Townsville City Plan encourages the creation of a walkable environment to support the community to lead healthy and active lives and to help create a more sustainable City. The availability of footpaths is a key influencing factor to achieve this outcome. This indicator monitors the total length of new footpaths constructed in urban areas to understand whether appropriate opportunities for walking are being provided to the community.

Results

There was significant expenditure in the 2017/2018 and 2018/19 financial years respectively to construct new footpaths predominantly as a result of the Queensland Government's Works for Queensland program.



Informed by Townsville City Council's Capital Works Register



Walking for an average of 30 minutes a day can lower the risk of heart disease, stroke and diabetes by

30-40%

Strong & connected community

6 Provision of regional and district open space



6

Provision of regional and district open space



Indicators

Supply of regional and district open space against the adopted desired standards of service provision rates.

Key question

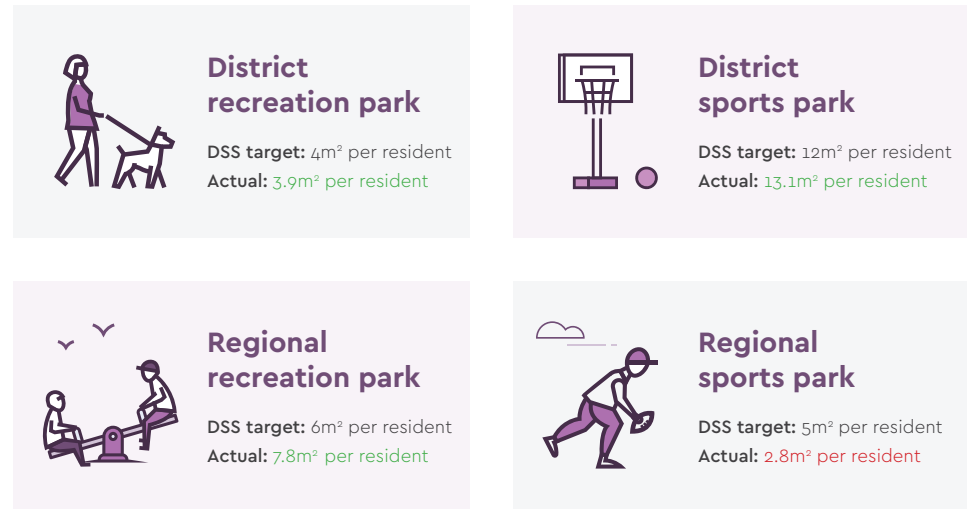
Is enough regional and district open space being provided to support our population?

Why it matters

The Townsville City Plan aims to deliver a diverse, high-quality and accessible network of open space across the City. This supports community health and wellbeing, as well as broader environmental outcomes. The Local Government Infrastructure Plan (LGIP) is an important tool that supports the delivery of the Townsville City Plan. It identifies the infrastructure, including parks and open space, necessary to service the urban development pattern planned for the municipality. It establishes benchmarks called desired standards of service (DSS) to help ensure timely open space provision. This indicator measures whether the amount of open space provided across the municipality is consistent with the desired standards of service contained in the LGIP.

Results

Overall, the municipality has an adequate supply of district and regional open space, but there is currently a small shortfall in regional sports park space.



Source: Townsville City Council, Townsville City Council Parks Planning Report (2017)

#2

The community have told us that the "general condition of public open space" is the second most important aspect of liveability in Townsville (Liveability Study 2020)

Environmentally sustainable future

7 Street trees in the Townsville CBD



8 Biodiversity in waterways and wetlands



9 Quality of waterways and wetlands



7 Street trees planted as part of major projects



Indicator

Number of street trees planted as part of major projects across Townsville urban areas.

Key question

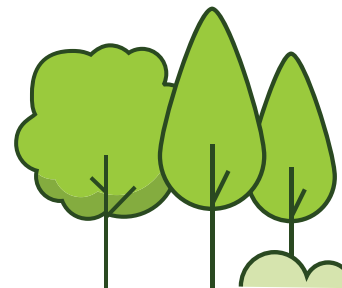
Are enough trees being planted to contribute to the quality of the public realm across Townsville urban areas?

Why it matters

Tree planting helps to support a range of objectives contained in the Townsville City Plan, like improving biodiversity, providing habitat, and reducing urban heat effects. Tree planting also helps to create safe, attractive and comfortable spaces for pedestrians, while contributing to the character of our streets, parks, centres and towns. This indicator measures the number of street trees planted in Townsville's urban areas over time, as part of major projects. In the future Council may consider developing a different measure to better understand the extent, location, and effectiveness of tree planting across the city.

Results

This is the first time that Council has counted the number of street trees that have been planted across the City. In 2019 there were 553 new street trees planted across Townsville as part of major projects.



553

New street trees planted as part of major projects across Townsville

Sourced from Council surveys and phone interviews with industry.

Why street trees?

Street trees provide a range of benefits to our city and community, these include:



Cooling the city



Reduced stormwater run-off



Support & increase biodiversity



Create attractive & safe street

8

Biodiversity in waterways and wetlands



Indicator

Flora and fauna Index score in key waterway and wetland areas from the Townsville Dry Tropics Healthy Waters Pilot Report Card (2017–18).

Key question

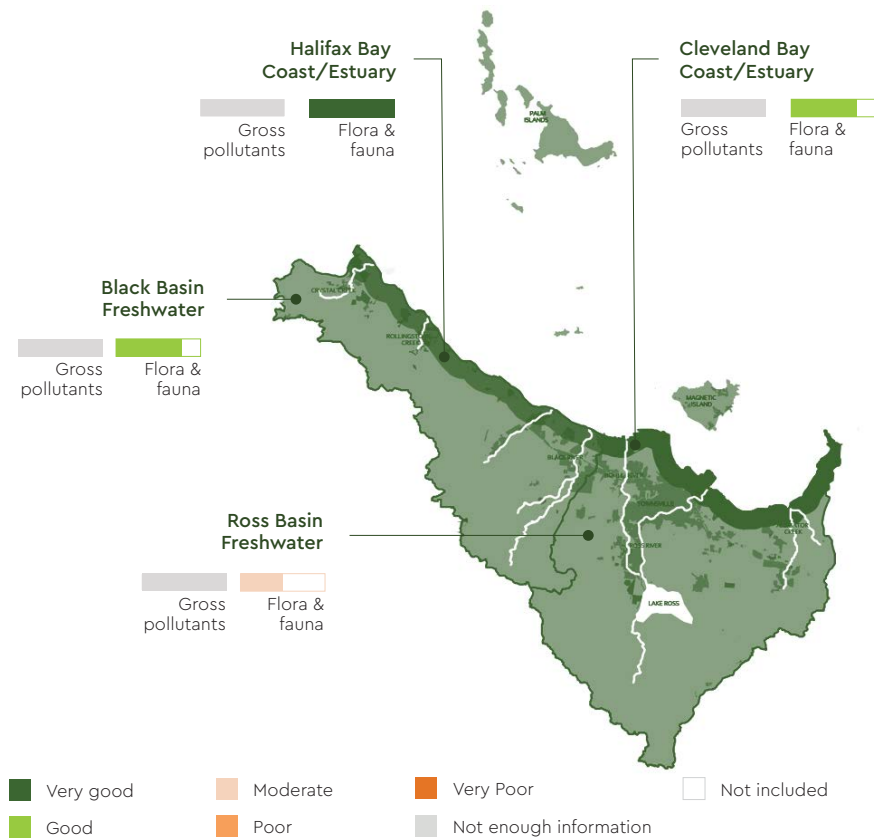
Is land use management contributing to improved biodiversity outcomes in key wetlands and waterways?

Why it matters

Wetlands and waterways provide a range of functions and benefits to our environment, community and economy. The Townsville City Plan seeks to protect waterways and wetlands from urban development and other processes that threaten their ecological health and functions. This indicator reports data collected annually by the Dry Tropics Partnership for Health Waters which monitors the condition of flora and fauna in wetlands and waterways across the region. This is one way to understand the effectiveness of planning policy, however over time leading indicators should be developed which provide a better link between land use, development and biodiversity outcomes.

Results

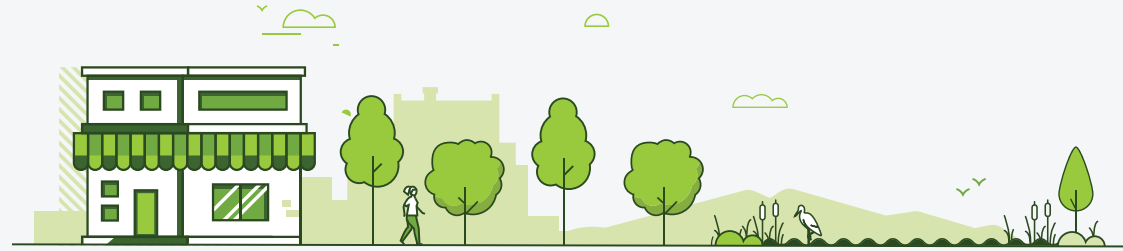
Flora and fauna in key wetlands and waterways range from being in a moderate to very good state. The Ross Basin is Townsville's primary urban catchment and flora and fauna in this location were in a moderate state. The Black Basin, which has experienced less urbanisation, was in a good state. Flora and fauna within the selected coastal and estuary zones were in a good or very good state.



Source: Townsville City Council, Townsville Dry Tropics Healthy Water Pilot Report Card (2017–18)
For more information on the work undertaken by the Townsville Dry Tropics Healthy Waters partnership refer to <https://drytropicshealthywaters.org/>

9

Quality of waterways and wetlands



Indicator

Water quality scores in key waterway and wetland areas from the Townsville Dry Tropics Healthy Waters Pilot Report Card (2017–18).

Key question

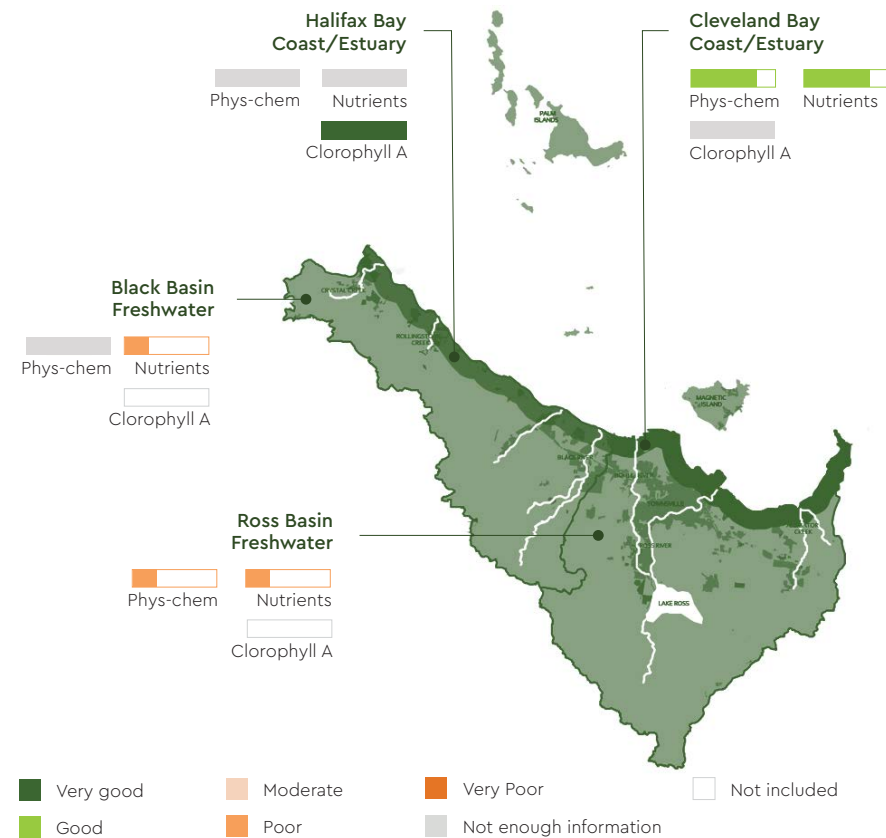
Is land use management improving the quality of stormwater run-off and reducing its impacts on the environment?

Why it matters

The Townsville City Plan seeks to protect and enhance surface and ground water quality. It encourages water sensitive urban design (WSUD) approaches that respond to our local environment. This indicator explores the effectiveness of land management policies on water quality. It reports data collected annually by the Dry Tropics Partnership for Health Waters which monitors different factors that influence water quality in wetlands and waterways across the region. It is acknowledged that there are a range of factors which influence water quality. Over time it will be important to develop leading indicators which provide a better link between land use, development and water quality outcomes.

Results

Water quality across the selected catchments varies. The Ross Basin catchment achieved a moderate score overall. In the Black Basin scores ranged between poor and good. The estuary and coastal areas is in a good to moderate condition. There was no information available for the Halifax Bay coast / estuary area.



Source: Townsville City Council, Townsville Dry Tropics Healthy Water Pilot Report Card (2017–18)
For more information on the work undertaken by the Townsville Dry Tropics Healthy Waters partnership refer to <https://drytropicshealthywaters.org/>

Sustainable economic growth

10 Changes in employment by industry

11 Value of industry sectors

12 Type and value of major economic development projects



10

Changes in employment by industry



Indicator

Number of jobs by key employment sector.

Key questions

Is the number of people working in strategically identified employment sectors increasing?

Why it matters

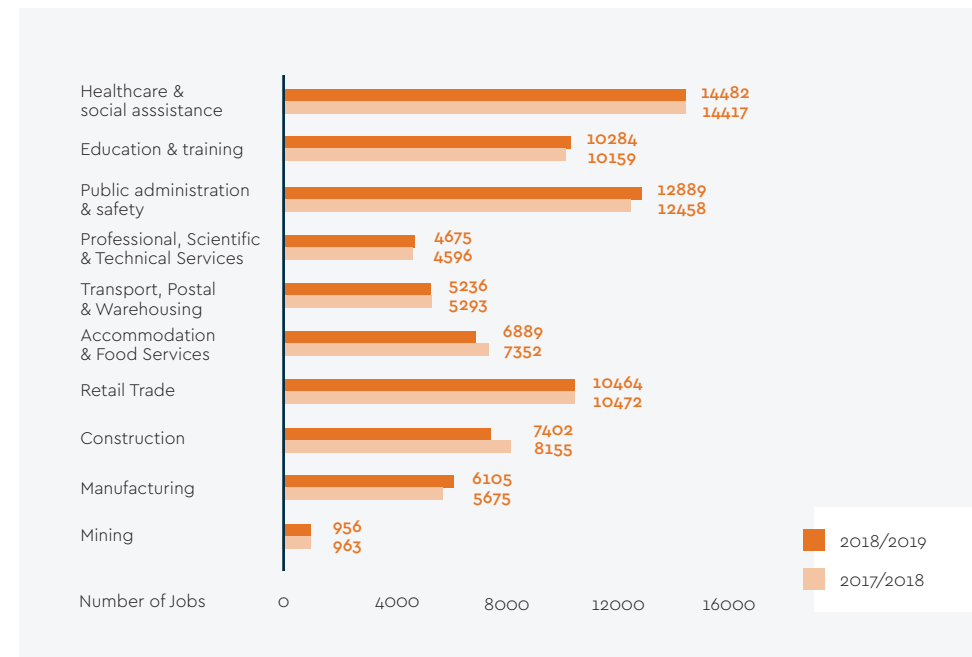
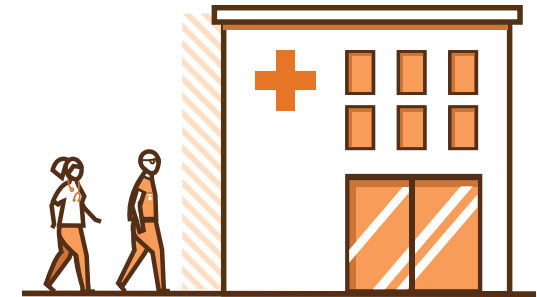
The Townsville City Plan seeks to deliver 50,000 new jobs by 2031 and identifies a range of industries where growth is supported. It encourages the region to keep playing to its existing strengths in industry, defence, air and sea-ports, natural resources and tourism. It also supports the growth of new and emerging sectors, such as knowledge-based industries, and health and professional services. This indicator measures changes in the number of jobs within the key sectors identified in the Townsville City Plan.

Results

In 2018/19 approximately 73,380 jobs out of 97,830 jobs based in Townsville were in the strategically identified sectors. The public administration and safety, education and training and health care and social assistance sectors provide almost one third (38.5%) of all jobs in the municipality. Between 2017/18 to 2018/19 there has been minimal jobs growth in Townsville (just +135 jobs) and employment in the key industry sectors has declined by 160 jobs. The biggest decrease during this time was in construction followed by accommodation and food services. Employment in manufacturing and public administration and safety grew during this period.

81%

of all jobs in Townsville are in the sectors strategically identified in the Townsville City Plan



Source: .id (2020)

11

Value of industry sectors



Indicator

Total value added of key industry sectors to the Townsville economy.

Key questions

How much do key industry sectors contribute to Townsville's economy?

Why it matters

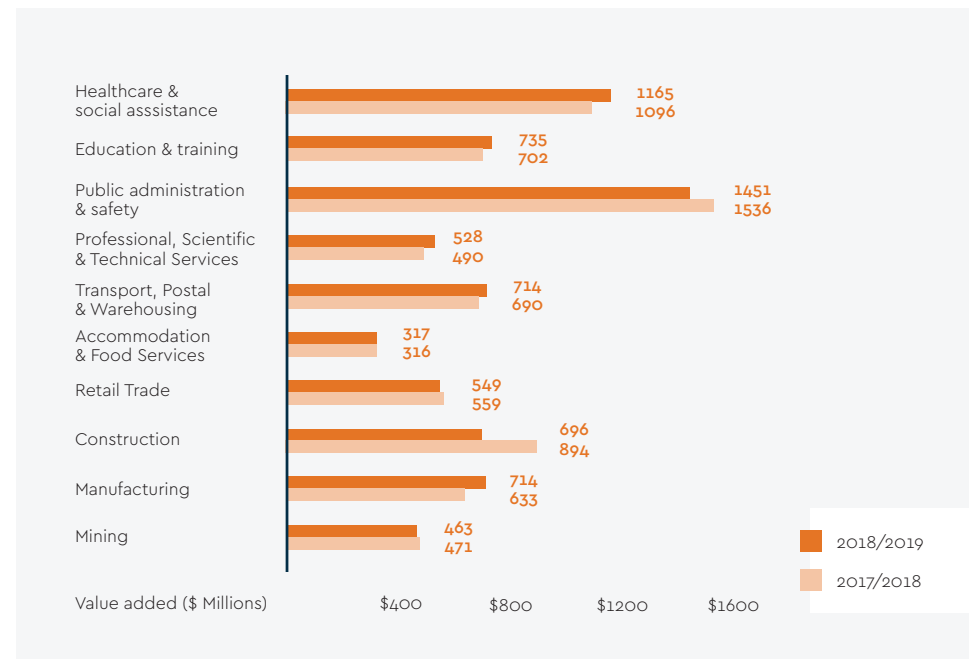
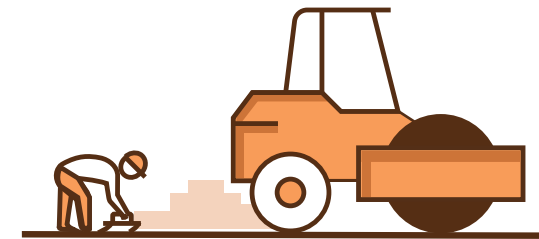
The Townsville City Plan seeks to ensure sustainable long-term growth and diversification of the Townsville economy. Understanding the value of different industry sectors to the Townsville economy provides an insight into how productive industry sectors are at increasing the value of their inputs. This can help Council to understand how to adjust land use policies or implement other development incentives to support business in Townsville.

Results

Townsville's key industry sectors underpin the local economy. Over 2018/19 they have generated over \$7.3 billion in value added and represent over 70% of value-added output. The most productive sectors are public administration and safety, education and training and health care and social assistance; that collectively generated 32.8% of all Townsville's value added output. In 2018/19 there has been a small decline in value added for the key industry sectors (-\$55 million) and more broadly for Townsville (-\$83 million). The biggest contraction in value added was in construction (-\$198 million), followed by public administration and safety (-\$86 million).

\$85 MILLION

Value-added has decreased by \$85 million in Townsville over 2018/19



Source: .id (2020)

12

Type and value of major economic development projects



Indicator

Type and value of major economic development projects occurring in the City.

Key questions

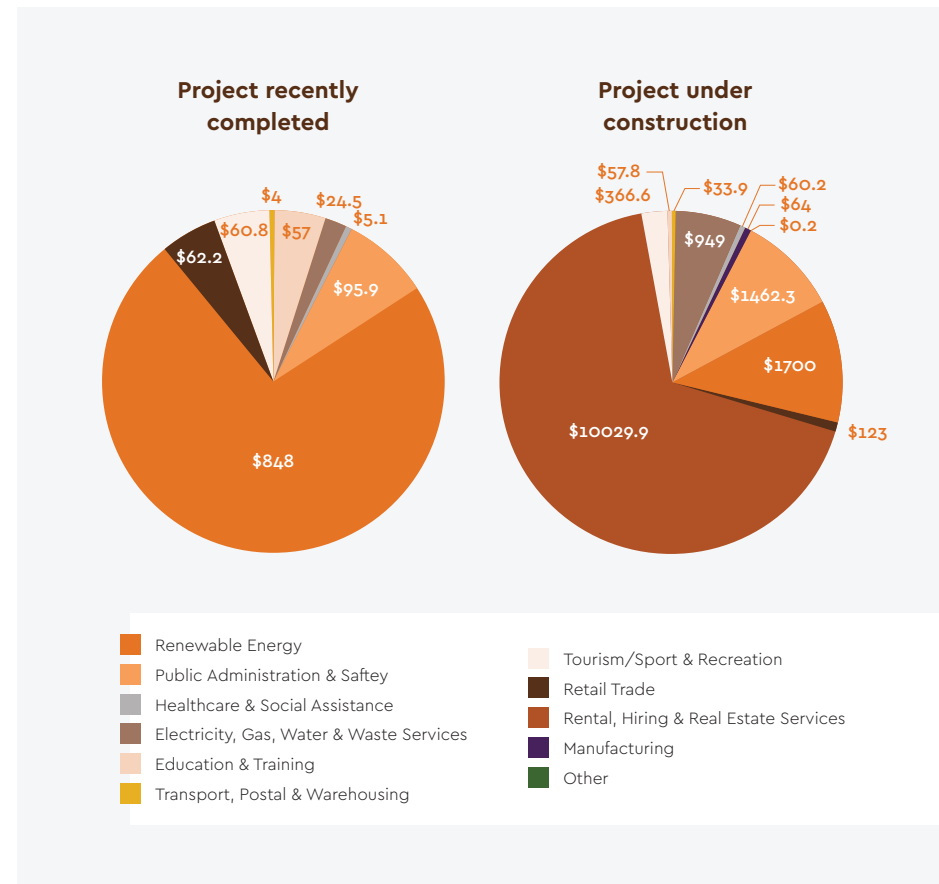
What are the types and value of major projects being delivered in Townsville?

Why it matters

The Townsville City Plan encourages major business and infrastructure investment in Townsville to support its role as the principal administrative and service centre for Northern Queensland. This indicator reports major investments in the Townsville economy that have either commenced construction or been delivered over the 2018/2019 financial year. Monitoring this information will provide insights to understand the type and value of major investments across the city.

Results

A total of \$16 billion worth of major projects have been completed or were under construction in 2017/18 and 2018/19 in Townsville. Key sectors which have contributed to this total include the public administration and safety sector (\$1.555 billion), rental, hiring and real estate services (\$10.029 billion), renewable energy sector (\$2.548 billion) and retail trade (\$62.2 million). These projects will be delivered in the immediate term as well as over the next decade. Collectively these projects are estimated to result in 14,915 direct construction jobs and in a total of 1,754 direct operational jobs.



Source: Townsville Enterprise Limited, Opportunity Townsville North Queensland (2019)

