

Charters Towers Region



The **Charters Towers Region** covers a total area of 68,366.9 square kilometres.

The majority of the population and economy are centred in the historic gold mining city of Charters Towers with the smaller communities of Balfes Creek, Greenvale, Hervey Range, Homestead, Mingela, Pentland, Ravenswood, Sellheim and Hidden Valley included in the footprint.

Boasting significant agriculture and resources activity the **Charters Towers Region** has an estimated resident population of 12,074 in 2016 (ABS 2016).

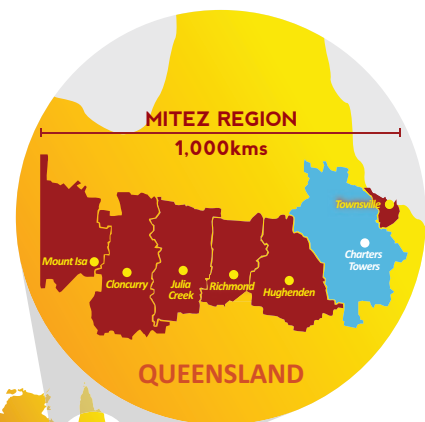
A 90-minute drive south west of Townsville on the Flinders Highway, the city of Charters Towers is easily accessible to travellers from Townsville and Mount Isa and provides access to Greenvale in the north and Clermont to the south along the sealed Gregory Developmental Road.

Beef production is a major economic activity in the region with the mining, tourism and education and research industries also prominent.

Opportunities for future growth in the **Charters Towers Region** encompass a meat processing facility to value add to the abundant agricultural commodity, irrigated agriculture; with an abundance

of water and arable land available and renewable energy projects which sees Council proactively seeking to use innovation in the area of renewable energy and knowledge/digital economy for the purpose of developing a solar utility capable of power generation for new industrial and commercial projects.

Other opportunities are expected as a result of increased interest in the area of food and fodder production along the upper Burdekin River as well as the potential for a large-scale sugar and ethanol project.



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Cloncurry Shire



Cloncurry is a rural town, with rich mining and pastoral industries and a strategic location within the North West Minerals Province.

Nestled on the banks of the Cloncurry River, **Cloncurry** is located 700 kilometres west of Townsville, 120 kilometres east of Mount Isa and 400 kilometres south of the Gulf of Carpentaria.

A significant contributor of mining royalties from the North West, **Cloncurry** is harnessing growth in the mining sector. With an established pastoral industry and strong transport infrastructure **Cloncurry** is a prime candidate in the North West for future growth.

With easy access to major transport routes, the Shire is a strategic link between Brisbane/Sydney to Darwin and beyond. Accessible by road, rail and air Cloncurry is a vital link in the Mount Isa Rail Corridor connecting mining, agricultural and broader regional activity in Queensland's North West to the Townsville Port.

Cloncurry is embracing diversity with a Bio-Fuels Project which commenced in 2017 with a crop trial. The project will progress to stage 2 a commercial plantation to further sustain the industry.

The **Cloncurry Shire** has several surface water supplies, with the most prominent being Lake Julius, Chinaman Creek Dam and Corella Dam. **Cloncurry** has potential to create another dam that could potentially store 248GL, which is 2.1 times the size of Lake Julius. This water supply has the potential to open up further agricultural businesses in the area.

With a population of approximately 3,500 Cloncurry provides residents and surrounding properties access to a wide range of essential health, hospital and medical facilities, education and family services and community facilities.

Cloncurry Shire's economy is built upon strengths in the transport, agriculture, tourism and mining industries, with diverse infrastructure strategically planned to attract and support development.

With a strong business environment and land available for a wide variety of commercial and industrial uses **Cloncurry** harnesses room for growing business.

Future opportunities include a number of new mines including gold, copper, zinc, and rare earth elements that will be mined, processed and transported to markets from **Cloncurry**. With an abundance of mineral resources, access to electricity generation and water supplies there is tremendous capacity for industries to grow and provide a secure future for the town.



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Flinders Shire



The **Flinders Shire** covers an area of 41,632 square kilometres in the heart of North West Queensland.

With Hughenden the main business centre for the Shire the smaller communities of Prairie, Torrens Creek and Stamford are also included within its footprint.

Hughenden, the epicentre of the Shire is located on the crossroads of the Flinders Highway and the inland Hann Highway, linking Cairns to Melbourne. Just 383 kilometres west of Townsville and 1,566 kilometres North West of Brisbane, Hughenden is a hub for many tourists and travellers, accessible by regular rail, bus and air transport links.

The major industry for the **Flinders Shire** is beef cattle production with the Shire harnessing approximately 230 rural grazing properties and a gross value of agricultural production of \$73.5m.

Ongoing planning and development for the **Flinders Shire** will in be establishing the Shire as an emerging centre for irrigated agriculture, taking advantage of the potentially irrigable land and sources of good quality water to reliably meet the irrigation demands of future irrigation enterprises. Council's vision is part of the larger irrigated agricultural precinct known as the Flinders River Ag Precinct (FRAP), between Hughenden and Julia Creek, which boasts some of the best farming soil in Queensland, access to a reliable water source, affordable land and low development costs.

An opportunity has further been identified for an abattoir facility in the Flinders region, with a report issued by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry identifying Hughenden to have the largest potential cattle supply of locations along the tick line; teamed with accessible and affordable land, water and power, reasonable population and public services, local producer support, access to a good labour force and with five roads feeding in to the town.

Our region has one of the highest levels of solar irradiance

that can be connected into the electricity network and possesses a world class complementary wind source. What makes it so complementary is that on a typical day the solar resource ramps up in the morning as the wind slows down, and in the evening as the sun is setting the wind picks up and continues to generate steady power throughout the night. As a result of this complementary relationship is highly reliable renewable electricity generation that overcomes the intermittency so often associated with wind energy or solar energy alone. The construction of a 20MWp Solar plant by Hughenden Solar Farm has now been completed in Hughenden and another project being developed 20km SE of Hughenden by Windlab Limited has commenced construction, which comprises of 43.2MW wind, 15MW solar and 2MV battery storage.

Tourism has become an important industry for the shire with major attractions such as Porcupine Gorge National Park, Flinders Discovery Centre and the dinosaur and fossil theme. The Tourism Development Plan will guide the shire in the future development and opportunities for the shire and private enterprise in our shire.

The attractive township of Hughenden (Queensland Tidy Town 2017), has well established businesses and services, a number of schools, affordable housing and with the construction of the recreational lake, the area presents extremely well for families looking for a comfortable country lifestyle.



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McKinlay Shire



McKinlay Shire is the gateway to the Gulf of Carpentaria. The Shire spans some 41,000 square kilometres and embraces the townships of Julia Creek and Nelia on the Flinders Highway and McKinlay and Kynuna on the Matilda Highway. Julia Creek is the main township and is located approximately 650 kilometres west of Townsville and 225 kilometres east of Mount Isa.

The rural and regional Shire of McKinlay is home to a population of 1,000 and a productive and innovative pastoral industry, the world's richest single mine producer of silver, lead and zinc South 32 Cannington Mine as well as the Eloise Copper Mine.

The world's largest natural aquifer, the Great Artesian Basin, underpins and supports the community and the diversity of the rich grazing lands and unique animal life that the Shire has to offer.

McKinlay Shire has a proud history, established industry and is a close family community. A well connected and strong community, McKinlay Shire supports a growing population to meet the key thresholds for social, health, education and commercial services, underpinned by a sustainable, diversified rural economy. The community welcomes new industries that contribute to its overall vision and sustainability.



Opportunities for future development exist in irrigated agriculture, fodder production, feedlots and exploiting the Shire's significant vanadium deposits. With one of Queensland's great icon events, the Dirt and Dust Festival, being held annually at Julia Creek, tourism is fast becoming a major industry in the Shire.

Events in the Shire are driven by the spirit and passion of local communities and contribute to the social calendar of events in Queensland's Outback.



To find out more contact:

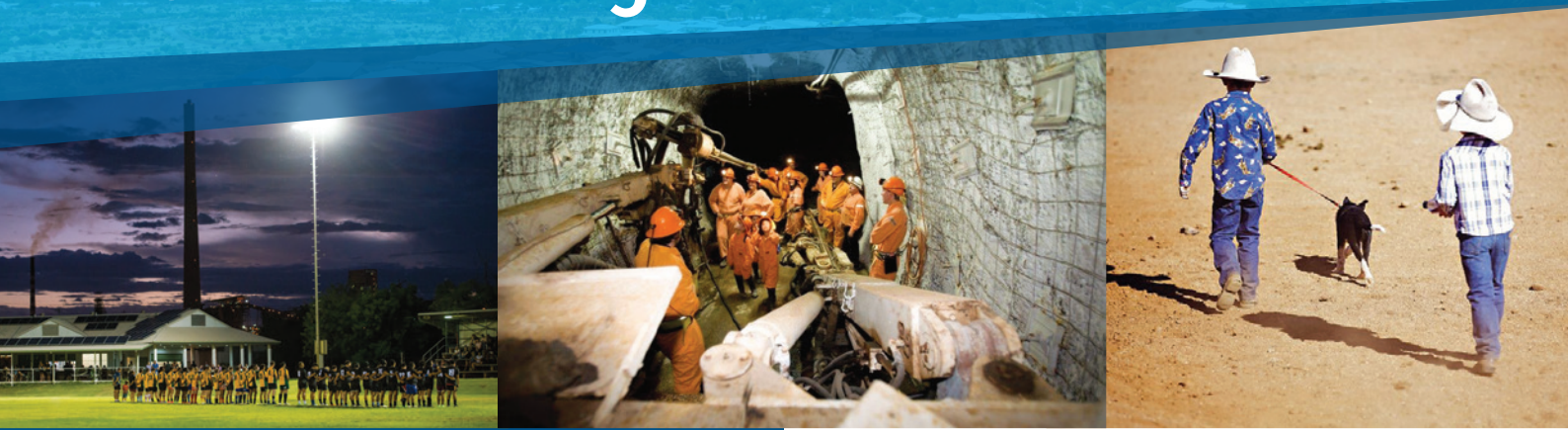
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Mount Isa City



The city of **Mount Isa** is one of the more remote local government areas in Queensland and very accessible by road, rail and air. It lies in the heart of the North West Mineral Province, one of the world's richest mineral resources; adjoining the border of the Northern Territory.

Mount Isa is located approximately 1,826 kilometres from Brisbane, the capital of Queensland, and 883 kilometres from the major city and port of Townsville. Covering an area of over 43,310 square kilometres (including the township of Camooweal), **Mount Isa** is the second largest city (geographically) in Australia to Kalgoorlie-Boulder.

Shaped by its remote, rural location and rich mineral bounty, **Mount Isa** harnesses a long standing mining heritage. Celebrating its 95th year in 2018, a feat unique among mining towns nationwide, Mount Isa has grown from Australia's first 'company town' into one of the largest and most important industrial powerhouses in the nation and is the capital of the world-class Carpentaria Minerals Province.

Industry in the city is based around Glenore's Mount Isa Mines, one of the world's top ten producers of lead, copper, silver and zinc and one of the top two largest copper mining and smelter operations in the country.

Not just about mining, **Mount Isa** today is a family friendly city, rich with community pride and a land of opportunity with regard to career, education and lifestyle. With a population of approximately 22,000 and a diverse, multicultural population of over fifty nationalities and a wide

variety of attractions that make visiting, living, investing and working in the City so appealing.

Cattle grazing and tourism are other major industries of note, with the region producing some of the country's best beef. Other major components of the **Mount Isa** economy include mineral processing, tourism and agriculture. The overall population growth and economic advancement of this unique community is additionally supported by smaller mining companies, a diverse service network, transport operations, retail industries, electricity, gas, water and waste services and education and training.

With mining as a cornerstone, the City has an opportunity to diversify and develop opportunities in the non-mining sectors including health, education, energy, agriculture and tourism. With no shortage of wide open spaces, red soil desertscapes, distinctive wildlife and places to explore and experience, the Isa is a must-visit on every traveller's agenda.



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Richmond Shire



The **Shire of Richmond** comprises approximately 26,000 square kilometres in the heart of Queensland. Predominantly agricultural country, the Shire has gained prestige for its dinosaur fossil discoveries, commonly referred to as the Fossil Capital of Australia. With a population of 648 **Richmond Shire** harnesses a bustling tourism industry centred around a strong agricultural sector.

Situated on the south bank of the Flinders River, the township of **Richmond** is the Shires central hub, located 1,432 kilometres north west of Brisbane and approximately 500 kilometres west of Townsville.

The town itself is a vital hub for the area and is easily accessible by air, train and road, including thrice-weekly flights between Townsville, Richmond and Mount Isa. The town features cool grassy parks that entice the passer-by to stay a while, and the large recreational Lake Fred Tritton is much-prized for fishing, water-skiing and kayaking, as well as a walk through the near-by Bush Tucker Garden.

Richmond has won a number of awards such as the Queensland Tidy Town award as well national

environmental awards for its tourism and community projects making it one of the Outback's most attractive small towns and a great place to raise a family.

Beef cattle, irrigated agriculture, dryland farming and gold mining are the main industries in the Shire. Potential also exists for an Off-stream Water Storage Facility, an opportunity that would pave the way forward for future growth.



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Townsville City



Widely regarded as the capital of North Queensland, Townsville is the largest city in North Australia. Townsville is a key economic hub for the region, with major industries such as transport and logistics, resources, tertiary education, health and other public service functions for the broader region. Our city is also a Garrison City with the largest army base in Australia, Lavarack Barracks, based here.

The Port of Townsville and Queensland Rail together provide a transport hub for the region's mining and agricultural industries including locally-based Glencore Copper Refinery, Sun Metals Zinc Refinery, MMG zinc-lead-silver mine and the Queensland Sugar Corporation Distribution Centre.

As a major centre for Queensland government administration outside Brisbane, Townsville also boasts a number of research institutions such as James Cook University, the Australian Institute of Marine Science, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and the CSIRO. The city is also home to Central Queensland University and the largest tertiary hospital in regional Australia.

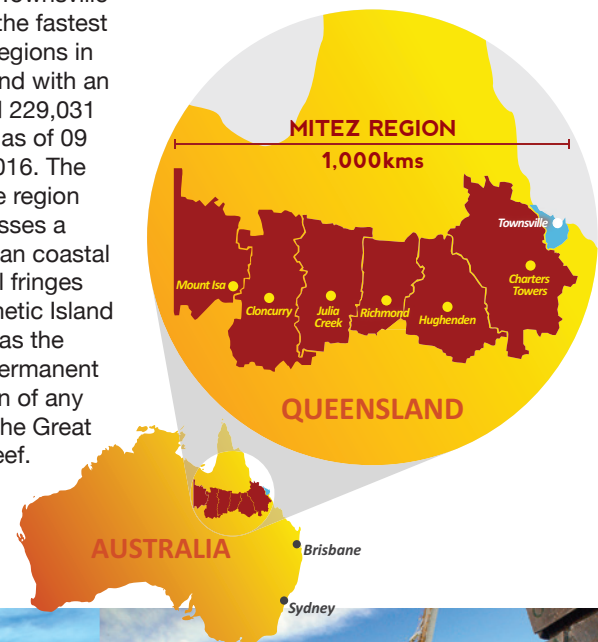
Townsville's economy overcame challenges in recent years, with the downturn in the mining and resources sector a major factor, but the city is experiencing an economic recovery. Townsville is fortunate to have a diverse economy with recent growth coming from a range of factors including a rebound in the mining sector, an increased focus on tropical medicine and research, tourism, education and Defence.

The Townsville City Deal, the first of its kind, includes provisions for the new \$250 million North Queensland Stadium, funding for long-term water security, positions

the city to attract more Defence-related industries and an agreement to upgrade the Port of Townsville. The deal – between all three levels of Government – aims to support the development of Townsville as the major regional hub in North Australia by initiatives that will see the city become an economic gateway to Asia.

Townsville is ideally located to cement its position as a logistical hub for northern Australia, expand its footprint as a services centre for the resources industry and grow its share of tourism industry from both domestic visitors and increasingly wealthy Asian tourists.

Located about halfway between the tip of Cape York and Brisbane Townsville is one of the fastest growing regions in Queensland with an estimated 229,031 residents as of 09 August 2016. The Townsville region encompasses a major urban coastal area, rural fringes and Magnetic Island – which has the biggest permanent population of any island in the Great Barrier Reef.



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