Far North Queensland has a total population of 273,971*,
which is expected to reach 385,000 by 2036.

* persons as at 30 June 2014 growing at an annual average rate of 1.8% over the past 10 years.

The Queensland Government employs 16,524 people in Far North Queensland and they support:

- 7,424 km² of national and regional parks
- 174 state heritage sites
- 52 hospitals and health facilities
- 14 customer service centres
- 3,247 km of roads
- 711 police officers
- 2 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnership regional offices
- 4 Remote Indigenous Land and Infrastructure Program offices
- 25 fire stations
- 12 court houses

The Queensland Government budgets $443.8 million for infrastructure improvements in 2015–16, including:

- $162.7M for transport
- $69.2M for health
- $61.7M for maintenance in Far North Queensland schools
- $81.6M for disaster relief in 2015–16
- $50.8M for infrastructure, local government and planning
- $42.7M for energy and water
- $47.3M for housing and public works

For more details visit www.budget.qld.gov.au
Far North Queensland

Jobs now, jobs for the future for Far North Queensland

The Far North Queensland region stretches from the Torres Strait Islands south to include the Cairns region. It comprises 19 local government areas and includes the major regional towns of Cairns, Innisfail, Weipa and Port Douglas.

Statewide Initiatives

- **Drought relief**
  $45 million of $52.1 million over four years for drought assistance and ongoing drought reform initiatives.

- **Resilient communities**
  $50 million to establish the Community Resilience Fund to help local governments protect the infrastructure of communities vulnerable to natural disasters.

- **Tourism and events**
  $128.3 million over four years to promote Queensland destinations and foster tourism growth. $10 million of $40 million over four years to promote events in Queensland.

- **Aviation investment**
  $10 million over three years to attract aviation investment to promote Queensland destinations to international markets.

- **Stolen wages**
  $21 million over three years in reparation for wages stolen from Indigenous workers, a legacy of past government practices.

Far North Queensland Initiatives

- **Social housing**
  $55.1 million to expand and improve social housing.

- **Homelessness**
  $14.2 million for homelessness services.

- **Disaster relief and recovery**
  $81.6 million, in partnership with the Australian Government, for local government recovery and reconstruction projects.

- **Outback Way upgrade**
  $34.5 million over 2 years, in partnership with the Australian Government and local councils, to seal and upgrade sections of the Outback Way and other links.

- **Indigenous land and sea rangers**
  $4.8 million for the Queensland Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Program to protect the region’s environmental and Indigenous cultural heritage.

- **Cairns Convention Centre**
  $7.6 million over two years for roof and associated repairs to the Cairns Convention Centre.

- **Torres Strait major infrastructure**
  $14.6 million of $41.2 million over six years, in partnership with the Australian Government, for infrastructure projects in the Torres Strait.

- **Mountain bike trails**
  $440 million for mountain bike trails in the Smithfield Regional Park.

- **Sustainable agriculture**
  $1.7 million to target feral pigs, support sustainable grazing, tackle weeds and improve reef water quality in the Wet Tropics.

- **Cairns arts scene**
  $550,000 for exhibitions and performances at the Cairns Centre of Contemporary Arts.

- **Innisfail Wharf**
  $2.3 million towards the Innisfail Commercial Wharf in partnership with the Cassowary Coast Regional Council.

- **Queensland Budget 2015–16**
  Developmental Road $116.8 million over three years to seal the Peninsula Developmental Road at various locations between Laura and Coen, and Coen and Weipa as a part of the Cape York Regional Package.

- **Cairns Special School**
  $25 million over two years for a special school for students with highly specialised needs.

- **Innisfail State College**
  $1.1 million, in partnership with the Australian Government, to complete the Innisfail Health Trade Skills Centre.