

Community report

Cairns (R)

Prepared from Community Explorer topic selections for briefing, planning and reporting use.

AREA

Cairns (R)

COMPARISON

Regional Qld

POPULATION

Persons

GENERATED

1 April 2026

Included sections

1 selected topic will be included in this report.

01 Number of cars per household

Sources and method

- Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2021 and, where available, 2016 comparison data.
- Percentages are calculated from the denominator supplied for each topic. Change (pp) is the 2021 percentage minus the 2016 percentage when the topic is comparable across years.
- Enumerated topics describe where people or dwellings were counted on Census night.

Number of cars per household

Cairns (R) | Regional Qld comparison | Persons

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Key takeaway

In 2021, 1 motor vehicle was the most common car-ownership level among households in Cairns (R), accounting for 35.3% (23,294 households). This share was higher than Regional Qld (33.9%). Since 2016, the biggest change was in 1 motor vehicle, which increased by 2,044 households and 1.2 percentage points.

About this topic

Number of cars per household shows how many registered motor vehicles are available to people living in a household. It is a measure of access to private transport rather than total travel activity.

This topic is useful for understanding mobility, transport choice, and access to jobs and services. It should be read with public transport availability, household type, income, and travel to work, because high or low car ownership can reflect very different local conditions.

Interpretation notes

- This measures registered motor vehicles owned or used by residents that were garaged or parked at or near the dwelling on Census night.
- Vehicle counts are a household access measure, not a direct measure of how often people drive or commute.

Car ownership

Cairns (R) – Households (Enumerated)

Category	2021			2016			Change	
	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	pp
No motor vehicles	4,021	6.1%	4.9%	4,074	6.5%	5.3%	-53	-0.4
1 motor vehicle	23,294	35.3%	33.9%	21,250	34.1%	32.7%	+2,044	+1.2
2 motor vehicles	22,919	34.8%	35.1%	20,957	33.7%	34.6%	+1,962	+1.1
3 or more motor vehicles	10,556	16.0%	19.1%	8,684	13.9%	17.4%	+1,872	+2.1
Not stated	5,119	7.8%	6.9%	7,305	11.7%	10.0%	-2,186	-3.9
Total households	65,917	100.0%	100.0%	62,267	100.0%	100.0%	+3,650	0.0

Data basis: enumerated.