

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

7 April 2026

Included sections

1 selected topic will be included in this report.

01 Housing tenure

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.

Housing tenure

Cairns (R) | Regional Qld comparison | Persons

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Key takeaway

In 2021, 58.1% of households in Cairns (R) were purchasing or had fully paid off their home, while 32.9% were renting. The mortgage share was higher than Regional Qld (30.2%).

About this topic

Housing tenure shows whether households own their dwelling outright, are purchasing it, rent privately, rent from a social landlord, or occupy it under another arrangement. It describes how households hold or access housing, not the type of dwelling itself.

This topic is useful for analysing housing markets, affordability, stability, and the mix of owners and renters. It works best alongside dwelling type, household composition, and housing cost topics such as mortgage repayments and rent.

Interpretation notes

- Tenure type describes how the dwelling is occupied, including ownership, mortgage, rental, or other arrangements.

- It applies to occupied private dwellings and should not be confused with dwelling structure or housing cost measures.

Housing tenure

Cairns (R) – Households (Enumerated)

Category	2021			2016			Change	
	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	pp
Fully owned	16,649	25.3%	31.0%	14,016	22.5%	29.2%	+2,633	+2.8
Mortgage	21,633	32.8%	30.2%	18,832	30.2%	29.1%	+2,801	+2.6
Renting – Total	21,707	32.9%	29.5%	22,209	35.7%	31.4%	-502	-2.8
Renting – Social housing	2,460	3.7%	3.1%	2,472	4.0%	3.3%	-12	-0.3
Renting – Private	19,088	29.0%	26.2%	19,415	31.2%	27.4%	-327	-2.2
Renting – Not stated	161	0.2%	0.2%	325	0.5%	0.7%	-164	-0.3
Other tenure type	855	1.3%	2.3%	455	0.7%	1.0%	+400	+0.6
Not stated	5,084	7.7%	7.0%	6,751	10.8%	9.2%	-1,667	-3.1
Total households	65,917	100.0%	100.0%	62,267	100.0%	100.0%	+3,650	0.0

Data basis: enumerated.