

Community report

Port Stephens (A)

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

AREA

Port Stephens (A)

COMPARISON

Regional NSW

POPULATION

Persons

GENERATED

2 April 2026

Included sections

1 selected topic will be included in this report.

01 Housing loan quartiles

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 loan quartiles

Port Stephens (A) | Regional NSW comparison | Persons

Community report section 1 of 1

Key takeaway

In 2021, the lowest mortgage-repayment quartile held the largest share among households with a mortgage in Port Stephens (A), accounting for 32.8%.

About this topic

Housing loan quartiles group households with a mortgage into four evenly sized repayment bands so mortgage costs can be compared more objectively across areas and over time. They describe the relative repayment profile of mortgaged households rather than fixed dollar amounts.

This topic is useful because direct repayment values are affected by inflation, interest rates, and housing market cycles. The 2021 Census occurred during a period of unusually low interest rates, so quartile comparisons are more informative than raw repayment levels alone.

Interpretation notes

- This is a derived repayment distribution for households with a mortgage, so quartiles show relative repayment position rather than fixed dollar bands.

- Quartiles are more useful than raw repayment ranges for comparing areas or years affected by different interest-rate settings.

- The 2021 distribution reflects a low-interest-rate period before the rate rises that began in May 2022.

Housing loan quartiles

Port Stephens (A) – Households (Enumerated)

Category	2021			2016			Change	
	Count	%	Regional NSW %	Count	%	Regional NSW %	Count	pp
Lowest group	2,719	32.8%	35.9%	2,229	29.4%	34.4%	–	–
Medium lowest	2,632	31.7%	30.5%	2,462	32.5%	31.3%	–	–
Medium highest	1,986	24.0%	21.7%	1,915	25.2%	22.4%	–	–
Highest group	954	11.5%	11.9%	980	12.9%	12.0%	–	–
Total households with stated mortgage repayments	8,291	100.0%	100.0%	7,586	100.0%	100.0%	–	–

Data basis: enumerated.