



AlmanPartners
True wealth

AFSL: 222107

Relocate to Regional Queensland ~ Welcome to Mackay ~



A lifestyle upgrade without sacrificing career opportunities.

A Bit About Mackay

Mackay offers an ideal blend of family-friendly living, strong employment opportunities, and an enviable work-life balance - all set in a region known for its beautiful weather and outdoor lifestyle.

Located 975km north of Brisbane on the Central Queensland coast, Mackay is known for its relaxed, community-oriented feel - perfect for raising a family. Safe neighbourhoods, excellent schools, parks, bike paths, and never-ending, easy access beaches make it an appealing place for kids and parents alike.

Whether you're into nature, dining, or adventure, Mackay always has something happening - from our beautiful, secluded beaches and islands; the Great Barrier Reef and Whitsundays right on our doorstep; Eungella National Park and Finch Hatton Gorge nearby for hiking, wildlife, and cool escapes; local markets, festivals, sporting clubs, abundant playgrounds, lagoon pools, walking tracks, and fishing spots.

The region enjoys a warm, subtropical climate with, hot, humid summers and mild, dry winters. Average temperatures range from winter lows of 12° to summer highs of 32°. The wet season is from December to March with average annual rainfall of 1,580mm. The driest months are from May to September, perfect for outdoor activities.



Population:
128,361



Salary:
Comparable or higher
in many industries



Commute:
Generally less than
15 mins



Housing:
>70% cheaper than capitals
Rent:
>60% lower than capitals



Major Industries:
Mining, Agriculture,
Health, Education



Family Friendly:
more space, less stress,
better balance

Live & Work in Paradise!





Employment Opportunities

Mackay's employment landscape is shaped by a diverse mix of established and emerging industries, with significant opportunities across agriculture, resources, manufacturing, engineering, tourism, health care and professional services. The region is a major hub for sugar production, with sugarcane farming forming a key part of its agricultural economy and supporting roles in farming, processing and logistics.

Mackay is also strategically positioned near two of the world's largest coal export facilities - Hay Point Coal Terminal and Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal - which service the Bowen Basin's metallurgical coal mines and play a vital role in Queensland's resource supply chain. The region supports extensive employment in mining operations, port services, transportation and infrastructure maintenance. Combined with growing sectors such as renewable energy, aquaculture, bioproducts and aerospace, plus practical training pathways like local apprenticeship programs, Mackay offers strong job prospects, career progression and long-term economic stability.

Mining, health care, retail, construction and manufacturing are among the largest employing industries.



Housing Affordability

Mackay has become one of Queensland's strongest-performing regional property markets, and if you're considering relocating, it's helpful to understand what the housing landscape looks like right now. If you're moving from a major city, you may find that Mackay provides a strong lifestyle bargain - offering coastal living, employment opportunities and growing infrastructure without the capital-city price tag.

Buyers

You'll find a growing, high-performing market with strong long-term potential - great if you're looking for stability, investment upside and coastal lifestyle living. The median house price sits around \$594,000 and units, more affordable, with a median price of \$400,000.

Renters

If you plan to rent initially, it's important to know Mackay currently has a very tight rental market. Be prepared for competition, but also expect stronger renter protections and good rental standards. As of mid-2025, houses were renting with an average of \$640/week and units at \$465/week.

	MACKAY	BRISBANE	SYDNEY	MELBOURNE
Median House Price	\$400k-594k	\$1.09M	\$1.58M	\$922k-\$1M
Median Rent (House)	\$600/week	\$600/week	\$780/week	\$570/week
Population	128k	2.78M	5.56M	5.35M

Up to 70% cheaper to purchase a house in Mackay compared to capital cities.

Suburbs

Mackay has over 36 suburbs, ranging from coastal beachside communities to inner-city areas and rural townships. Each offers its own lifestyle, housing style, and proximity to key services.



Northern Beaches: These suburbs are loved for their coastal lifestyle, family-friendly feel, and strong community vibe. Key suburbs: Bucasia, Shoal Point, Eimeo, Blacks Beach, Dolphin Heads. These are considered some of the best beach areas in Mackay and sit around 25–30 minutes from the city. Great for swimming, walking, and beachfront living. Popular with families and retirees.

Northside (Inner North Mackay): Includes long-established suburbs close to the CBD with a good mix of older and newer homes. Key suburbs: North Mackay, Andergrove, Beaconsfield, Glenella. These suburbs typically sit 10–15 minutes from the CBD. Family-friendly, strong community feel. North Mackay in particular is known for affordability and convenience, offering a mix of houses, townhouses and units.

Southern & Central Suburbs: These offer quick access to Paget (the industrial hub), the CBD, hospitals, and universities. Key suburbs: South Mackay, East Mackay, West Mackay, Ooralea, Racecourse, Paget. These areas are popular with workers, students, and young families. East Mackay is especially attractive for beach lovers wanting CBD proximity. West Mackay is known for its gardens, older homes, and easy access to the Botanic Gardens.

Rural & Hinterland Suburbs: Perfect for acreage living, peace, and nature.

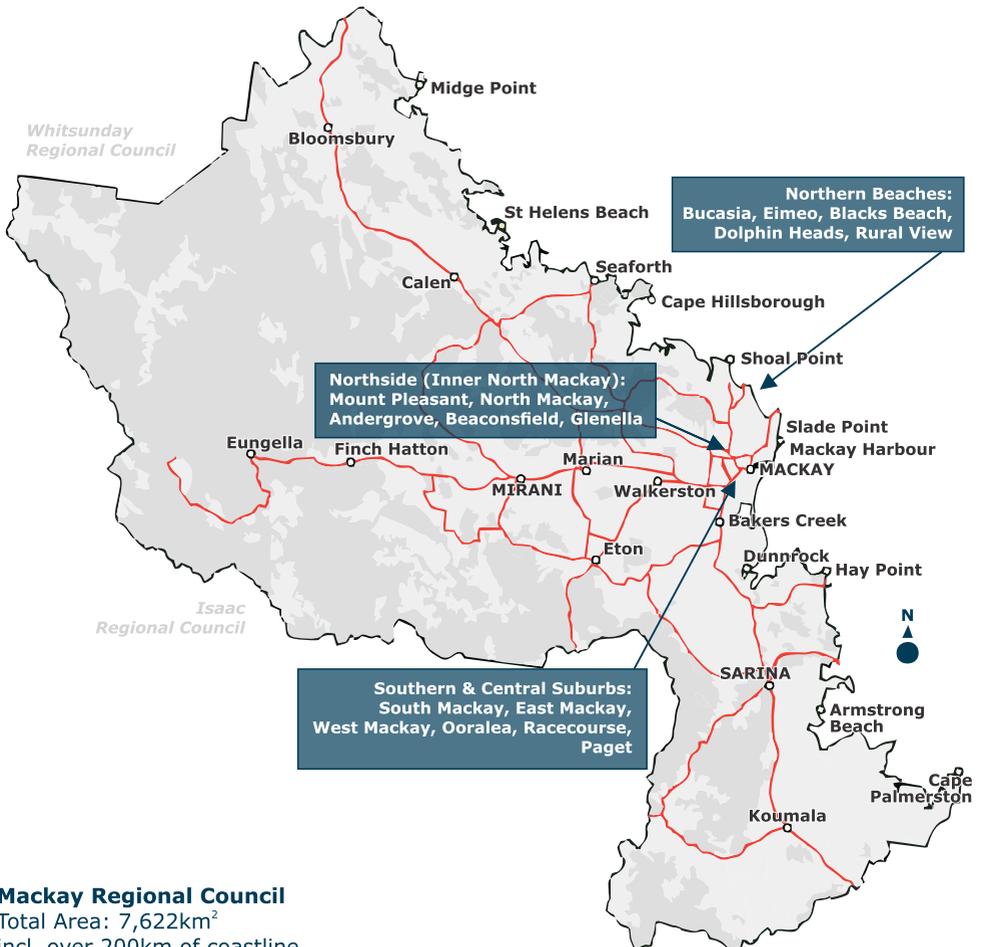
Key suburbs: Finch Hatton, Eungella. These areas offer space, views, and a rural lifestyle further from the city. Popular with hobby farmers. Close to waterfalls, rainforest walks, and the Pioneer Valley.

Coastal Lifestyle Suburbs (Outside the Northern Beaches): Beyond the Northern Beaches, Mackay has several smaller coastal communities offering quiet seaside. Slade Point, Mackay Harbour, Seaforth. These areas provide ocean views and access, and walking trails.

Notable Suburbs Often Recommended

Based on lifestyle, livability, and housing value:

- ✔ **Andergrove** – affordable, schools nearby; great for families.
- ✔ **Rural View** – popular for new developments and access to northern beaches.
- ✔ **Mount Pleasant** – strong amenities (shops, schools), good for families.
- ✔ **East Mackay** – best for professionals wanting beach + CBD lifestyle.
- ✔ **West Mackay** – green, charming, close to everything.



Mackay Regional Council
Total Area: 7,622km²
incl. over 200km of coastline

Education

Primary & High School

Mackay offers a wide range of education options, with over 40 public and private schools serving the region, including Catholic, Anglican, independent, and state-run campuses.

Families can choose from well-established primary and secondary schools, many of which have strong academic reputations and diverse extracurricular programs such as music, sports, arts and STEM pathways. Top-ranked schools in recent assessments include Whitsunday Anglican School, St Brendan's Catholic Primary School, St Mary's Catholic Primary School and Northview State School, all recognised for high academic performance.

Mackay also offers numerous early-learning centres, preschools and combined Prep–12 colleges, as well as specialist schools providing enriched programs in areas like performing arts and sports.

For secondary and tertiary pathways, students have access to strong high school programs, vocational opportunities and flexible learning routes aligned with Queensland's curriculum, which emphasises personalised learning and globally recognised qualifications. Families moving to Mackay should also be aware that local schools operate within defined catchment areas, making it important to check zoning when choosing a suburb.



Higher Education

Mackay offers strong higher-education pathways through CQUniversity, which operates two campuses - the Ooralea Campus with lecture theatres, science and nursing labs, trade workshops and on-site student accommodation, and the Mackay City Campus offering certificates, diplomas and degree pathways with facilities such as a training restaurant, hair and beauty salons, a gym and extended-hours computer labs.

As Queensland's first dual-sector university, CQU delivers more than 300 qualifications ranging from short courses and apprenticeships to undergraduate and postgraduate degrees across fields like engineering, health, IT, education, trades, business and the creative arts.

Mackay also provides extensive TAFE options through TAFE Queensland and CQU TAFE, offering certificates, diplomas, fee-free training, apprenticeships, traineeships and short courses in areas such as nursing, civil engineering, cyber security, community services, trades and more, with flexible online and on-campus delivery.



Recreation

Mackay offers a diverse mix of things to do, from exploring the region's **natural beauty** - such as spotting platypus at Broken River in **Eungella National Park**, watching wallabies and kangaroos at sunrise on **Cape Hillsborough's Casuarina Beach**, and hiking to waterfalls in **Finch Hatton Gorge** - to enjoying family-friendly attractions like the free **Bluewater Lagoon** and the scenic 20km **Bluewater Trail**, and the **Regional Botanical Gardens**.

With **31 stunning beaches** spread across the region, the **Great Barrier Reef** off the coast, the **Whitsundays & Airlie Beach** 1.5 hours north, and surrounded by stunning natural wonders, Mackay is ideal for those who feel at home in nature. **Camping, fishing, hiking and sport** are major drawcards for the region. **BB Print Stadium** and **Mackay Entertainment & Convention Centre** host a variety of performances, sporting matches and shows throughout the year.

The city also features cultural highlights including **Artspace Mackay** and local street art, as well as **waterfront dining** at the Mackay Marina Village, **boutique shopping**, the **Sarina Sugar Shed**, and historical sites such as **Greenmount Homestead**.



Still Have Questions?

Speak to any of our friendly team. They will be more than happy to share their unique experiences of our beautiful region. We have a great selection of those who have grown up in the region, to those who have relocated and can help you navigate your way.

Further Information:

Mackay Regional Council's ~ Discover Mackay Initiative
Seek Employment

*Mackay offers something for every interest
- from adventure and nature to arts, food and relaxation.*



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