

Queensland population update including regional population trends

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Queensland Government

Department of Local Government, Planning,
Sport and Recreation

Technical notes

Queensland population update, No. 10, contains analysis of the latest available Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) estimates of the resident population of Queensland, based on preliminary results of the 2006 Census of Population and Housing. These statistics, which were released in July 2007, include estimates of the resident population of Local Government Areas (LGAs), Statistical Divisions (SDs), Statistical Districts and states and territories of Australia as at 30 June 1996, 2001 and 2006, according to the 2006 edition of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification. Population estimates on new LGA boundaries recommended by the Queensland Local Government Reform Commission in July 2007 will be released in *Queensland population update, No. 11* in September, 2007.

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Report highlights

Ageing of the population

Between 1996 and 2006, ageing of the Queensland population was evident as the “Baby Boomer” generation, (born between 1946 and 1965) moves towards retirement. The largest increase in estimated resident population between 1996 and 2001 (58,600 people) was in the 50-54 years age group. Between 2001 and 2006, the largest increase (61,300) was in the 55-59 years age group.

Two out of every three Queenslanders live in the South East

At the end of June 2006, South East Queensland (SEQ) had more than 2.7 million residents, which was nearly two-thirds (66.1%) of the state’s population.

More than two-thirds of Queensland’s growth is in the South East

SEQ (Brisbane, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast and West Moreton Statistical Divisions) accounted for more than two-thirds (71.1%) of Queensland’s population growth in the five years to June 2006. In this period, SEQ gained an average of 66,300 people each year, an annual increase that was slightly larger than the population of Rockhampton City (62,610 people) in 2006.

Population growth fastest in regions outside Brisbane

Whitsunday-Mackay Regional Planning Project Area was the fastest-growing planning region between 2001 and 2006, with an average annual growth rate of 3.1%. In the same period, Wide Bay-Burnett region grew as quickly as South East Queensland, with an annual growth rate of 2.6%. Other regions along the east coast also experienced strong growth between 2001 and 2006: Far North Queensland (2.1%), Central Queensland (2.0%) and North Queensland (2.0%). In the same period, Queensland’s average annual growth was 2.4%.

Large population increases in many regional centres

Large average annual population increases occurred in many Queensland regional centres in the five years to June 2006. Annual population gains of 2,000 people or more occurred in Cairns City (3,800), Mackay City (2,800), Hervey Bay (2,400), and Thuringowa and Townsville Cities (2,000 each).

Mining activity sustains local population growth

Continuing mining expansion, mainly in the Bowen Basin, resulted in moderate population growth in a number of LGAs during the five years to June 2006. Average annual resident population gains of more than 100 people occurred in Emerald Shire (462) and Belyando Shire (247 people). Outside the Bowen Basin, mining industry employment contributed to growth in Weipa Town between 2001 and 2006. Weipa had an average annual gain of 171 people between 2001 and 2006.

Local growth largest in SEQ and coastal areas

Brisbane and Gold Coast Cities, with an annual population increase of 19,100 and 16,700 people respectively in the five years to June 2006, had the largest average growth of all LGAs in both Queensland and Australia. Brisbane and Gold Coast have been the largest contributors to Australia’s annual population growth for the last ten years. In the five years to June 2006, Maroochy Shire’s population increased by an average of 5,100, the third-largest population increase of all LGAs in Queensland. The fourth-largest population increase (4,500 people) occurred in Pine Rivers Shire and large increases also occurred in Caboolture (3,460), Redland (2,825) and Caloundra (2,725).

Top ten fastest-growing local areas were outside SEQ

Over the five years to 2006, Weipa Town was the fastest-growing LGA in Queensland, increasing its population by an annual average of 6.9%. Crow's Nest Shire, which adjoins Toowoomba was the second-fastest growing LGA, with an annual average growth of 5.3%. Nebo Shire in the Bowen Basin, was the third fastest growing LGA with an average annual growth of 5.1%.

Areas of largest growth by SLA in SEQ

Between 1996 and 2006, only seven of the top 50 growth SLAs were within Brisbane City (Doolandella-Forest Lake, Parkinson-Drewvale, Seventeen Mile Rocks, Calamvale, Taigum-Fitzgibbon, Fortitude Valley and Newstead). Over the ten year period from 1996 to 2006, declining SLAs were primarily the older areas of Brisbane (Brighton, Deagon, Wacol and Zillmere). More recently developed areas have also declined, including Jindalee, Middle Park and Springwood. The average annual population growth in the ten years to June 2006 was largest in the SLAs of Maroochy (S) – Buderim, Ipswich (C) East and Beaudesert (S) – Part A.

Areas of fastest growth by SLA in Queensland

Of the top five fastest-growing SLAs in Queensland between 1996 and 2006, three were located in Brisbane City (City-Inner, Upper Kedron and Wakerley). In the top ten, three more Brisbane City SLAs were placed among the fastest-growing in the state (Parkinson, Drewvale, Kuraby, Newstead and Fortitude Valley). All ten SLAs experienced average annual growth rates of 13.7% or more between 1996 and 2006.

Queensland's population in the Australian context

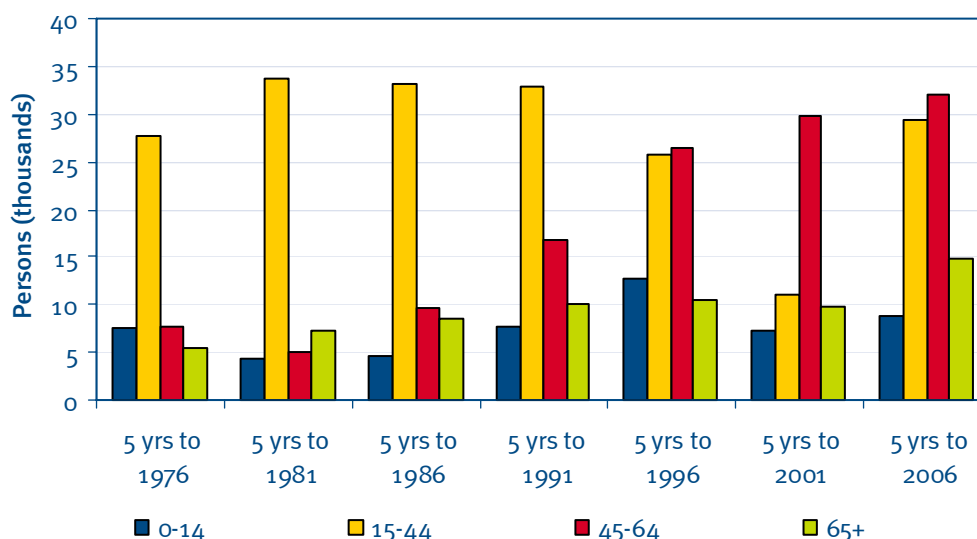
Age structure of Queensland's population growth

The age structure of Queensland's population growth has changed considerably over the past three decades. From 1971 to 1991, people of young working age (between 15 and 44 years) made up the largest proportion of net population growth (Figure 1). Since then, people of mature working age (45–64) have made up a larger share of the state's population growth.

The number of mature working age people (aged 45–64) in Queensland increased progressively from the five-year period ending June 1981 to the five years ending June 2006. In the five-year period to 2006, about 160,400 people aged 45–64 years were added to Queensland's population, which represents an average annual growth of around 32,000 people. By comparison, the average annual growth for the age group 15–44 years decreased from 25,780 people in 1991–96 to only 11,090 people in 1996–2001, but recovered to 29,220 people per year in the five years to 2006.

Figure 1: Average annual population change, broad age groups, Queensland, period ending 30 June

Source: ABS, *Australian Demographic Statistics*, Cat No 3201.0



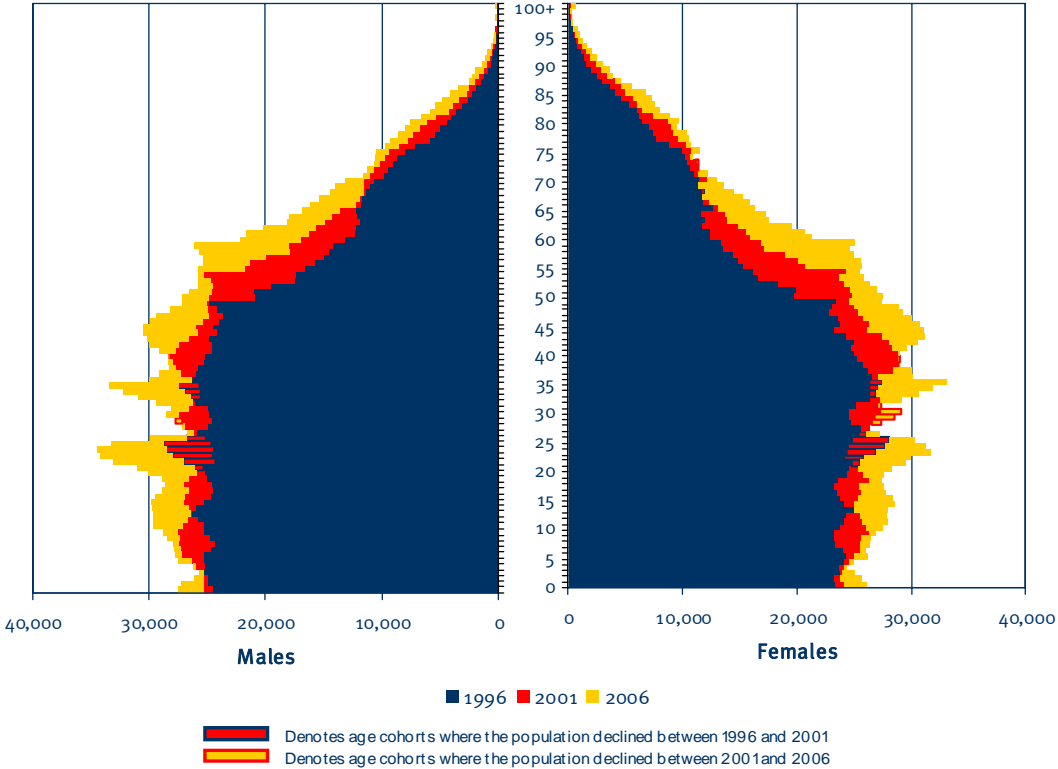
Between 1981 and 1996, almost half (46.1%) of Queensland's total population growth occurred within the age group 15–44 years, while people aged 45–64 years made up only about a quarter (26.5%) of the growth. By contrast, the proportion of the State's population growth in the age group 15–44 years fell to only 28.2% between 1996 and 2006. The age group 45–64 years increased to 43.2% of total growth in the same period.

These shifts in the age structure of Queensland's population growth over the last decade are reflected in changes in the age and sex composition of the population (Figure 2). Between 1996 and 2006, the ageing of the population is evident from the progressive increase in the numbers in the age cohorts from ages 40 to 70 years. This reflects the ageing of the "Baby Boomer" generation, born between 1946 and 1965. In 2001, this group was aged between 36 and 55 years, and the largest increase (58,600 people) between 1996 and 2001 was in the 50–54 years age group. Between 2001 and 2006, the largest increase was in the 55–59 years age group (61,300). In contrast, the 20–24 years age group decreased by 17,700 between 1996 and 2001 but recovered to increase by 46,600 between 2001 and 2006. Changes in this age group are associated not only with the existing age sex profile

but also with population movement. In earlier years of the past decade, Queensland consistently recorded net losses of young people as a result of interstate movement. This pattern has been reversed in more recent years with net gains in all age groups due to interstate migration.

Figure 2: Change in estimated resident population by age and sex, Queensland, 1996 to 2006

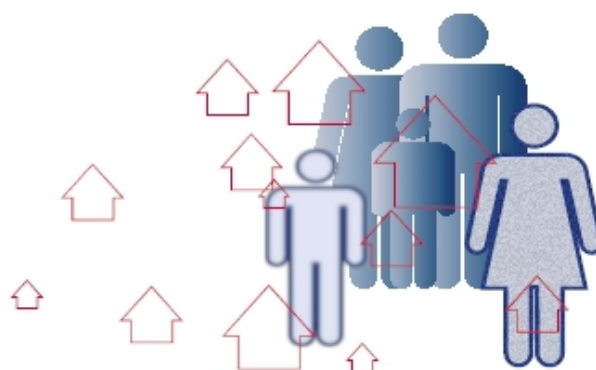
Source: ABS, *Population by Age and Sex*, cat. no. 3201.0



Regional population trends

South East, Eastern and Western Queensland

South East Queensland (SEQ) represents the largest concentration of urban development in Queensland, and contains the majority of the state's population. It comprises the Statistical Divisions of Brisbane, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast and West Moreton. Population density in SEQ (121.3 persons per square kilometre) is much greater than in Eastern Queensland (1.9 persons), which in turn is much greater than in Western Queensland (0.1 persons). The extent of these regions is shown in Figure 4.



By the end of June 2006, SEQ had more than 2.7 million residents, which is nearly two-thirds (66.1%) of the state's total population. However, SEQ's share of Queensland's intercensal growth was even higher (71.7%). In the intercensal period 2001-2006, the population of SEQ increased by an annual average of 66,300 people, an increase which was larger than the average annual increase of Victoria (64,700) and New South Wales (48,400) in the same period. SEQ's average annual increase in the latest intercensal period represented an additional 1,276 people every week of the year. Put into perspective, the additional population absorbed into SEQ each year was the equivalent of a new regional centre slightly larger than Rockhampton City (population 62,610). SEQ's population change in the 2001-06 period was much greater than during the previous five years with average annual increases of 66,300 and 47,300 people respectively.

Just the facts ...

Regional population, at 30 June 2006 (p)

	Estimated Resident Population no.	Density (persons/km ²)
South East Qld	2,706,297	121.3
Eastern Qld	1,314,064	1.9
Western Qld	71,185	0.1
Queensland	4,091,546	2.4

(p) preliminary

Source: ABS, *Regional Population Growth, Australia*, cat. no. 3218.0

Queensland's population growth in the last decade largely reflected changes in SEQ, where most of the state's population resides. Average annual population change increased from 58,000 in 1996-01 to 92,500 in 2001-06 and the growth rate increased from 1.7% to 2.4%. Between 2001 and 2006, average annual population growth in Queensland was larger and faster than in any other state or territory (Appendix A). Also, Queensland's share of Australia's average annual population change increased from 26.3% in the 1996-2001 period to 35.9% in the 2001-2006 period. Details on Queensland's population change in the Australian context are contained in *Population Update No. 9* which is available on the departmental website at <http://www.lgp.qld.gov.au/pifu>.

Regional Planning Project Areas

The Department of Local Government, Planning, Sport and Recreation (DLGPSR) is the lead agency for a range of regional planning projects throughout Queensland. By supporting these regional planning projects, DLGPSR, in partnership with local government, provides a clear strategic approach to managing regional growth throughout the state. The local government composition of Queensland's Regional Planning Project Areas (RPPAs) or Regions is shown in Appendix B.

Population change in RPPAs in the decade between 1996 and 2006 reflected the broader regional changes discussed previously. In June 2006, 2.8 million people or just over two-thirds (68.5%) of Queensland's population lived in the SEQ Region (SEQ and Toowoomba City) and almost three-quarters (73.0%) of Queensland's growth between 2001 and 2006 (92,500 people) occurred in this Region. In the previous five years, SEQ's share of state growth was larger (82.6%) although its average annual population increase was smaller (47,970) than it was between 2001 and 2006. The intercensal growth rate of SEQ Region from 2001 to 2006 (2.6%) was faster than the state average (2.4%) and also faster than that of any other Region.

All Regions in Eastern Queensland – Wide Bay–Burnett, Darling Downs, Central Queensland, Whitsunday–Mackay, North Queensland, and Far North Queensland – grew strongly during the decade to 2006 (Table 1) and especially in the last five years (Figure 3). In the latest five-year period, the average annual population change in some regions was at least double the average for the five years to 2001. For example, Wide Bay–Burnett Region increased its population by an annual average of 2,400 people between 1996 and 2001 and by 6,600 between 2001 and 2006. In Central Queensland and Whitsunday–Mackay, planning areas which include the Bowen Basin coal deposits, the average annual population growth was five times larger in the five years to 2006 than in the previous five years. In the 2001 to 2006 period, the average annual population change in all planning areas in Eastern Queensland was larger than the average change between 1996 and 2001. In contrast, all three RPPAs in Western Queensland experienced larger population declines in the second five-year period of the decade to 2006 than in the first five-year period.

Table 1: Estimated resident population (ERP) and population change, Regional Planning Project Areas, Queensland, 1996 to 2006

Regional Planning Project Areas	ERP at 30 June			Average annual population change					
	1996	2001	2006 (p)	1996-2001		2001-2006		1996-2006	
	no.	no.	no.	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%
South East Qld (SEQ Region) (a)	2,224,784	2,464,633	2,802,523	47,970	2.1	67,578	2.6	57,774	2.3
Wide Bay-Burnett (WBB2026)	224,285	236,492	269,340	2,441	1.1	6,570	2.6	4,506	1.8
Darling Downs (DDRPAC) (a)	183,600	193,350	209,731	1,950	1.0	3,276	1.6	2,613	1.3
Maranoa and District (MaDRPAC)	23,825	24,775	24,787	190	0.8	2	0.0	96	0.4
South West	9,101	8,812	8,373	-58	-0.6	-88	-1.0	-73	-0.8
Central Qld (CQANM)	180,815	184,411	203,130	719	0.4	3,744	2.0	2,232	1.2
Whitsunday-Mackay (WHAM)	133,466	137,539	159,869	815	0.6	4,466	3.1	2,640	1.8
Central West	12,570	12,497	11,565	-15	-0.1	-186	-1.5	-101	-0.8
North Qld (NQ)	179,037	190,266	209,588	2,246	1.2	3,864	2.0	3,055	1.6
Far North Qld (FNQ)	191,993	201,662	223,693	1,934	1.0	4,406	2.1	3,170	1.5
North West	30,099	29,282	28,281	-163	-0.5	-200	-0.7	-182	-0.6
Gulf Region (GRDP)	6,539	7,324	7,205	157	2.3	-24	-0.3	67	1.0
Queensland	3,338,690	3,628,946	4,091,546	58,051	1.7	92,520	2.4	75,286	2.1

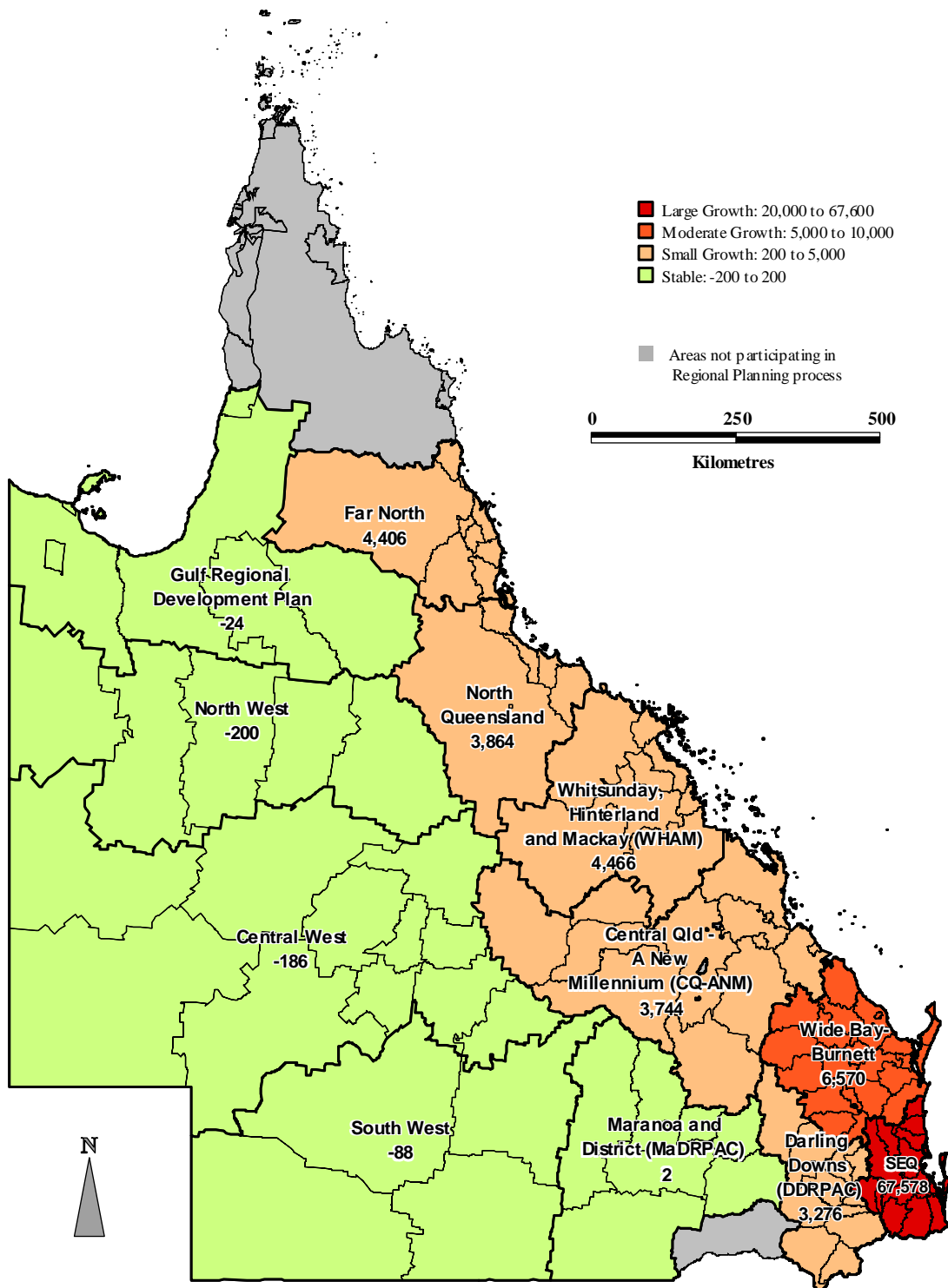
(a) Toowoomba City is included in SEQ Region and DDRPAC

(p) preliminary

Source: ABS, *Regional Population Growth, Australia, 1996 to 2006*, cat. no. 3218.0

Figure 3: Average annual population change, Regional Planning Project Areas, Queensland, 2001 to 2006

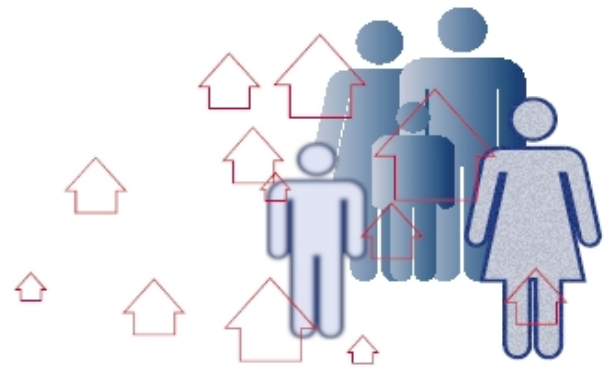
Source: ABS, *Regional Population Growth, Australia, 1996 to 2006*, cat. No. 3218.0



Local population trends

Patterns of growth by LGA

Over the five-year period to June 2006, population growth in Queensland was mostly in the south-east corner and in a number of urban centres along the eastern seaboard in regional Queensland. Further west, few inland LGAs showed strong population growth (Figure 4).



A declining or stable population size characterised most LGAs located more than 200 kilometres from the east coast. Among the LGAs in this area, with an average annual population growth exceeding 150 people over the five years to June 2006, were Belyando Shire (247) and Emerald Shire (462) in the Bowen Basin coal-mining region. Kingaroy Shire (229), Warwick Shire (308) and all four shires adjacent to Toowoomba City – Crow's Nest (610), Jondaryan Shire (406), Cambooya Shire (214) and Rosalie (166) - had average annual population growth exceeding 150 people over the five years to June 2006. Growth areas in Jondaryan and Cambooya Shires are included in Toowoomba Statistical District, which increased its population by an annual average of 2,500 people between 2001 and 2006.

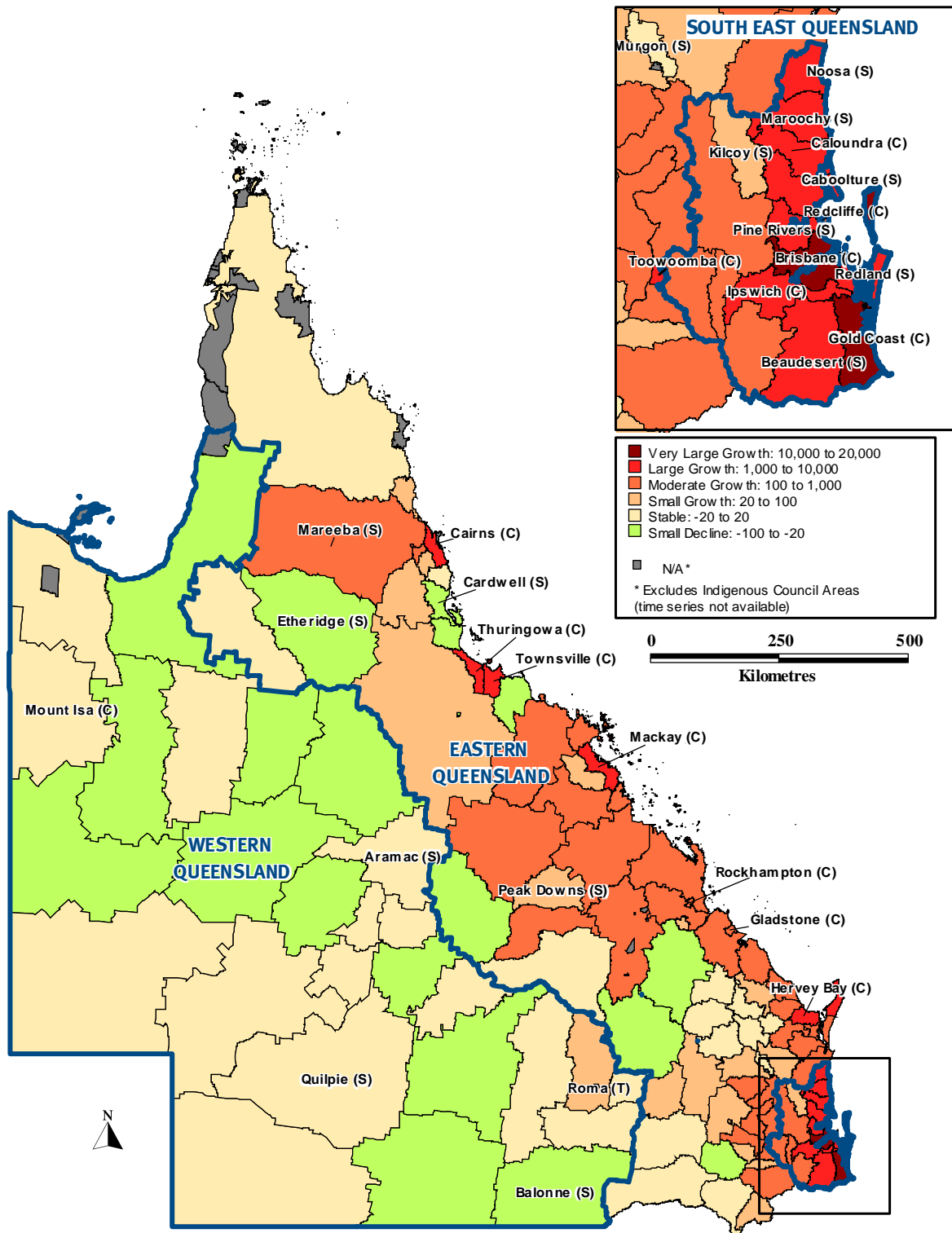
Large population increases between 1,000 and 10,000 people per year in the five-year period were common for coastal LGAs from Douglas Shire in the north to Noosa Shire in the south. Average annual population growth exceeding 1,000 people occurred in the coastal cities of Cairns (3,786), Mackay (2,862), Hervey Bay (2,363), Thuringowa (2,044) and Townsville (1,989). Population growth was moderate (between 100 and 1,000 people annually) in the coastal shires of Cooloola (908), Livingstone (854), Burnett (771), Whitsunday (531), Calliope (497) and Miriam Vale (185). Away from the coast, Toowoomba City's average population change was 1,240 people per year between 2001 and 2006.

Between 2001 and 2006, average annual population growth that exceeded 10,000 people per year occurred only in Brisbane City (19,100) and Gold Coast City (16,700). However, many LGAs in SEQ had strong population growth that exceeded 2,500 people per year.

In general, LGAs in SEQ and along the coast grew mostly as a result of positive gains from migration. In regional Queensland, natural increase (births minus deaths) and net migration losses in Western Queensland remain significant components of population change.

Figure 4: Average annual population change, LGAs, Queensland, 2001 to 2006

Source: ABS, *Regional Population Growth, Australia, 1996 to 2006*, cat. No. 3218.0



Areas of largest growth by LGA

A ranking of the ten LGAs with the largest population growth in Queensland in the decade to 2006 finds that eight were located in SEQ (Table 2). Brisbane and Gold Coast Cities, with an annual population increase between 1996 and 2006 of 16,800 and 15,100 respectively, had the largest growth among LGAs in both Queensland and Australia – a position these two Queensland cities have held every year since 1996. Maroochy Shire with an annual increase of 4,500 was in third place.



Cairns and Mackay Cities, the only LGAs in the top-ten list from outside SEQ, had an average annual increase of 2,500 and 1,900 between 1996 and 2006. With the exception of Redland Shire, all LGAs in the top ten had larger average annual growth in the 2001-06 period than in the previous five years. This was most evident in Ipswich City, which includes the Springfield development in the east of the city. Average annual population change between 1996 and 2001 was 554 people, and increased to 3,400 between 2001 and 2006.

Brisbane City and Gold Coast City together accounted for more than one-third (38.7%) of Queensland's average annual population change (35,800 people) in the five years to June 2006 and an even higher proportion (42.3%) over the ten years between 1996 and 2006. Maroochy Shire, Pine Rivers Shire and Caboolture Shire each contributed about 5.0%, and the top five LGAs contributed more than half (58.0%) of state growth between 1996 and 2006. In comparison, these five LGAs accounted for less than half (47.2%) of Queensland's population in June 2006.

Table 2: Average annual population change, top ten largest growing LGAs in Queensland, 1996 to 2006 (p)

LGA				Share of Queensland's average annual population change	
	5 years to 30 June 2001	5 years to 30 June 2006 (p)	10 years to 30 June 2006 (p)	1996 - 2001	2001 - 2006
1996-2006 ranking	no.	no.	no.	%	%
Brisbane (C)	14,432	19,105	16,769	24.9	20.7
Gold Coast (C)	13,456	16,744	15,100	23.2	18.1
Maroochy (S)	3,826	5,092	4,459	6.6	5.5
Pine Rivers (S)	3,205	4,511	3,858	5.5	4.9
Caboolture (S)	2,716	4,204	3,460	4.7	4.5
Redland (S)	2,834	2,816	2,825	4.9	3.0
Caloundra (C)	2,042	3,408	2,725	3.5	3.7
Cairns (C)	1,232	3,786	2,509	2.1	4.1
Ipswich (C)	554	3,397	1,976	1.0	3.7
Mackay (C)	909	2,862	1,886	1.6	3.1
Queensland	58,051	92,520	75,286	100.0	100.0

(p) preliminary

Source: ABS, *Regional Population Growth, Australia, 1996 to 2006*, cat. no. 3218.0

Brisbane City, the most populous LGA in Queensland and Australia, accounted for just less than one quarter (24.2%) of the state population in June 2006. Its share of Queensland's average annual population change in the five years to June 2001 (24.9%) was higher than its share (20.7%) in the next five years. Gold Coast City, which is the second most populated LGA in Queensland and Australia, accounted for 12.4% of the state population in 2006. Its share of growth in the five years to June 2001 (23.2%) was almost equal to that of Brisbane City. However, in the five years to 2006, Gold Coast City's share of state growth decreased to 18.1% as the shares of other LGAs increased.

Outside SEQ, all but one of the top ten largest growth LGAs in the year to June 2006 were located along the coast (Table 3). The exception was Crow's Nest Shire which adjoins Toowoomba City, one of Australia's largest inland cities. The average annual population increase of all LGAs in the top ten was greater in the five years to June 2006 than the average annual increase over the previous five years. Some LGAs, for example the cities of Cairns, Mackay and Bundaberg, tripled their average annual growth in the latest five-year period.

Cairns City increased its population by the largest number (3,800 people) over the five years to June 2006, a significantly larger increase than that of Mackay City (2,900 people), the second placed LGA on the top ten list. All other LGAs in the top five had an average annual population growth of 1,900 people or more between 2001 and 2006, whereas growth in all LGAs in the bottom five was between 600 and 900 people.

The share (7.2%) of Queensland's growth accounted for by Cairns and Mackay Cities between 2001 and 2006 was almost double their share (3.7%) of growth in the previous five years. Almost all other regional Queensland LGAs in the top ten list increased their share of state growth over the last five years, which reflects the increase in their average annual population change.

Table 3: Average annual population change, top ten largest growing LGAs in Regional Queensland, 1996 to 2006(p)

LGA	5 years to 30 June 2001 no.	5 years to 30 June 2006 (p) no.	10 years to 30 June 2006 (p) no.	Share of Queensland's average annual population change	
				1996 - 2001 %	2001 - 2006 %
1996-2006 ranking	no.	no.	no.	%	%
Cairns (C)	1,232	3,786	2,509	2.1	4.1
Mackay (C)	909	2,862	1,886	1.6	3.1
Thuringowa (C)	1,461	2,044	1,753	2.5	2.2
Hervey Bay (C)	898	2,363	1,630	1.5	2.6
Townsville (C)	1,072	1,989	1,531	1.8	2.2
Livingstone (S)	642	854	748	1.1	0.9
Burnett (S)	588	771	679	1.0	0.8
Cooloola (S)	316	908	612	0.5	1.0
Bundaberg (C)	198	795	496	0.3	0.9
Crow's Nest (S)	285	610	448	0.5	0.7
Queensland	58,051	92,520	75,286	100.0	100.0

(p) preliminary

Source: ABS, *Regional Population Growth, Australia, 1996 to 2006*, cat. no. 3218.0

Areas of fastest growth by LGA

All ten LGAs with the fastest growth in Queensland in the five years to June 2006 were located in Eastern Queensland or South East Queensland and most were in coastal areas (Table 4). Apart from Weipa Town and Nebo Shire, all LGAs were also in the top ten list of fastest-growing LGAs in Queensland between 1996 and 2006 (Table 5). Three LGAs – Caloundra, Gold Coast and Maroochy – were also among the State’s top ten largest-growing LGAs in this period, and Hervey Bay was among the State’s top ten largest-growing LGAs in regional Queensland.



Between 2001 and 2006, the bauxite-mining town of Weipa was the fastest growing LGA in Queensland, with a population increase of 6.9%. Crow’s Nest Shire on the outskirts of Toowoomba City also experienced rapid growth. With an annual average increase of 610 people or 5.3%, it was the second fastest growing LGA in the State. Nebo Shire, with large-scale coal mining activity, was the third fastest growing LGA with an annual average growth of 5.1%.

Although the growth of Weipa, Crow’s Nest, and Nebo was very fast in comparison with other LGAs over the 2001 to 2006 period, the population base on which the growth occurred is relatively small in comparison with that of some other LGAs in the top ten list. For example, Gold Coast City’s average annual growth rate (3.7%) over the five year period was almost as fast as that of Cambooya Shire (3.9%), but the population of Gold Coast was much larger (507,400 people). Similarly, Hervey Bay and Caloundra City have large populations, which are reflected in size of their average annual population change between 2001 and 2006: 2,360 and 3,410 respectively.

Just the facts ...

Five fastest growing LGAs in Queensland, 1996 to 2006

LGA	Estimated Resident Population, 30 June 2006 (Persons)	Average annual population change, 1996–2006	
		no.	%
Crow’s Nest (S)	13,311	448	4.2
Cambooya (S)	6,154	193	3.8
Gold Coast (C)	507,439	15,100	3.6
Hervey Bay (C)	55,113	1,630	3.6
Caloundra (C)	93,248	2,725	3.5

Source: ABS, *Regional Population Growth, Australia 2005–06*, cat. no. 3218.0

Comparison of LGA growth rates over the last ten years (see box on this page and Table 5) with those over the last five years (Table 4) shows consistently fast growth in the two LGAs outside Toowoomba City (Crow’s Nest and Cambooya) and the coastal LGAs of Gold Coast, Hervey Bay and Caloundra. In all five LGAs, growth rates over the last five years were higher than those over the ten years between 1996 and 2006. Also, among the fastest growth in the latest intercensal period was in the two LGAs with increased mining activity in recent years – Weipa Town and Nebo Shire. The average annual growth rates of the four fastest-growing LGAs was more than double Queensland’s average annual growth rate (2.4%) in the 2001 to 2006 period.

Table 4: Estimated resident population (ERP) and average annual change, top ten fastest growth LGAs in Queensland, 2001 to 2006 (p)

LGA 2006 ranking	ERP at 30 June 2001 no.	ERP at 30 June 2006(p) no.	Average annual population change 5 years to 30 June 2006 (p)	
			no.	%
Weipa (T)	2,173	3,029	171	6.9
Crow's Nest (S)	10,259	13,311	610	5.3
Nebo (S)	2,094	2,682	118	5.1
Hervey Bay (C)	43,298	55,113	2,363	4.9
Caloundra (C)	76,207	93,248	3,408	4.1
Cambooya (S)	5,085	6,154	214	3.9
Miriam Vale (S)	4,484	5,408	185	3.8
Gold Coast (C)	423,719	507,439	16,744	3.7
Maroochy (S)	127,202	152,664	5,092	3.7
Beaudesert (S)	53,977	64,777	2,160	3.7
Queensland	3,628,946	4,091,546	92,520	2.4

(a) Local Government Areas with populations of less than 2,000 people at 30 June 2001 have been excluded from the fastest growth rankings.

(p) preliminary

Source: ABS, *Regional Population Growth, Australia, 1996 to 2006*, cat. no. 3218.0

Over the ten year period from 1996 to 2006, five of the ten fastest growing LGAs were in regional Queensland: Crow's Nest, Cambooya, Hervey Bay, Thuringowa and Miriam Vale. Crow's Nest Shire and Cambooya Shires were the two fastest-growing LGAs over the last ten years, with average annual growth rates of 4.2% and 3.8% respectively. All ten LGAs had average annual growth rates of more than 3.0%, compared with a figure of 2.1% for Queensland as a whole.

Table 5: Estimated resident population (ERP) and average annual change, top ten fastest growth LGAs in Queensland, 1996 to 2006 (p)

LGA 2006 ranking (a)	ERP at 30 June	ERP at 30 June	Average annual population change	
	1996 no.	2006(p) no.	10 years to 30 June 2006 (p) no.	%
Crow's Nest (S)	8,833	13,311	448	4.2
Cambooya (S)	4,223	6,154	193	3.8
Gold Coast (C)	356,441	507,439	15,100	3.6
Hervey Bay (C)	38,809	55,113	1,630	3.6
Caloundra (C)	65,999	93,248	2,725	3.5
Maroochy (S)	108,072	152,664	4,459	3.5
Thuringowa (C)	45,410	62,935	1,753	3.3
Pine Rivers (S)	106,277	144,860	3,858	3.1
Beaudesert (S)	47,558	64,777	1,722	3.1
Miriam Vale (S)	3,975	5,408	143	3.1
Queensland	3,338,690	4,091,546	75,286	2.1

(a) Local Government Areas with populations of less than 2,000 people at 30 June 2001 have been excluded from the fastest growth rankings.

(p) preliminary

Source: ABS, Regional Population Growth, Australia, 1996 to 2006, cat. no. 3218.0

Areas of largest growth by SLA

At July 2006, there were 295 Statistical Local Areas (SLAs) in the SEQ Region, including those in Toowoomba City and the urban parts of surrounding shires. Of these, all but 33 had positive population growth between 1996 and 2006. Declining SLAs included older areas of Brisbane such as Brighton, Deagon, Wacol and Zillmere. More recently developed areas also declined, including Jindalee, Middle Park and Springwood. The largest decline was in the Redcliffe City SLA of Clontarf. Clontarf's estimated resident population decreased from about 9,100 in 1996 to 7,900 in 2006.

The SLAs with largest growth in the SEQ Region were outside Brisbane City (see

box). Maroochy (S) – Buderim had the largest growth between 1996 and 2006, with an annual average increase of almost 1,800 people or 5.5%. Ipswich (C) – East and Beaudesert (S) – Part A were the second and third on the list of top five SLAs for the largest average annual increase since 1996. They grew by an average of 1,200 to 1,400 people annually. Doolandella-Forest Lake SLA, in fifth position, was one of only seven of the top 50 growth SLAs within Brisbane City – Doolandella-

Just the facts ...

Five largest growth SLAs in Queensland, 1996 to 2006

SLA	Estimated Resident Population, 30 June 2006 (Persons)	Average annual population change, 1996–2006	
		no.	%
Maroochy (S) – Buderim	42,634	1,757	5.5
Ipswich (C) – East	51,674	1,371	3.1
Beaudesert (S) – Pt A	42,186	1,237	3.5
Kingsholme-Upper Coomera	15,562	1,177	15.2
Doolandella-Forest Lake	18,062	1,159	10.8

Source: ABS, Regional Population Growth, Australia 2005–06, cat. no. 3218.0

Queensland 2007

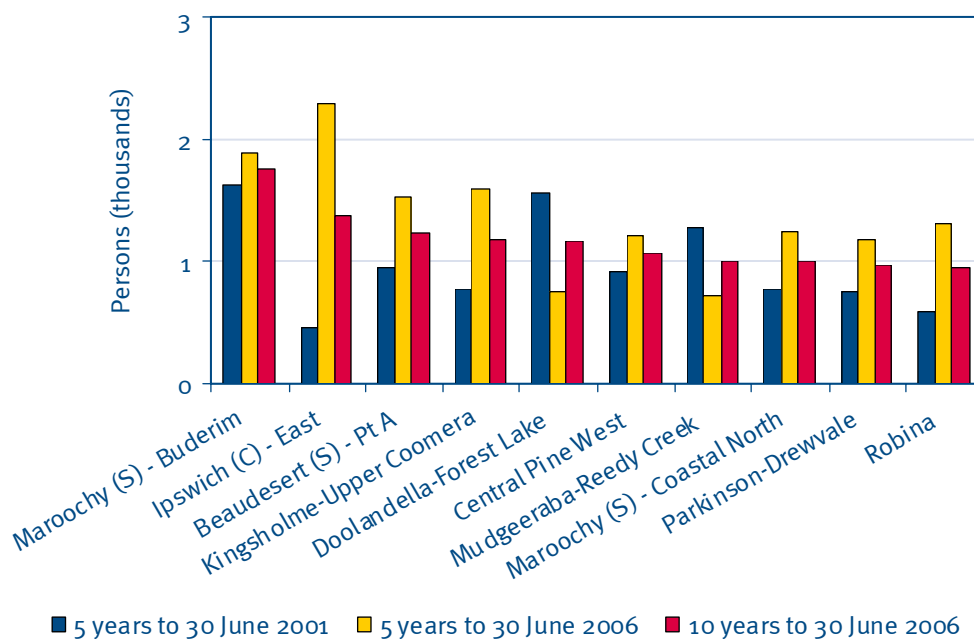
Forest Lake, Parkinson-Drewvale, Seventeen Mile Rocks, Calamvale, Taigum-Fitzgibbon, Fortitude Valley and

Newstead. The total population growth of those seven Brisbane SLAs between 1996 and 2006 was 42,200 people, representing 12.5% of total growth for the top 50.

Figure 5 shows the average annual population growth for the top ten SLAs in the SEQ Region between 1996 and 2006, as well as the five-year averages to 2001 and 2006. Average annual population growth in the ten years to June 2006 was strongest in the SLAs of Maroochy (S) - Buderim (1,757), Ipswich (C) East (1,371) and Beaudesert (S) - Pt A (1,237), while Kingsholme-Upper Coomera (1,177) in Gold Coast City and Doolandella-Forest Lake (1,159) in Brisbane also experienced strong growth. All but eight of the top ten largest growing SLAs experienced larger growth between 2001 and 2006 than they did during the previous five-year period. In particular, Ipswich (C) - East's average annual change between 2001 and 2006 was five times larger than the corresponding figure for the 1996 to 2001 period.

Figure 5: Average annual population change, top ten largest growing SLAs in SEQ Region, 1996 to 2006

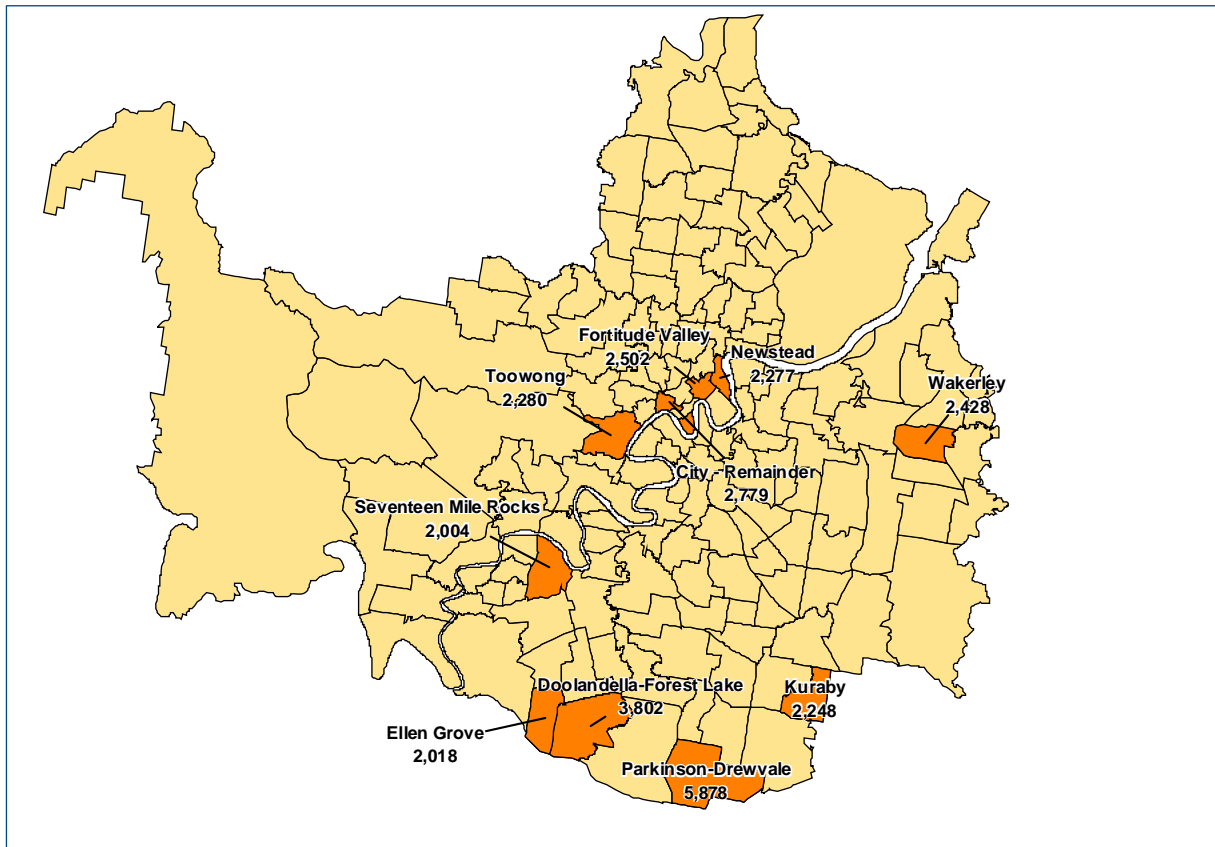
Source: ABS, *Regional Population Growth, Australia, 1996 to 2006*, cat. no. 3218.0



A number of SLAs within Brisbane City experienced strong growth over the five-year period to June 2006. The geographical distribution of this growth was similar to that noted earlier in relation to growth over the ten years from 1996 to 2006. Between 2001 and 2006, the largest growth occurred in new housing estates in the outer SLAs of Parkinson-Drewvale (5,878 people) and Doolandella-Forest Lake (3,802). Strong demand for houses and apartments in riverside and CBD locations resulted in large intercensal increases in the populations of City-Remainder (2,779), Toowong (2,280), Newstead (2,277) and Seventeen Mile Rocks (2,004) (Figure 6).

Figure 6: Top ten largest growth SLAs, Brisbane City, 2001 to 2006

Source: ABS, *Regional Population Growth, Australia, 1996 to 2006*, cat. No. 3218.0



Areas of fastest growth by SLA

Three of the top five fastest-growing SLAs in Queensland between 1996 and 2006 were located in Brisbane City – City-Inner, Upper Kedron and Wakerley. In the top ten, four more Brisbane City SLAs were among the fastest-growing in the state – Parkinson-Drewvale, Kuraby, Newstead and Fortitude Valley. All ten SLAs experienced average annual growth rates of 13.7% or more between 1996 and 2006. Growth rates between 1996 and 2001 were similar to those between 2001 and 2006 in most of the top ten fastest-growing SLAs. However, Griffin-Mango Hill grew more quickly in the second five year period. Its average annual growth between 2001 and 2006 was 27.3%, significantly higher than its growth rate between 1996 and 2001 (16.7%).

Just the facts ...

Five fastest growth SLAs in Queensland, 1996 to 2006

SLA	Estimated Resident Population, 30 June 2006 (Persons)	Average annual population change, 1996–2006	
		no.	%
City-Inner	2,840	250	23.5
Upper Kedron	2,773	243	23.1
Griffin-Mango Hill	10,389	895	21.9
Wakerley	3,966	326	18.9
Pacific Pines-Gaven	11,811	944	17.4

Source: ABS, *Regional Population Growth, Australia 2005–06*, cat. no. 3218.0