

Introducing Port Macquarie-Hastings

The Port Macquarie-Hastings Local Government Area (LGA) is located about 420 kilometres north of the Sydney CBD, and 510 kilometres south of the Brisbane CBD and is the southern gateway to the North Coast of NSW. The LGA covers an area of 3686 square kilometres and extends west from the areas surrounding the mouth of the Hastings and Camden Haven rivers, through verdant hinterland to the Great Dividing Range. It adjoins the local government areas of Kempsey Shire to the north, Walcha to the west and Mid-Coast to the south.

Port Macquarie-Hastings is the traditional home of the Birpai people who settled in the area over 60,000 years ago. Numerous middens and culturally special places can be found in the area giving

recognition to the gathering of the traditional owners and inhabitants.

Established as the first penal colony in regional NSW in 1821 with subsequent free settlement in 1830, Port Macquarie is now one of 4 regional cities in the North Coast with a thriving cultural and civic centre. The city provides a significant share of the LGA's housing and jobs as well as higher-level services and facilities.

The LGA is one of the fastest-growing centres in NSW and is home to over 83,000 residents living in 34 communities spread across the coast and hinterland, in city, suburban and rural living environments.

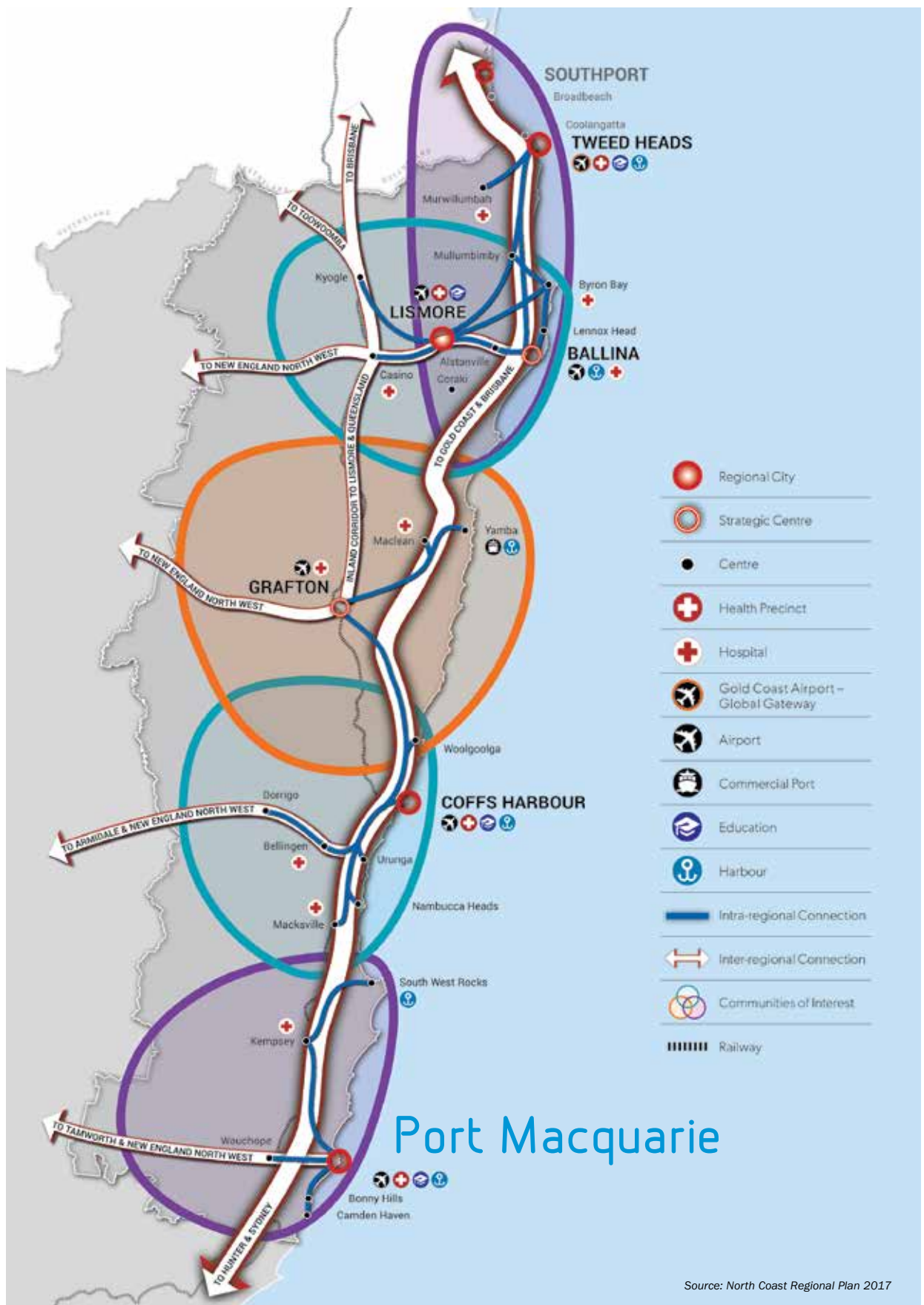
While early industry centred on dairying, cattle farming, timber and fishing, the area now boasts a diverse and vibrant economy in particular as a result of ongoing investment in the health, education and tourism sectors.

The area is served by the Pacific Highway, the Oxley Highway, the North Coast railway line and the Port Macquarie Airport. The Airport caters for approximately 230,000 passengers per year, making it the 5th largest regional airport in NSW.

Our hinterland is an integral part of the LGA and supports a variety of agricultural and non-agricultural land uses including farming, rural



Figure 3 – Port Macquarie-Hastings Local Government Area



Source: North Coast Regional Plan 2017

Figure 4 – North Coast 2036 Port Macquarie

living, horticulture and tourism.

Our natural environment is a defining feature of our region. A large proportion of the LGA is State Forest and National Park, including beaches, waterways, coastal wetlands, flood plains and rugged

mountain ranges. The environment underpins our local economy, is a key drawcard for visitors and new residents and attracts international sporting events like IRONMAN Australia, which help to grow the area's events and tourism calendar.



● Port Macquarie

- > One of four regional cities on the North Coast
- > Main driver of residential and economic growth
- > Target migration and visitation destination
- > Strategic hub of the LGA
- > Stunning natural setting
- > Target destination for visitation and migration
- > Key built assets include:
 - two hospitals and a cluster of associated health services;
 - three tertiary education institutions;
 - Port Macquarie Airport and associated business park;
 - three major shopping centres
 - major industrial area
 - range and volume of visitor accommodation



Wauchope

- > Primary centre of the LGA west of the Pacific Highway
- > Provides a range of services to the local community including the surrounding rural community
- > Gateway to the hinterland
- > Railway station, located on the edge of the Wauchope CBD, is a key transportation hub for the LGA, servicing passengers and freight between Brisbane and Sydney
- > Strong connection to heritage of the timber industry and rail
- > Key industries are farming, tourism, forestry and niche horticultural and primary production

● Lake Cathie and Bonny Hills

- > Coastal villages
- > Anticipated to be the second fastest growing urban areas in the LGA.
- > Strong connection to the water, both to the Pacific Ocean and Lake Cathie
- > Nearby forests and waterways are great attractors for both visitors and new residents to the LGA

● Camden Haven

- > Urban centre in Laurieton which supports a string of villages in North and West Haven, Dunbogan, Kendall and Kew.
- > Laurieton sits at the base of Dooragan (North Brother) mountain which is one of the most dramatic landform features on the North Coast.

● Long Flat, Comboyne, Beechwood, and Telegraph Point

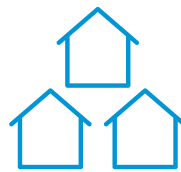
- > Larger rural villages
- > Important focal point for surrounding rural communities
- > Strong sense of identity and place
- > Hub for local businesses (including agribusiness)
- > Drawcard for tourists seeking a hinterland experience to complement the coastal experiences on offer in the LGA

Our community now...



80,050
people 2016

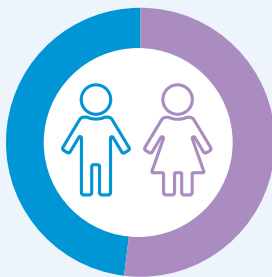
(84,525 Estimated
Resident Population
2019)



living in 34,050
households 2016

Who we are

Females
52%
Males
48%

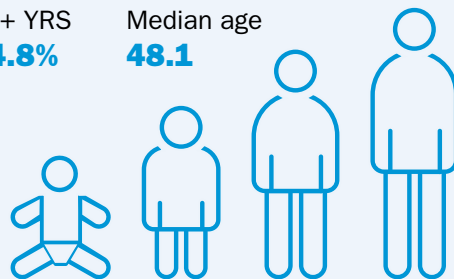


12-24 YRS
13.1%

60+ YRS
34.8%

Median age
48.1

Life expectancy
(At birth)*
Male - **82.4**
Female - **86.4**



Aboriginal or
Torres Strait
Islander **4%**



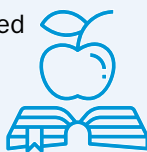
Born
overseas
18.6%



Need help in day-to-day
activities due to a
disability **7.4%**

Our education & employment

Completed
year 12
36.1%



Vocational
qualification
25.9%



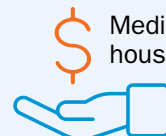
University
qualification
13.4%



Participation rate
(population in labour
force) - **48.6%**
(**31,810 People**)



Unemployed -
6.8%

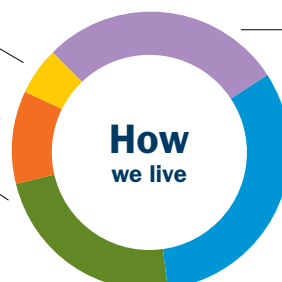


Median
household income
\$1042 pw

Multiple and other family households
and group households **5.5%**

One-parent families **10.6%**

Couples with children households
23.2%



Single person
households
28.5%

Couples without
children households
32.1%

*2017 figures HealthStats NSW



(Incl. 3.5% in social housing)

Households renting
26.4%



Households with a mortgage
26.4%

33.5

homeless people per
10,000 residents



...and into the future



-10,250
Natural change
(Births less deaths)



Population Change over 25 years

+29,150
Migration
(Arrivals less departures)



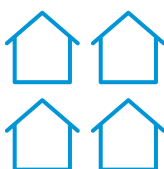
80,050 people 2016
98,850 people 2041



18,900
additional people 2016



23.6%

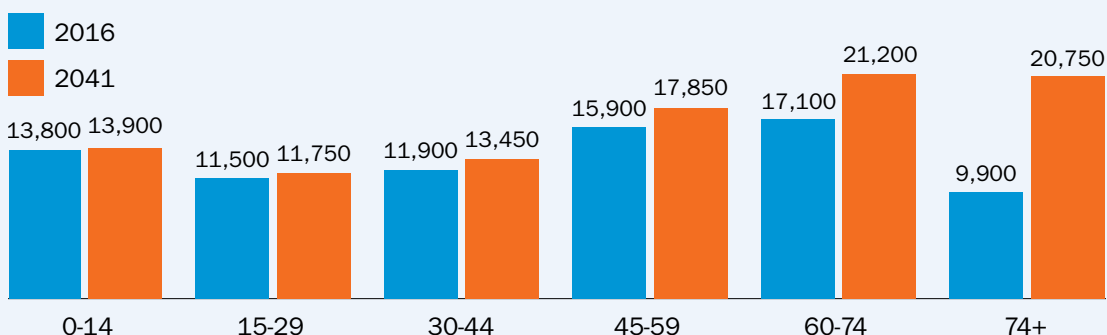


11,950
additional households 2041



31.7%

Forecast population by age 2016 - 2041



Number of people aged 65 and over will increase by **66%**



The average number of persons per household will decrease

2.32 2016
2.15 2041



Largest increase in housing types between 2016 and 2040 is expected to be in Lone person households **42.5%**



*2017 figures HealthStats NSW

Our natural advantages

The LGA's environmental and recreational attributes - our natural advantages (see Figure 5) are perhaps the most critical element of the Port Macquarie-Hastings lifestyle.

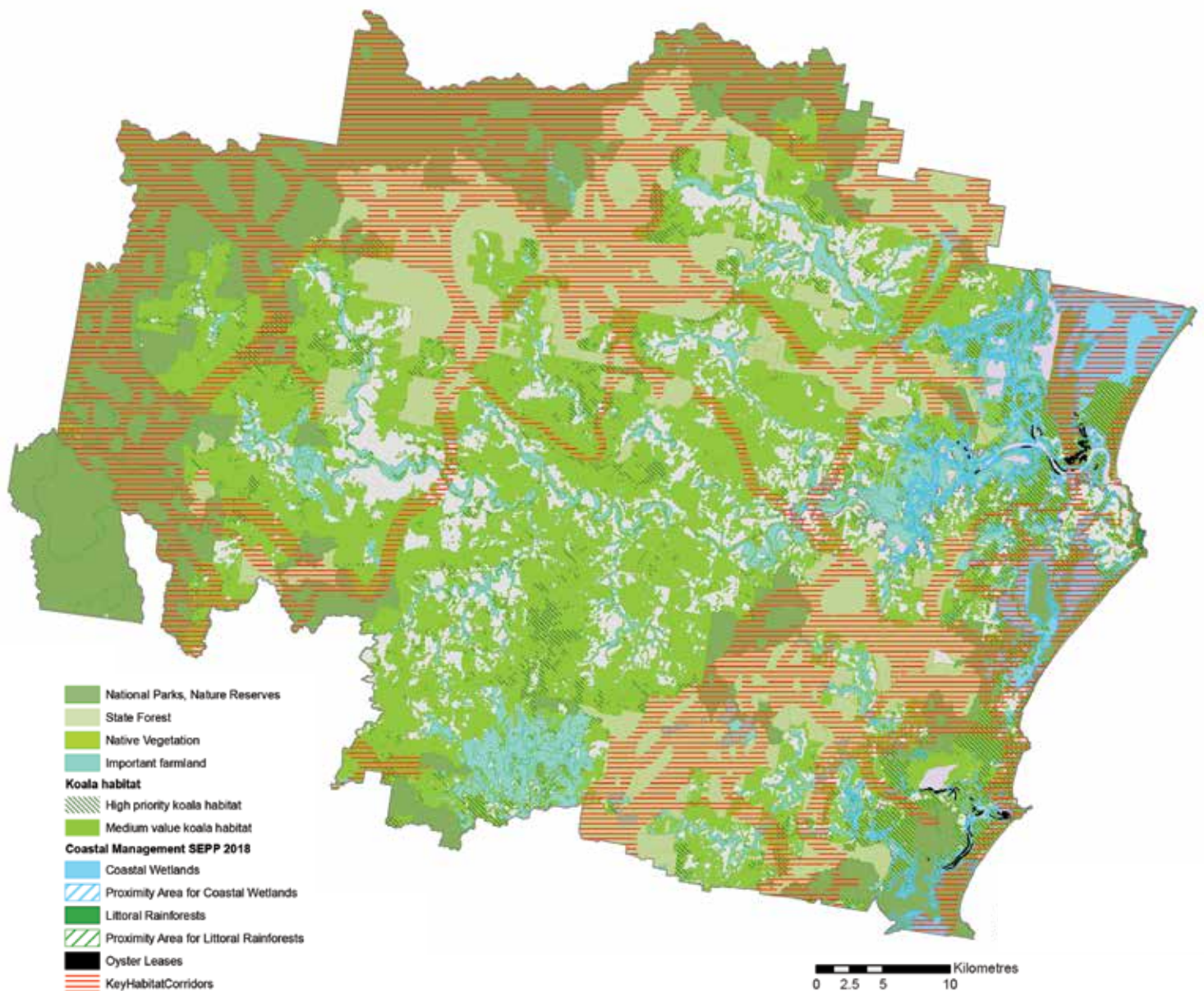


Figure 5 - Port Macquarie-Hastings Natural Advantages

Our environmental report card

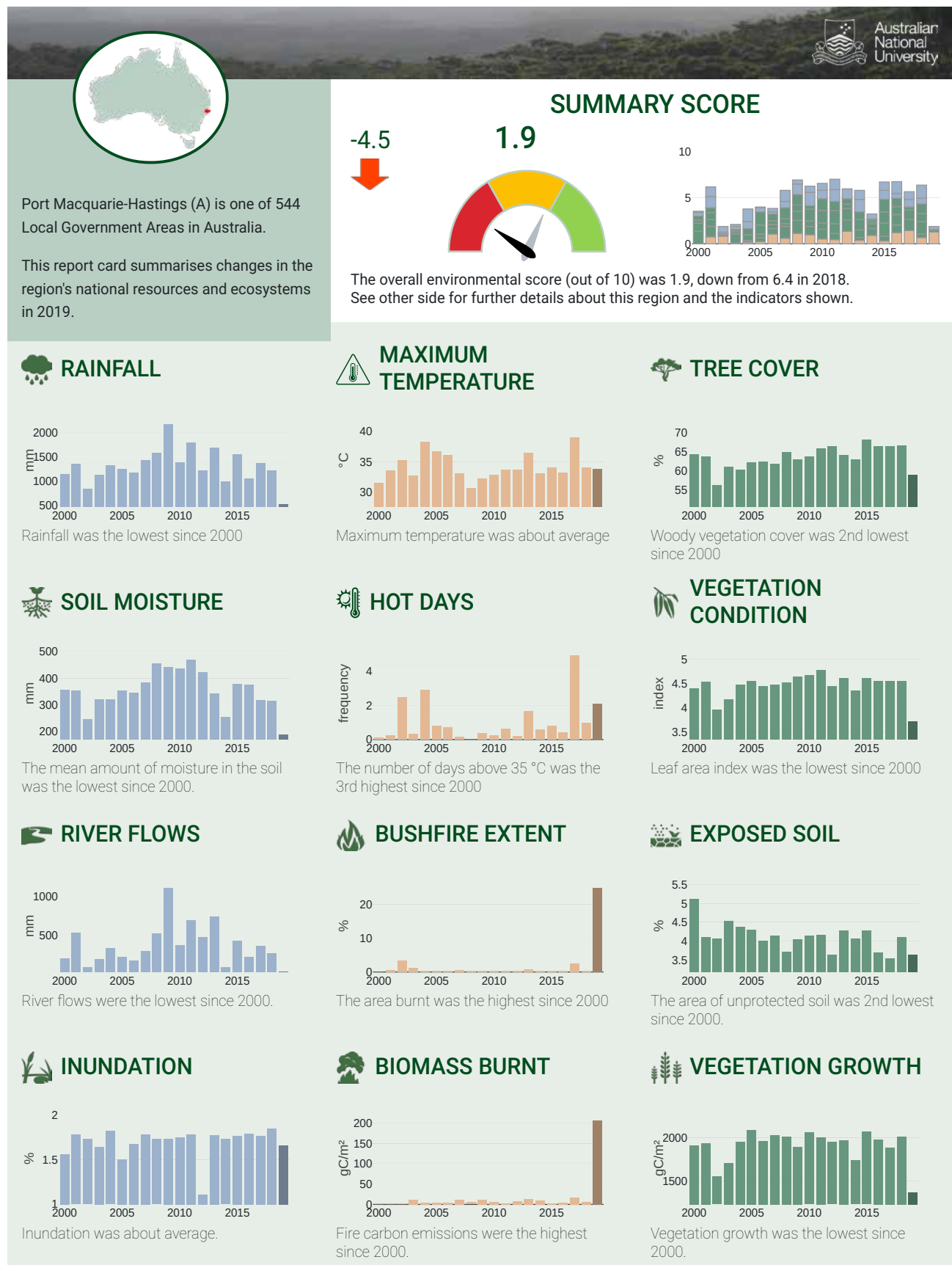
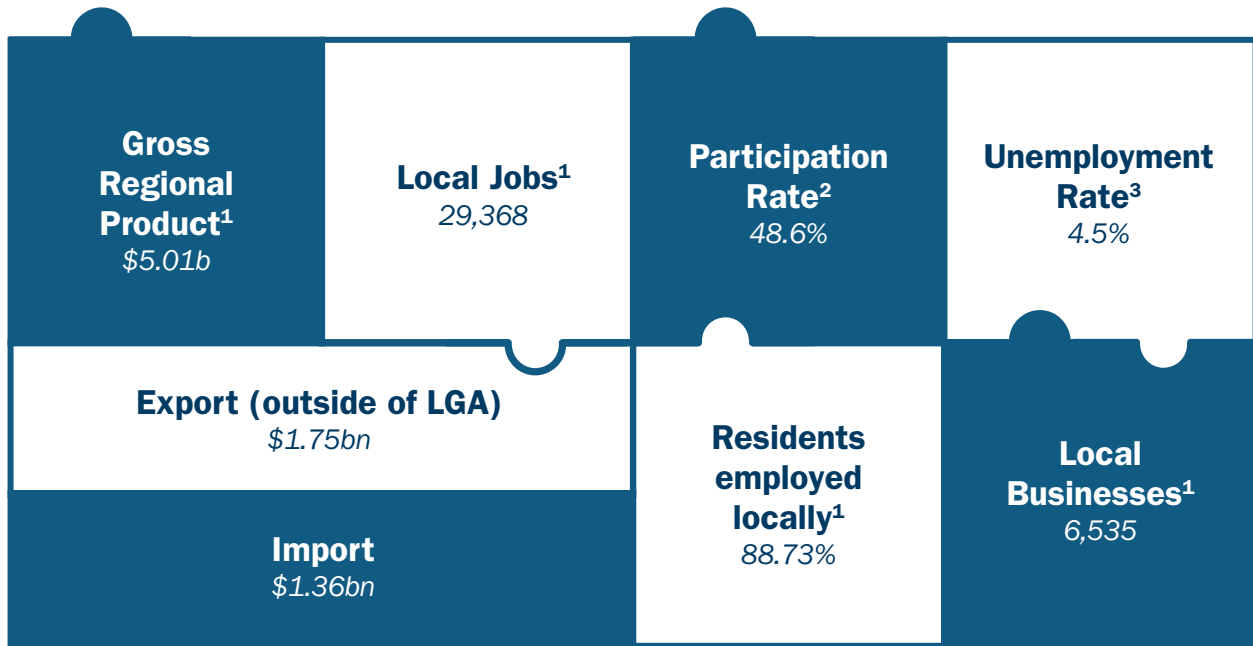


Figure 6 - Port Macquarie-Hastings Environmental Scorecard 2019

⁷ Centre for Water and Landscape Dynamics - Australian National University <https://www.wenfo.org/aer/>

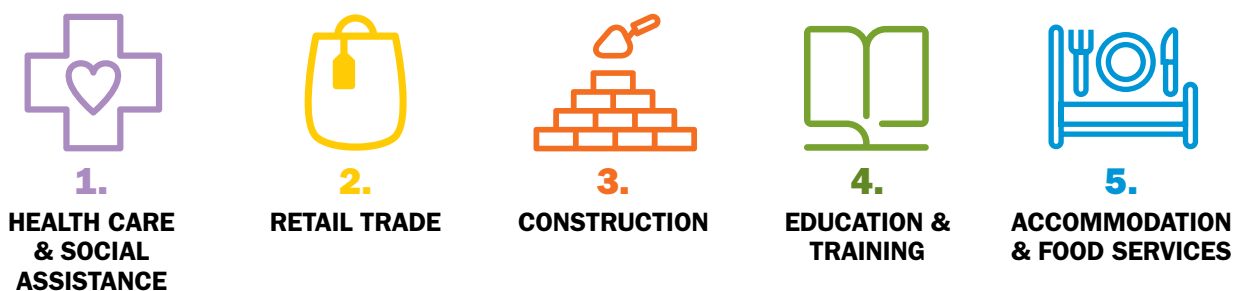
Our economy



Top 5 Industry Sectors by Contribution to the Economy¹

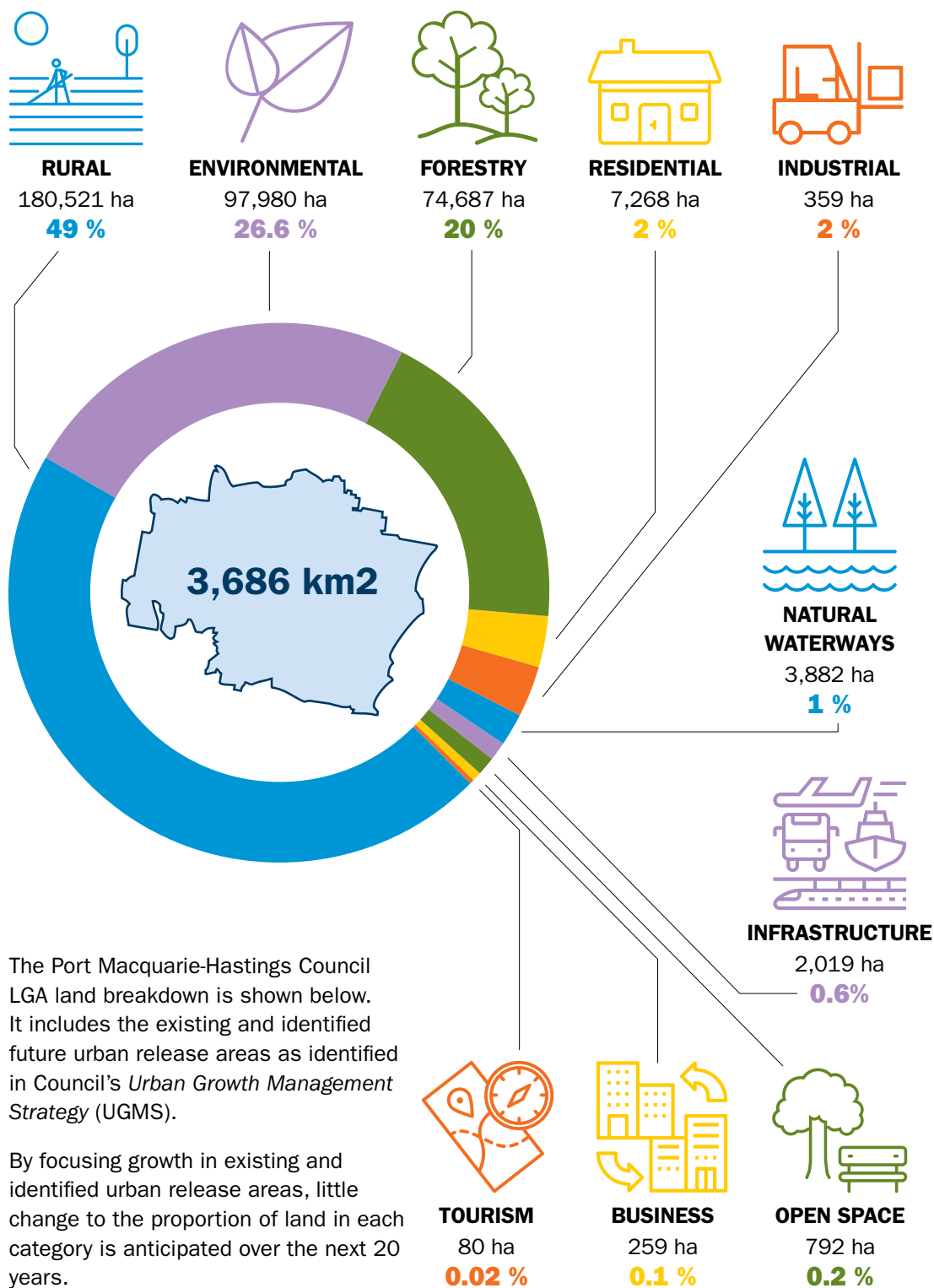


Top 5 Industry Sectors by Number of Employees¹



¹ REMPLAN Economy | ² ABS Census Population and Housing 2016 | ³ Dec 2019 - smoothed unemployment rate - LMIP Small Area Labour Markets Dec quarter 2019)

Our land use





Our key challenges and opportunities

As we look to the future, change is inevitable. Population growth, demographic shifts, climate change, new technologies, social shifts, and economic pressures and opportunities are already influencing and shaping how we live.

Council has a role in creating both a resilient and adaptive community to ensure that not only can we overcome

challenges, we can also take advantage of opportunities which arise from these changes.

We need to balance the needs of our community today while planning for the needs of future generations. This will require a flexible approach to developing our strategies, plans and policies so that we can respond to changing needs.

Population growth

By **2040**, the projected increase in Port Macquarie-Hastings' population will require an additional 11,950 new dwellings.

Our opportunity

is to strategically plan for affordable and more varied housing options for this growing community while maintaining the character of our many neighbourhoods, towns and villages, preserving our environmental values, our region's rich heritage and maintaining our urban/rural boundaries.

Ageing Population

Port Macquarie-Hastings' population is **ageing**. The growing proportion of older people is a result of both community ageing in place, and the trend of "sea changers" and "tree changers" moving to the area from more urban areas upon retirement.

Our opportunity

is to ensure that we create an age-friendly region where there is availability and access to aged care services, and appropriate housing choices. We must foster an active, healthy and safe community to support this ageing population. We also need to develop our economy in a way that attracts and retains our younger people aged 18-25.





Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience

In the years to come, natural hazards, such as **extreme rainfall** events, heatwaves, **bushfires** and extended periods of **drought** are expected to increase as the climate changes.

Our opportunity

is to ensure we use our resources sustainably and our development protects our environment for future generations. We also need to ensure that our towns and villages are prepared for changes to weather patterns and our infrastructure is able to cope with more frequent extreme weather, bushfires, erosion and flooding.

Public and active transport options

There are **limited public transport** options across the LGA. Port Macquarie-Hastings residents use their own car for almost all trips they make. Cycling and walking (for commuting purposes rather than recreational) is limited.

Our opportunity

is to work with the NSW Government and other stakeholders to strongly advocate for improved transport options and make sure that appropriate infrastructure including active transport options is delivered to support our community's needs.

Dispersed Network of Settlements

The natural landscape and the geographical size of Port Macquarie-Hastings has meant that we have a network of settlements dispersed across the LGA. Some are relatively isolated. Resulting challenges include access to major centres and services, **distribution of limited resources** and effective transport options.

Our opportunity

is to work with key stakeholders such as MNC Local Health District to identify ways to provide our communities access to health services and the Department of Education, to develop models which better utilise existing infrastructure.