Hinchinbrook

Hinchinbrook Shire encompasses 2,810km², nestled within the Herbert River Valley, just over an hour's drive north from Townsville and 3 hours south of Cairns, Queensland. With a population of 10,900 persons (as of 30 June 2017) it has a rich multicultural population, most of whom call the heart of the Shire - Ingham, home. Surrounding this centre are multiple townships of smaller density including Forrest Beach, Taylors Beach, Lucinda, Halifax, Dungeness, Trebonne and Toobanna.

Bound by World Heritage rainforests, the Great Barrier Reef and a diversity of geography in between, the Shire is unique in that it encompasses beach and rainforest to outback environments within close proximity, for a rich, rewarding experience in liveability and leisure.

Connectivity

Highway 1: The Bruce Highway has direct access through the region and the largest centre, Ingham.

Ingham Station: Ideal for freight and passenger movement with the main township Ingham having a stand alone station.

Townsville Port: Has both international and domestic capabilities. Distance to Port 1.5 HRS.

Townsville Airport: One of Australia's major regional airports, includes domestic and international flights, 80 direct flights per week from Townsville. Distance 1.5 HRS.

Connectivity via road is prime with all key hubs connected, inclusive of State and Local Government infrastructure.

Ingham Aiport: Has Local, Regional, Seated, Pilot Activated Lighting, refuelling facilities and hangar facilities.

QSL Sugar Terminal & Loading Jetty, Lucinda: Sugar loading and storage facilities for 230kt of raw sugar.

Knowledge Economy NBN Activated.

the shire boasts...

Access to Hinchinbrook Island, the largest island national park in the world, approximately 2 km from the port of Dungeness.

Australia's No 1 fishing destination with easily accessible and coveted estuarine, river, reef and deep sea experiences.

The largest single drop waterfall in the southern hemisphere inspiring and leaving visitors in awe.
Tourism & Events

Tourism is a growing market for the Hinchinbrook region with 368 room and 965 beds in conventional accommodation servicing the industry. An additional 306 powered and 325 unpowered RV/Caravan Park sites are located throughout the region. The Shire boasts a RV Friendly status and is the first site of a CMCA (Campervan & Motor Home Club of Australia) member RV site. The region has a rich natural asset base to facilitate passive to high adventure tourism activities. It also boasts incredible coveted fishing from inland fresh water, and estuary to deep sea serviced by 5 boat ramps containing 9 boat ramp lanes. The Hinchinbrook Region has a number of annual events supporting a strong tourism economy. These events include a major international fishing series which attracts over a 40 million viewing audience, Australian Italian Festival, Maraka Festival, car shows, market days, races and many more.

Lifestyle

The Shire is privileged to have a dedicated precinct championing the arts, culture, education and tourism that serves the community and encourages visitation year round. This is complemented by auxiliary parks throughout the region housing a variety of facilities from walking trails to children’s specialty playground equipment. The region is also blessed with abundant natural resources which provide a leisure playground from sport fishing and adventure through to passive pursuits of tranquil walks in tamed wetlands and wild rainforests.

Education & Training

The region boasts 17 schools consisting of primary and secondary (independent, catholic and public) as well as 3 early childhood education and 3 care services. Furthermore there are various extra-curricular activities for the youth such as cultural dance, music and sports clubs.

The longest jetty in the southern hemisphere delivering sugar to Australia’s overseas markets fuelled by the largest sugar mill in the southern hemisphere – Victoria Mill.

World leader in cane production best practice. Production of 5M tonne of Sugar Cane per annum.

Diversity of small business enterprise supporting key industries. Unlimited potential.
The top three employers in the region include Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing, Manufacturing and Health Care Social Services.

Medical

Hinchinbrook is home to a regional hospital, a 28-bed inpatient facility with an accident/emergency and general surgery service. The hospital provides the community with services including immunisations, well-women’s clinics, pathology-sample collection, basic radiography, weekly ultrasounds, pharmaceuticals and ante-natal/post-natal care. It also provides outreach services including respiratory medicine, mental health, paediatrics, surgery and endoscopy with referral mechanisms in place.

The region has the provision of 3 aged care facilities with 155 aged care beds and accompanying services. There are 3 dental practices, 2 private health care centres, disability, aged care support services and complementary health services.

Key Opportunities

TOURISM

In the past five years the Hinchinbrook tourism sector has experienced rapid growth with 33% annual average visitation growth (2012-17) and 60% increase in visitor expenditure (2012-17). The Council is currently supporting growth through the following initiatives:

• Progressing feasibility studies enhancing commercial marine access at Lucinda and Forrest Beach
• Developing and showcasing eco-tourism investment opportunities, including commercial guided walks on the iconic Thorsborne Trail
• Raising the profile of our World Class Recreational Fishing experiences through a diversity of collaborative partnerships and projects
• Upgrading local tourism information services, including enhancing the Hinchinbrook Visitor Information Lounge
• Progressing a Hinchinbrook Master Plan for Wallaman Falls and Broadwater National Park

SENIOR LIFESTYLE INVESTMENT

Boasting an affordable and enviable tropical lifestyle, Hinchinbrook Shire;
• ranked as Queensland’s number one retirement destination (Core Logic, 2017)
• ranked 20th out of 563 Local Government Areas in Australia for access to GP health services,
is primed for investors to be able to grow and capitalise on these assets and the over 55 market potential with investment in Senior Lifestyle residential choice, services and activities. From investing in small business services and care that allow seniors to remain in their homes for longer to new active retirement resorts that allow seniors a new way of living.

The Hinchinbrook Shire Council has a range of other investment opportunities and/or is open to discussion on any avenues that will continue to allow it to sustainably grow. To advance your ideas contact the Economic Development Department on (07) 4776 4600.