



Bowen Shire LGA Profile

June 2007

Bowen Shire is located at the top of the Whitsunday Islands and is known as the climate capital of Australia, given its constant temperature all year round. Major attractions in the region include eight magnificent beaches with crystal clear waters, plentiful fishing spots and panoramic lookouts. The Shire comprises two major town centres, Bowen and Collinsville, which form integral centres that support the horticultural, coal mining and export activities of the area.

The Shire is well known for horticultural products (especially mangoes, tomatoes, capsicum and sweet corn), coal mining, tourism, cattle and power generation. The Queensland Department of Primary Industries' Centre for Dry Tropics Research is located in Bowen and is the driving force for the development of innovations in the local horticulture industry.

Bowen is located on the main Queensland north south rail line and is serviced by the Bruce Highway. The region boasts a high quality deep water port capable of docking vessels up to 40,000 tonnes while the Abbot Point bulk coal terminal services mining operations in Bowen and Nebo Shires.

Bowen Shire will amalgamate with Whitsunday Shires at the next local government election in March 2008 to form the Whitsunday Regional Council.

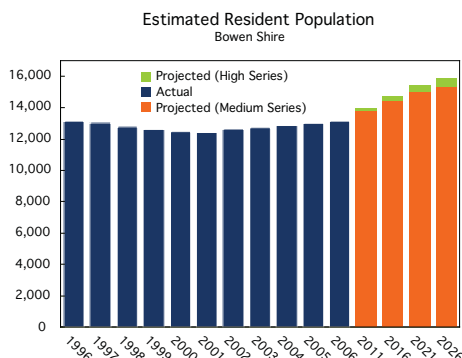


Population

There were an estimated 13,142 persons living in Bowen in 2006, 1.3% more than in 2005. Bowen accounted for 8.2% of the Mackay Whitsunday population in 2006.

Between 2006 and 2026, the population of Bowen is projected to increase at an average annual rate of 0.8% to 15,361 persons by 2026. This translates to an extra 111 persons in Bowen each year between 2006 and 2026.

However, if current high growth experienced by the Mackay Whitsunday Region continues over the next 20 years, Belyando is expected to experience a higher growth rate of 1.0% per annum to 15,889 persons by 2026.



Source: ABS 3218.0, QDLGP Population Projections 2006, AECgroup

Employment

In the March Quarter 2007, Bowen Shire recorded a trend labour force of 6,948 persons, 0.4% less compared to the March Quarter 2006. In annual terms, the trend number of employed persons decreased 0.1% to 6,549 persons, while the number of unemployed persons declined 6.5% to 391 persons.

Bowen Shire recorded an unemployment rate of 5.6% in the March Quarter 2007, the highest trend unemployment rate recorded in the Mackay Whitsunday Region for the period.

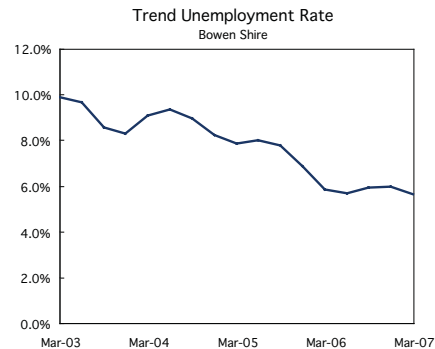
Trend Employment Indicators, Bowen Shire

	Mar Qtr 2007	% Change on Mar Qtr 2006
Labour Force (no.)	6,948	-0.4%
Employed (no.)	6,549	0.1%
Unemployed (no.)	391	-6.5%
Unemployment Rate (%) (a)	5.6%	-0.3%

Note: (a) The change in the unemployment rate is in percentage point terms. This data is derived through trending the unsmoothed series from DEWR.

Source: DEWR Small Area Labour Market Surveys, AECgroup

The trend unemployment rate in Bowen Shire has been steadily declining since September Quarter 2004 and has steadied at 5.6% in the March Quarter 2007, 0.3 percentage points less than the trend unemployment rate in the March Quarter 2006.



Source: DEWR Small Area Labour Market Surveys, AECgroup

Housing

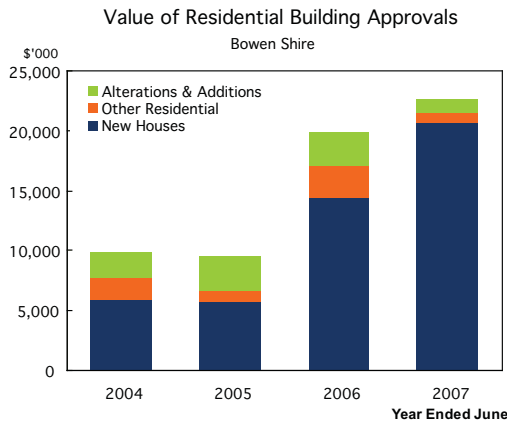
Bowen Shire had 102 residential building approvals in the year ended June 2007, 15.9% more than in the year ended June 2006. This growth was attributable to an increase in new house approvals of 26.0%, while other dwelling approvals declined 33.3%.

Building Approvals, Bowen Shire

	Year Ended Dec 07	% change on Year Ended Dec 06
Number		
New Houses	92	26.0%
Other Dwellings	10	-33.3%
Total Residential	102	15.9%
Value (\$'000)		
New Houses	20,715	43.3%
Other Dwellings	1,715	-23.7%
Alterations & Additions	2,417	-28.7%
Total Residential	24,847	23.7%
Non-Residential	6,318	-73.2%
Total Building	31,165	-28.6%

Note: Other dwellings includes flats, units and apartments. Source: ABS 8731.0

In line with the number of residential building approvals, the value of residential building approvals increased 23.7% to \$24.8 million in the year ended June 2007. This was attributable to the growth in value of approvals of new houses by 43.3% to \$20.7 million.



Source: ABS 8731.0

Meanwhile, the value of non-residential building approvals was \$9.1 million, 40.1% more than in the year ended June 2006.

Industry

Agriculture

Main agricultural production is in mangoes, tomatoes, capsicum and sweet corn. Around 2,600 tonnes of mangoes, 43,000 tonnes of tomatoes, 22,000 tonnes of capsicum and 6,650 tonnes of sweet corn were produced in 2001. Beef also plays an integral part in the Bowen economy, with around 315,000 head of cattle in 2001.

Coal

Coal mining is an important industry in Bowen, and is home to the Bowen Central and Collinsville coal mines. Bowen Central produced 4.5 Mt of saleable coal in 2004-05 prior to its closure in 2005-06. The opening of the Collinsville mine resulted in an 18.4% increase in saleable coal production for the region amounting to 5.2 Mt of coal in 2005-06.

Mining Statistics – Bowen Shire

	Level 2005-06	Level 2004-05	Annual %change
Raw Production (Mt)	6.8	5.6	22.0%
Saleable Production (Mt)	5.2	4.4	18.4%
Exports (Mt)	4.5	3.9	15.5%

Source: DNR&M

Tourism

Tourism is a vibrant industry in Bowen Shire receiving a total of 32,659 visitor arrivals in the year ended March 2007 and spending a total of 56,677 visitor nights over the year. This resulted in a total turnover \$3.1 million for the Shire, 13.7% more than the year ended March 2006.

Major Projects

Sonoma Balloon Loop - The \$11 Million Queensland Rail construction of a balloon loop will service the Sonoma Mine near Collinsville. This rail loop will be an extension of the Newlands line and will provide a key link between production and export of Collinsville mined coal. This development is currently under construction and due for completion in late 2008.

Bowen Marina - A \$600 million development that will transform the existing boat harbour into a facility that will include residential village, tavern, retail precinct, offices, floating berths and a specialised marine industrial precinct.

The QR Northern Missing Link - A 69km track from North Goonyella to Newlands will increase the service the mines of the North Bowen Basin. This project has an estimated cost of \$765 million.

Whitsunday Shores - A \$32 million Aspen Group development has committed to the construction of a residential estate comprising 669 lots, country club, retail precinct, retirement village and 18 hole golf course.

Transmission line Strathmore to Bowen - The 132 kV Transmission line will increase the capability of the Queensland Rail network servicing coal mines in the region.

Abbot Point Coal Terminal - Stage 2 of the Abbot Point Coal Terminal upgrades will increase capacity from 15Mtpa to 21Mtpa at a cost of \$116 million.

Burdekin-Moranbah Water Pipeline - Construction of a 220km water pipeline between Gorge Weir near the Burdekin Falls Dam and Moranbah at a cost of \$280 million.

For More Information

Bowen Shire Council

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Web: www.bowen.qld.gov.au

DISCLAIMER: The data produced in Facts and Figures is believed to be the most recent and accurate data available at the time of publication. No responsibility is accepted for any inadvertent errors.

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