



Broadsound Shire LGA Profile

June 2007

Broadsound Shire is a desirable location for both tourists and residents, offering coastal living, good fishing areas and easy access to the islands, national parks and other places of cultural and historical interest. The major towns include the coastal towns of Carmila and St Lawrence and the inland towns of Middlemount and Dysart.

The traditional economic base of Broadsound Shire has been in sugar, beef, agriculture and mining, with a number of other activities such as aquaculture, fruit and vegetable growing and goat farming being established in the region.

Broadsound Shire will amalgamate with Belyando and Nebo Shires at the next local government election in March 2008 to form the Isaac Regional Council.

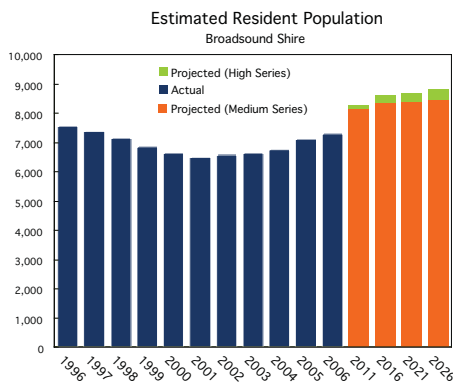


Population

There were an estimated 7,311 persons in Broadsound Shire in 2006, 2.6% more than in 2005. Broadsound accounted for 4.6% of the Mackay Whitsunday Region's population in 2006.

Between 2006 and 2026, the population of Broadsound Shire is projected to increase at an average annual rate of 0.7% to 8,452 persons by 2026. This translates to an extra 57 persons in Broadsound each year between 2006 and 2026.

However, if current high growth experienced by the Mackay Whitsunday Region continues over the next 20 years, Broadsound is expected to experience a higher growth rate of 0.9% per annum to 8,807 persons by 2026.



Source: ABS 3218.0, QDLGP Population Projections 2006, AECgroup

Employment

Broadsound Shire recorded a labour force of 4,086 persons in the March Quarter 2007, a 0.5% decrease compared to the March Quarter 2006.

The number of trend employed persons (4,047 persons) and unemployed persons (41 persons) also experienced annual declines of 0.3% and 4.4%, respectively.

Declines in labour force and employment were likely due to the winding back of coal mining and employment in the region. Employment is expected to be buoyed in the short term as mining production returns to pre 2006 levels.

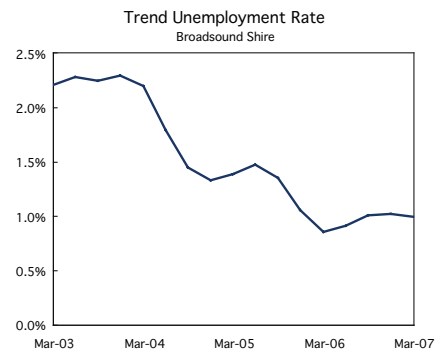
Trend Employment Indicators, Broadsound Shire

	Mar Qtr 2007	% Change on Mar Qtr 2006
Labour Force (no.)	4,086	-0.5%
Employed (no.)	4,047	-0.3%
Unemployed (no.)	41	-4.4%
Unemployment Rate (%) (a)	1.0%	0.0%

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 of Broadsound Shire steadied at 1.0% in the March Quarter 2007, the third consecutive quarter to record an unemployment rate of 1.0%.



Source: DEWR Small Area Labour Market Surveys, AECgroup

Housing

There were 37 residential building approvals in the year ended June 2007, 54.2% more than the number recorded in year ended June 2006. The majority of these were approvals of new houses at 35 approvals, 45.8% more than the previous year.

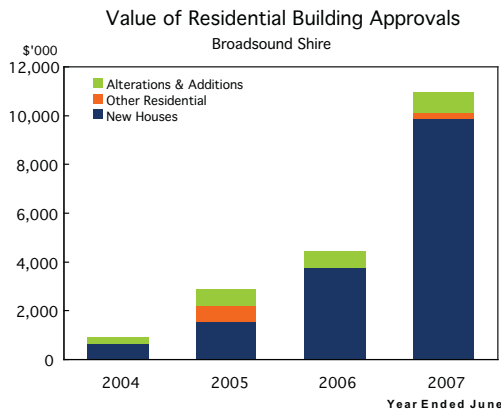
Building Approvals, Broadsound Shire

	Year Ended Jun 07	% change on Year Ended Jun 06
Number		
New Houses	35	45.8%
Other Dwellings	2	n.a.
Total Residential	37	54.2%
Value (\$'000)		
New Houses	9,827	161.0%
Other Dwellings	300	n.a.
Alterations & Additions	833	25.6%
Total Residential	10,960	147.5%
Non-Residential	9,118	40.4%
Total Building	20,078	83.8%

Note: Other dwellings includes flats, units and apartments.

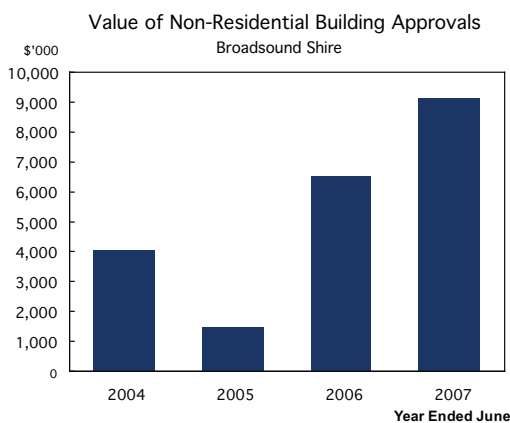
Source: ABS 8731.0

Broadsound Shire recorded a total value of residential building approvals of \$11.0 million in the year ended June 2007, 147.5% more than in the year ended June 2006.



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.



Source: ABS 8731.0

Industry

Broadsound has a range of established industries, with agriculture the dominant industry near the coast and mining the dominant industry inland. The aquaculture and tourism industries have grown in recent times.

Coal

There are six coal mines in Broadsound Shire, these being Foxleigh, German Creek Central, German Creek East, German Creek Southern, Norwich Park and Saraji.

In 2005-06, 17.5 Mt of saleable coal was produced in Broadsound Shire, 9.8% less than in 2004-05. There was also a decline in the volume of coal exported over this period, down 5.3% to 18.2 Mt.

Mining Statistics – Broadsound Shire

	Level 2005-06	Level 2004-05	Annual %change
Raw Production (Mt)	25.1	27.4	-8.6%
Saleable Production (Mt)	17.5	19.4	-9.8%
Exports (Mt)	18.2	19.2	-5.3%

Source: DNR&M

Agriculture

Agriculture is the largest industry in Broadsound on the eastern side of the Connors Range, with beef, sugar and grain the major contributors. In 2001, Broadsound traded around 234,000 head of cattle for meat production, while approximately 1.4 million tonnes of sugar cane were crushed at the Plane Creek Mill and around 175,000 tonnes of grain was produced for the region.

Major Projects

Anglo Coal's Lake Lindsay Open Cut Coal Project – Construction of Anglo Coal's \$690 million Lake Lindsay Open Cut Coal Project commenced in late 2006, and is expected to create up to an additional 150 full-time jobs in the region upon completion. This open cut coking and thermal coal mine is set to produce 3.7 million tonnes per annum of metallurgical and 0.3 million tonnes per annum of thermal coal for the export market from late 2006. As part of the project, a new coal preparation plant will be built adjacent to the German Creek mine rail loadout facility.

For More Information

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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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