



NEBO SHIRE COUNCIL
DELIGHT IN OUR DIVERSITY

Nebo Shire LGA Profile

December 2007

Nebo Shire is located 90 kilometres west of Mackay and offers a rich history linked to gold mining at Mount Britton, sheep farming, the cattle industry, the Bicentennial National Trail and the explorer William Landsborough.

Nebo Shire has a diverse range of offerings, including the largest volumes of coal deposits in the Bowen Basin, prime grazing land and crop cultivation.

Recently, there has been significant expansion in coal production, particularly at the Coppabella, Moorvale and Hail Creek mines. In addition to mining activities, the Shire is also a significant producer of store, fat and stud cattle as well as associated cattle products. Furthermore, the Shire has recently expanded its agriculture activities by entering the sugar industry.

Nebo Shire amalgamated with Broadsound and Belyando Shire's on 17 March 2008 following the local government election to form the Isaac Regional Council.

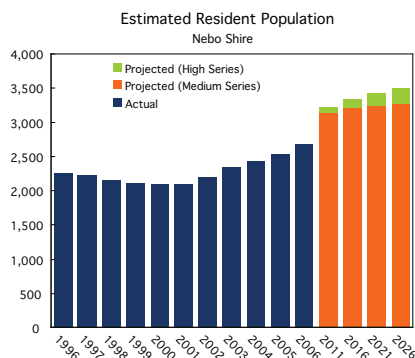


Population

There were an estimated 2,682 persons living in Nebo in 2006, 147 persons more than in 2005. Nebo accounted for 1.7% of the Mackay Whitsunday Region's population in 2006.

Between 2006 and 2026, the population of Nebo is projected to increase at an average annual rate of 1.0% to 3,267 persons by 2026. This translates to an extra 29 persons in Nebo each year between 2006 and 2026.

However, if current high growth experienced by the Mackay Whitsunday Region continues over the next 20 years, Nebo is expected to experience a higher growth rate of 1.3% per annum to 3,488 persons by 2026.



Source: ABS 3218.0, QDLGP Population Projections 2006, AECgroup

Employment

Nebo Shire recorded a trend labour force of 1,341 persons in the September Quarter 2007, 1.5% more than the September Quarter 2006. The number of trend employed (1,337 persons) and trend unemployed (4 persons) also experienced annual increases of 1.5% and 23.6%, respectively.

Trend Employment Indicators, Nebo Shire

	Sep Qtr 2007	% Change on Sep Qtr 2006
Labour Force (no.)	1,341	1.5%
Employed (no.)	1,337	1.5%
Unemployed (no.)	4	23.6%
Unemployment Rate (%) ^(a)	0.3%	0.0%

Note: This data is derived through trending the unsmoothed series from DEWR, thus the trend labour force does not necessarily equal trend employed persons plus trend unemployed persons. (a) The change in the unemployment rate is in percentage point terms.

Source: DEWR Small Area Labour Market Surveys, AECgroup

Nebo Shire continued to record the lowest trend unemployment rate in the Mackay Whitsunday Region in the September Quarter 2007 (0.3%).

The trend unemployment rate in the region has remained below 1.0% since the September Quarter 2004, although in recent quarters has trended marginally upwards.



Source: DEWR Small Area Labour Market Surveys, AECgroup

Housing

There were 12 residential buildings approved in the 2007 calendar year, 52.0% less than reported in 2006. Residential approvals were comprised of 10 new house approvals and 2 other dwelling approvals.

Building Approvals, Nebo Shire

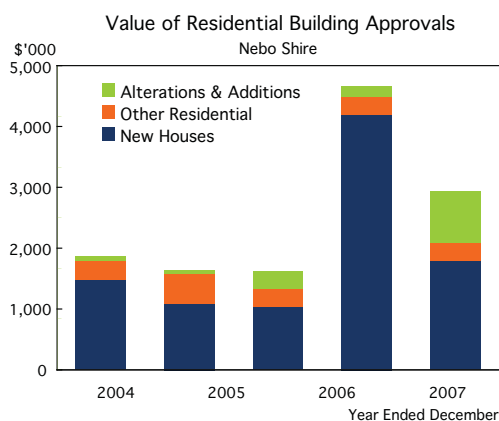
	Year Ended Dec 07	% change on Year Ended Dec 06
Number		
New Houses	10	-56.5%
Other Dwellings	2	0.0%
Total Residential	12	-52.0%
Value (\$'000)		
New Houses	1,796	-57.1%
Other Dwellings	300	0.0%
Alterations & Additions	853	404.7%
Total Residential	2,948	-36.7%
Non-Residential ^(a)	7,756	3,982.1%
Total Building	10,704	120.7%

Note: Other dwellings includes flats, units and apartments. (a) The significant growth in the value of non-residential building approvals is likely a reflection of the high number of mining and energy related projects being undertaken in the area.

Source: ABS 8731.0

Similar to the number of approvals, the value of residential building approvals also declined in 2007 (down 36.7%). This decline can largely be attributed to declines exhibited in the value of new house approvals (down 57.1%).

Despite recent declines, overall the value of residential building approvals has increased over the past four years.



Source: ABS 8731.0

The value of non-residential building approvals was \$7.6 million in 2007, representing a significant increase on the value recorded in 2006. Investment in Nebo Shire has been boosted by a number of mining and energy related projects in the area.

Industry

Coal - Coal mining is a key industry in Nebo Shire, with coal mines including Burton, Coppabella, Newlands, North Goonyella, South Walker Creek, Hail Creek and Moorvale. In recent years, coal mines located in Nebo Shire have contributed approximately 35% of total saleable coal production in the Mackay SD.

Agriculture - Beef cattle production has traditionally been the major agricultural activity in Nebo and even with the introduction of coal mining to the region the beef industry remains strong. Cattle are brought to the Nebo saleyards from surrounding shires before being sent to meatworks in Mackay and Rockhampton for processing. The value of livestock slaughterings and other disposals in Nebo Shire in 2001 was \$30.5 million.

Major Projects

There are approximately \$736.5 million in development projects currently committed or under construction, with a further \$435.9 million in estimated costs for projects currently under study.

The following list includes some of the significant current developments in Nebo Shire:

Mindi Electrical Substation - This Queensland Rail project involves the construction of a \$17.1 million, 132kV/50kV electrical substation at Mindi, 120km South West of Hay Point. This system will increase the coal hauling capacity of the Goonyella rail line.

Nebo to Pioneer Valley Transmission Line - This \$51 million Powerlink project will provide a 132 kV line to ensure continued reliability of supply to Mackay and surrounding areas.

Nebo to Strathmore Transmission Line - Powerlink has committed \$50 - \$70 million to develop a link between the Nebo and Strathmore substations.

Carborough Downs Coal Mine - This new, underground coal mining project will produce 1Mt per annum of metallurgical and thermal coal products for export purposes. There would be potential for production to increase to 3 Mt per annum with the introduction of longwall mining equipment. Vale has committed to develop this project for an estimated \$180 million.

Rail Line Duplication - A \$58 million duplication of the Goonyella coal system is currently under construction between Watonga and Broadlea and will significantly increase the capacity of coal freight along the Goonyella line.

For More Information

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