



Sarina Shire LGA Profile

December 2007

Sarina Shire offers a mix of rural, urban and coastal living and includes the islands of Prudhoe, Knight and Temple and the beach communities of Sarina Beach, Campwin Beach, Grasree Beach, Armstrong Beach, Half Tide / Salonika Beach and Louisa Creek.

Aside from the expansive beach and island environments, Sarina Shire includes picturesque mountain ranges, which complement the extensive water recreation opportunities.

The Shire offers a diverse range of attractions and services and is home to the largest coal exporting facility in the southern hemisphere at Hay Point and Dalrymple Bay. Sarina Shire is also a major sugar provider with associated industries such as the CSR Plane Creek Mill and Queensland's largest ethanol plant located in the town. Sugar milling, cane farming, and alcohol distilling are other major sugar industry practices in the area.

Other rural activities in the Shire include cattle grazing, dairying, tropical fruit growing, horticulture, aquaculture, and fishing. Additionally, tourists and residents are attracted to the numerous fishing spots along the Shire's coastline and estuaries.

Sarina Shire amalgamated with Mackay City and Mirani Shire on 17 March 2008 following the local government election to form the Mackay Regional Council.

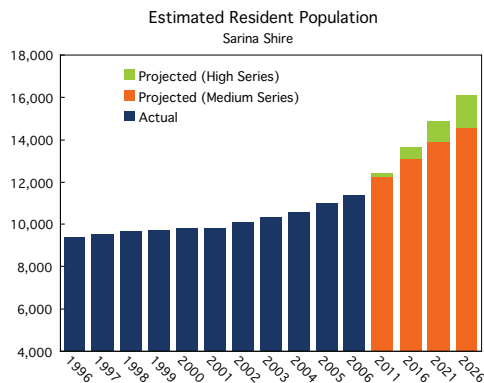


Population

There were an estimated 11,360 persons living in Sarina in 2006, 3.3% more than in 2005. Sarina accounted for 7.1% of the Mackay Whitsunday Region population in 2006.

Between 2006 and 2026, the population of Sarina is projected to increase at an average annual rate of 1.3% to 14,594 persons by 2026. This translates to an extra 162 persons in Sarina each year between 2006 and 2026.

However, if current high growth experienced by the Mackay Whitsunday Region continues over the next 20 years, Sarina is expected to experience a higher growth rate of 1.8% per annum to 16,150 persons by 2026.



Source: ABS 3218.0, QDLGP Population Projections 2006

Employment

Sarina Shire recorded a trend labour force of 5,422 persons in the September Quarter 2007, 1.6% more than the September Quarter 2006. The number of trend employed persons increased by 3.6% to 5,277 persons in the September Quarter 2007, while the trend number of unemployed persons declined by 39.6% to 148 persons when compared to same quarter one year ago.

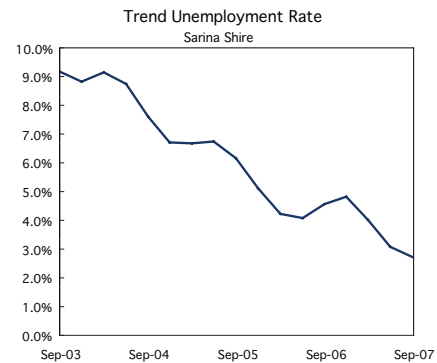
Trend Employment Indicators, Sarina Shire

	Sep Qtr 2007	% Change on Sep Qtr 2006
Labour Force (no.)	5,422	1.6%
Employed (no.)	5,277	3.6%
Unemployed (no.)	148	-39.6%
Unemployment Rate (%) ^(a)	2.7%	-1.9%

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

The trend unemployment rate in Sarina Shire was 2.7% in the September Quarter 2007, 1.9 percentage points less than in the September Quarter 2006.



Source: DEWR Small Area Labour Market Surveys, AECgroup

Housing

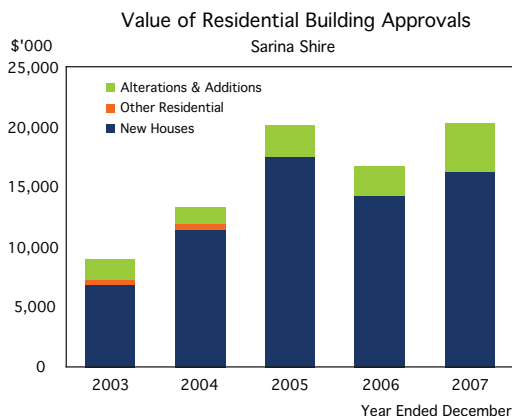
Sarina Shire recorded 64 new house approvals in the 2007 calendar year, 1.6% more than in 2006. No other dwelling approvals were recorded during the year.

Building Approvals, Sarina Shire

	Year Ended DEC 07	% Change on Year Ended DEC 06
<i>Number</i>		
New Houses	64	1.6%
Other Dwellings	0	n.a.
Total Residential	64	1.6%
<i>Value (\$'000)</i>		
New Houses	16,215	13.5%
Other Dwellings	0	n.a.
Alterations & Additions	4,058	70.4%
Total Residential	20,272	21.6%
Non-Residential	929	-94.2%
Total Building	21,202	-35.3%

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 also increased since 2006 by 21.6% to \$20.2 million. This increase was partly attributable to increases in the number and value of new house approvals (up 1.6% and 13.5%, respectively). The value of alterations and additions also increased over the year by 70.4%, to \$4.1 million.



Source: ABS 8731.0

Meanwhile, the value of non-residential building approvals declined in 2007 by approximately 94.2% to \$0.9 million.

Industry

Sugar - The Plane Creek Mill, owned by CSR, is located in Sarina Shire and has been crushing sugar since 1896. The mill also features a 60 megalitre ethanol production plant which distils ethanol product for a variety of uses.

In 2007, there were 1,447,716 tonnes of cane crushed at the Plane Creek Sugar Mill, producing 199,205 tonnes of sugar with an estimated value of \$66.2 million. The Plane Creek Mill accounted for approximately 14.8% of all sugar produced in the Mackay Whitsunday Region in 2007.

Other Agriculture - The Shire produces a variety of fruits, including mangoes, lychees, star apples, avocados, five corners, sapodillas, Jak fruit, logans and white sapote. The aquaculture industry is growing in Sarina Shire with a prawn hatchery at Grasstree Beach and an established aquaculture facility at Campwin Beach. Dairy production is also a significant industry, with 36% of all milk supplied to the Port Curtis Dairy Farm in Mackay originating from Sarina Shire.

Coal - Sarina Shire plays an integral role in the transportation of coal produced in the nearby Shires of Belyando, Nebo and Broadsound. Coal terminals located on the coast of Sarina Shire at Hay Point and Dalrymple Bay export over 80 million tonnes of coal annually.

Major Projects

Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal Expansion - Stage 7 involves a three-phase expansion of the terminal to take capacity from 60 Mtpa to 85 Mtpa by 2009. It includes construction of a third in-loading and out-loading stream, including a third ship-loader and a fourth berth, plus upgrading of the existing coal handling equipment and an increase in stockpile capacity. Estimated cost of the development is \$1.1 billion.

Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal Third Loop - This \$83 million project has recently been completed and included the construction of a third rail loop to service the third unloader being constructed by Babcock and Brown Infrastructure, and to improve staging and operations at the port.

Port of Hay Point - The Ports Corporation of Queensland recently completed this \$70 million project, which involved capital dredging to increase the allowable draft of departing vessels. The project increased the existing ship manoeuvring apron areas and created a 9.5km long, 300-500 metre wide departure path to the open ocean.

Hay Point Services Coal Terminal Expansion - The \$300 million expansion of the terminal has recently been completed to provide an upgrade of handling equipment to increase terminal capacity from 34 to 44 Mt of coal and coal products per annum.

Bolingbroke Substation - Along with the Mindi Substation in the Nebo Shire Council, the Bolingbroke substation will boost capacity to the power system to support increased traffic. The project will cost an estimated \$30 million.

Industry East Q - Massland has committed an estimated \$57.2 million to construct a heavy industrial park consisting of 44 hectares of Prime Industry including hardstand, adjoining the Hay Point Coal Terminal.

For More Information

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DISCLAIMER: The data produced in this document 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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