Townsville, Queensland, Australia
The dry tropics

The North Queensland region encompasses the area from Townsville west to Mount Isa and Ayr in the south to Ingham in the north.

The region is often referred to as the “Dry Tropics” and was built upon its diverse natural resources.

Townsville is Australia’s largest tropical city with a population of 200,000 and is the main government and business support centre in North Queensland.

Townsville North Queensland is recognised as Northern Australia’s largest economy and is a hub for growth and investment opportunity. The region offers a safe and stable investment platform underpinned by a wide range of industry sectors.

Townsville is recognised as one of Australia’s most stable and diverse regional economies, and is Australia’s 13th largest city with the largest population base in Northern Australia.

The region is proud of its economic heritage founded on a strong base of agriculture and resources, Australia’s largest military base, a port boasting a broad-based trade profile and a world-class university.
Key sectors

Food and agribusiness
The Burdekin and Ingham have a combined cane crush production of 12 million tonnes, equating to 1.6 million tonnes of raw sugar or 26% of Australia’s production. Climate and water infrastructure enables the Burdekin to produce a variety of crops and horticulture products such as sweet corn, melons, beans and mangoes.
Townsville exports a significant number of Bos Indicus feeder cattle to South East Asia, with potential additional growth dependant on external factors such as climate and demand. Cattle production provides feeder and slaughter cattle for these live export markets within Asia and the beef processing facility exports beef products to various global markets.

Transport services
The Port of Townsville is Northern Australian’s transport link to the world. With A$8 billion trade value, the Port of Townsville has 241 trading ports and a strategic link to Queensland’s North West Minerals Province estimated to be worth A$15 billion.
With a recent A$80 million port upgrade, the range of industries shipping through the Port highlights the diversity and strength of the region’s economy.

Mining and resources
Townsville is considered the gateway to Queensland’s vast mineral and energy wealth – the North West Minerals Province (NWMP) and the Galilee Basin.
The province is the second largest minerals mining area in the world, containing over 28% of the world’s known zinc reserves as well as major deposits of silver, lead, copper, iron ore and phosphate.
Townsville is the primary service centre for mining projects and processing base metals in the NWMP and hosts three major mineral processing facilities, including Sun Metals zinc refinery and Xstrata copper.
Combined, Townsville’s metal and mineral manufacturing sectors contribute over A$450 million (nearly 5%) to Gross Regional Product (GRP) each year, and provide around 2,500 local jobs.

Tropical science and expertise
With over 50% of the world’s population living in the tropics, the increasing wealth and population growth is driving demand and creating opportunities in tropical expertise and services for highly skilled professionals across a range of industries.
Drawing on the expertise in North Queensland, opportunities exist to develop applications in tropical health, environmental management, primary industries, industrial processes and chemicals, tropical infrastructure and urban design.
The internationally renowned tropical research facilities in North Queensland include:
• James Cook University
• Australian Institute of Marine Science
• Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
• Commonwealth Scientific & Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)

Education and training
Home to 4 world class educational institutions, including James Cook University (JCU), Central Queensland University (CQU), TAFE Queensland North and Tec-NQ (Technical College), Townsville is fast becoming a leader in tropical knowledge. With established expertise in the fields of medicine, health, education, sustainability, marine sciences and other disciplines relevant to The Tropics.
Townsville has over 60 primary and secondary schools and 2 English language course providers in the region. Study Townsville is the representative body promoting all study options to international students, with capability in all facets of International education.

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