



ENQUIRIES: Angelo Finocchiaro
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OUR REF: #4269435

7 February 2014

Geographic Labour Mobility
Productivity Commission
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Melbourne Vic 8003
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To whom it may concern

RE: Draft Geographic Labour Mobility Report

Cairns Regional Council provides this submission regarding the Productivity Commissions draft report into Geographic Labour Mobility.

Whilst the draft report is comprehensive, the matter of *service populations* (draft Recommendation 12.6) is raised.

The estimated resident population statistics released periodically by the ABS are used for a wide range of purposes, including determining the financial grants received by local government.

Cairns has a large number of temporary residents (mainly tourists) that impact on the delivery of services within the region. The *service population* of Cairns is approximately 18,000 persons or 11% higher than the resident population on an ongoing basis. These additional persons place significant pressure local services and infrastructure for which Council is not funded.

As funding is only provided to local governments to meet the needs of the permanent residential population, consideration should be given to expand draft recommendation 12.6 to include recognition of the non-resident population in local government funding decisions.

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate in contacting Mr Angelo Finocchiaro of Council's Economic Development team.

Yours faithfully

Peter Boyd
Manager Strategic Planning & Economic Development