

# community profile

communities working together

Tweed Shire Council

October 2004

part one - the place

part two - the people

part three - community wellbeing

part four - planning district profiles

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# Glossary

## Index of Terms appearing in this document

### **Australian Standard Geographic Classification (ASGC)**

ASGC is a hierarchically structured classification used by the ABS for the classification of spatial units by geographic areas within Australia. The areas used for census purposes and referred to in this Community Profile are:

**Collection District (CD);** The census Collection District (CD) is the smallest geographic area defined in the ASGC. CDs also serve as the basic building block in the ASGC and are used for the aggregation of statistics to larger census geographic areas. For the 2001 Census there is an average of about 225 dwellings in each CD. In rural areas the number of dwellings per CD declines as population densities decrease. CDs are defined for each census and are current only at census time.

### **Statistical Local Areas (SLA)–;**

In census years SLAs consist of one or more CDs. In intercensal years the SLA is the smallest spatial unit defined by the ASGC. SLAs are Local Government Areas (LGAs), or parts thereof.. eg. Murwillumbah township is one SLA

**Local Government Area (LGA)** Tweed Shire; The Local Government Area (LGA) is a geographical area under the responsibility of an incorporated local government council, or an incorporated Community Government Council in the Northern Territory. The number of LGAs and their boundaries can change over time. Their creation and delimitation is the responsibility of the respective State/Territory Governments, and are governed by the provisions of State/Territory local government Acts.

**Statistical Subdivision (SSD)** are a group of Statistical Local Areas – Tweed (A) Pt B

**Statistical Division (SD)** – Richmond-Tweed taking in Ballina, Byron, Casino, Kyogle, Lismore, Richmond Valley, Tweed (A) Pt B

An SD is a defined area that represents a large, general purpose, regional type geographic area. SDs represent relatively homogeneous regions characterised by identifiable social and economic links between the inhabitants and between the economic units within the region, under the unifying influence of one or more major towns or cities. They consist of one or more Statistical Subdivisions (SSDs) and cover, in aggregate, the whole of Australia without gaps or overlaps. They do not cross State or Territory boundaries and are the largest statistical building blocks of States and Territories. In New South Wales, proclaimed New South Wales Government Regions coincide with SDs except for North Coast, which consists of the SDs of Richmond-Tweed and Mid-North Coast.

### **Geographic Areas adopted by the NSW Department of Infrastructure, Planning & Natural Resources (DIPNR) and the Federal Government of Transport and Regional Services (DOTARS)**

Statistical data generated by these two government departments have been used in the Community Profile for comparison purposes. Within the broader area they identify as New South Wales North Coast, they group local government areas into two sub-districts and within these are grouped differently again:

**ABS** – North Coast – Clarence Valley, Ballina, Byron, Tweed, Lismore, Kyogle, Richmond Valley

**DIPNR** – Northern Rivers – Tweed, Ballina, Byron, Lismore, Kyogle, Richmond Valley, Clarence Valley

**DOTARS** – Northern Rivers - Tweed, Byron, Ballina, Lismore, Kyogle

## Common Census Terms

**Place of enumeration** – the census is conducted every five years **on the basis of counting people where they are on census night.**

**Place of Usual Residence** – this is the data derived from a question on the census that asks people what is their normal 'usual' address.

**Estimated Resident Population (ERP)** – the ERP is the official ABS estimate of the Australian population. The ERP is based on the results of the census and is compiled for each census and updated quarterly between census. The ERP is calculated by applying the following adjustments to the 'usual residence' census counts:

- ❑ Include Australian residents who were temporarily absent overseas on census night;
- ❑ Adjust the census counts for undercounting using results of the Post Enumeration Survey and;
- ❑ Backcast the resulting estimates which relate to 6 August 2001 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2001 using births, deaths and migration data.

**Under-enumerated**– All census counts refer only to people whom census collectors have been able to enumerate on census night. However, a very small number of people and dwellings would have been missed and some might have been counted more than once. The term attached to this is under-enumerated or undercounting. Homeless people contribute to this under-enumeration.

## Key Census Definitions

**Employed full-time** – In 2001 full-time is defined as having worked 35 hours or more in all jobs during the week prior to Census night; this was the same definition in 1996. In 1991, and 1986 full-time was defined as having worked 35 hours or more in the main job during the week prior to Census night.

**Family** – Two or more persons, one of whom is at least 15 years of age, who are related by blood, marriage (registered or de-facto), adoption, step or fostering, and who are usually resident in the same household. A household can contain more than one family.

**Household** – Group of people who are usually resident in a private dwelling and who eat together. Households can be classified as a family, lone person, group, or a household containing visitors only. More than one household may be resident in one dwelling: for example a shared house may comprise a one group household or several lone person households.

**Indigenous Australians** – Includes people who identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and, in 2001, both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.

**Industry** – The industry classification has undergone a major review since the 1991 census. This broad level table should be used as an indicator only.

**Journey to Work (JTW)** - Journey to Work data provide information on where a person works rather than where a person lives. The address of each employed person's usual workplace is used to code the work destination area. These destination areas are designed by the State Transport Authorities who require data on urban transport patterns to plan public transport systems.

**Labour Force** – Comprised of people aged 15 years or more who are either employed full-time or part-time, or are unemployed and are seeking either full-time or part-time employment.

**Median Age** – The age at which half the population are younger and half are older.

**Nil or Negative Income** – Indicates negative or nil income. Income derived from business or from rental properties may be a negative value.

**Non-private dwellings** – Establishments that provide a communal type of accommodation. Examples are hotels, motels, hospitals and residential colleges.

**Occupation** – The occupation classification underwent a major review after the 1991 census, so that census data from 1986 and 1991 are not directly comparable with 1996 and 2001.

**Occupancy Rate** – The number of persons counted in occupied private dwellings on Census night divided by the total number of occupied private dwellings counted on Census night in an area. This rate provides an

indication of the average number of persons per dwelling in specific areas for specific Census years.

**Occupied Private Dwellings** – Private Dwelling occupied by a household on Census night. Private dwellings can include separate houses, semi-detached row or terrace houses, flats, units and apartments, caravans, manufactured homes and tents, and self-care units in accommodation for the retired or aged.

**Other dwellings** – Attached dwellings such as semi-detached, row or terrace houses, townhouses and villa units, flats units and apartments that are mainly used for long term residential purposes.

**Private Dwellings** – A dwelling is a building or structure in which people live. Private dwellings include detached houses as well as other dwellings.

**Unemployment Rate** – Number of persons seeking full-time or part-time employment divided by the total labour force (employed plus unemployed). The resultant percentage figure indicates the proportion of the labour force actively seeking employment.

**Weekly Household Income** – The sum of the personal incomes of each resident present in the household.

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# Tweed Shire in Brief - Executive Summary

## **An Introduction**

In 2001 Tweed Shire was home to an estimated 74,380 persons. This is an increase of 7,516 persons since the 1996 census. Tweed Shire is located in the far northeast corner of NSW encompassing an area of 1,303 square kilometres adjacent to the Queensland border. It is one of the fastest growing Local Government Areas in Australia. Much of the Shire lies within the ring of an extinct volcano with the volcanic plug, Mt. Warning (1,157m) visible throughout the region. It is said that Captain James Cook named it thus in 1770 as he was exploring the East Coast of Australia and it was a warning to sailors. Called Wollumbin – one meaning said to be “cloud catcher” – by the local Aboriginal communities, Mt. Warning is clearly visible from the ocean. The Shire is very rich in biodiversity encompassing rainforest, to plains to coastal systems. The Tweed River weaves through the middle of the Shire spilling out at Point Danger. The river was used as a source of transportation in the early days of settlement. The remnants of the volcanic plug have given the Shire healthy soils in which a variety of agricultural crops are grown. The Shire incorporates eleven ecologically significant areas that are designated as either National Parks, State Forest or Nature Reserves.

The first European settler visitor to the area is recorded as John Oxley in 1823. He was followed by other explorers but it wasn't until 1844 that the first timber-getters began to settle in the area. They were followed by pioneer farmers in the 1860's. Prominent early settlers were Samuel Gray and Joshua Bray. Bray in particular was instrumental in establishing administration and social services in the Murwillumbah area. The Tweed Shire Local Government Area came into existence in 1947 through the amalgamation of the Murwillumbah municipality and the former Shire of Tweed. (Tweed Community Profile 1999).

In the years 1991 to 1996 the Shire averaged an annual growth rate of 3.9%. There are indications that this is beginning to slow as the average annual growth rate between 1996 and

1998 was 2.6% and between 1996 and 2001 it was 2.24%. Recent population projections prepared by the Hunter Valley Research Centre for the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources (DIPNR) for their Northern Rivers Regional Profile placed the population of the Shire in 2026 at 104,335 persons. Projections for individual age cohorts suggest that the two cohorts showing the most significant percentage change (upwards) will occur in the age cohorts 55 and over with the 60-64 (16.4%), 65-69 (14.4%) and 55-59 (13.1%).

## **Economic Base**

Major industries of employment in the Shire as recorded at the 2001 Census were: the Retail Trade (18.5%); Health and Community Services (11.34%); Construction (9.14%). Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing, traditional activities in the Shire, employed 5.46% of persons, down from 6.84% in 1996. An analysis of the industries that had shown the largest growth in employment between the 1996 and 2001 Census indicates that Cultural and Recreation Service had the highest growth with a 40.04% increase in the number of persons it employed. It was followed by Retail (27.07%), Health and Community Services (26.42%), Property and Business Services (23.47%).

In 2001 the Shire hosted 541,857 visitors, approximately 22% of visitors to the Northern Rivers. (The ABS changed its methodology in collection of visitor numbers in late 1997 and advises against making comparisons between years since 1998 and prior). It is estimated by the Bureau of Tourism Research that there were 2 million domestic visitors to the Far North East region in 2002. The Tweed visitors expended \$157,597,242 in the Shire. Just under 10% of employed people in the Tweed work in Tourism. It is estimated by the Bureau of Tourism Research that there were two million domestic visitors to the Far North East Region in 2002.

The other major industries of employment, or those showing high growth, such as Retail and Construction (particularly private dwellings)

Health and Community Services, Property and Business Services, reflect the continuing high growth pattern and the enlarging population base – particularly in the coastal areas. The number of new private dwellings being constructed in 2001 has increased to 814, double the number of 404 in the previous year. In the 2001/02 financial year Tweed Shire Council approved construction projects worth \$169,563,000, This is an increase from the 1996/97 financial year when it was 165.7 million dollars.

The value of agricultural production and employment in the sector continues to decline but is still strongly associated with the Shire and contributes \$47m to the Shire. Major crops include sugar cane, bananas, avocados, vegetables, some dairying and beef cattle raising. In 2001 there were 572 establishments with agricultural activity covering a total of 48,798 hectares. In the Richmond Tweed SSD there were 3,183 establishments covering 425,703 Ha. (ABS Regional Statistics NSW Cat 1362.1). In 2001, the total area of agricultural holdings in the Region accounted for 44% of the Region's total area.

In 1998 there were 3,219 registered business locations in Tweed Shire, with the majority of those (2,940) employing ten persons or less.

### **Age and Sex**

Current ABS estimates of Tweed Shire's population place it at 76,229 as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2002. At the 2001 ABS Census the count was 74,380 persons (minus 559 overseas visitors was 73,821). Of these 37,878 were females and 35,943 were males. In comparison with NSW at that time, Tweed Shire had a significantly lower proportion of its population in the 15 to 30 year age cohort and significantly higher proportion in the 60-79 year age cohort.

Over the years between 1986 and 2001 Census the age cohorts in Tweed Shire that showed the largest percentage increase were: 65 and over (7,393 persons to 16,891 persons or 128.5%) and 40-49 years (4,672 to 10,481 or 124.3%).

The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA)'s State of the Regions Report says that the North Coast of NSW will continue to experience significant change. In the Richmond-Tweed region in 2004 27% of residents are aged 55 and over. By 2011 that

will grow to 34% and by 2021, it will be 42%. The region will rank number four of Australian's 64 regions – just behind the NSW Mid-North - 47 % - the Wide Bay-Burnett region in Qld – 46 % - and Victoria's Gippsland on 44%. (ALGA/National Economics State of the Regions Report 2003/04)).

### **Persons Born Overseas**

In the 2001 Census 14.3% of Tweed Shire residents (10,636 persons) reported that they had been born overseas, compared with 13.5% (8,977 persons) at the 1996 Census and compared with 23.4% in NSW in 2001. The larger proportion of these had been born in one of the main English speaking countries, eg. the United Kingdom but 5.27% of respondents (3,920 persons) had been born in an 'other country' where English was not the main language. This was an increase from 1996 when it was 3.46% (2,301 persons).

The major overseas countries where people had been born were: the United Kingdom (5,221 persons), New Zealand (1,888 persons), Germany (399 persons) and the Netherlands (371).

In the population aged five years and over, 3.01% (2,066 persons) reported in the Census that they spoke a language other than English. The main other languages spoken were German, Dutch and Italian. Of those born overseas and who spoke a language other than English 249 persons (10.13%) reported that they spoke English 'not well/not at all'.

### **Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and Australian South Sea Islander Persons**

In 2001 1,867 persons in Tweed Shire identified themselves as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander or both. This number represented 2.51% of the Tweed Shire population and 1.56% of the Indigenous population of NSW at that time. It is recognised that this community is subject to significant under-enumeration in the census and these numbers and the following data should be considered with that in mind. Bogangar (Rural South Coast) was the Planning District with the highest proportion of Indigenous people with 3.3% of the population.

The proportion, 2.5% compares with NSW (1.9% of the general population) and with previous census 1986 (1.65%), 1991 (1.78%) and 1996 (2.2%). The actual number of persons recorded in the 2001 census reflected

an increase of 406 persons or 5.0% over the five years from 1996. It is not known if this reflects a genuine increase or more people completing the census.

The 2001 age profile of the Aboriginal and Torres Straits Islander community was significantly younger than that of the general Tweed Shire population. For example, 14.35% of the Indigenous community were aged 5-9 years compared with 7% of the general community. Only 3.11% of the Indigenous community were 65 years of age or older compared with 22.8% of the broader community.

This younger age profile was reflected in Labour Force data from the 2001 census with 55.06% of the Indigenous community in the Labour force in comparison with 45.91% of the general community. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons were slightly more likely to be involved in part-time rather than full-time work (an upward trend since 1986) and had a significantly higher unemployment rate. Compared with 5.8% of persons aged 15 years and over in the general population who were unemployed, 12.71% of Indigenous persons in this age group were unemployed.

### **Australian South Sea Islanders**

*(This information is from the Tweed Community Profile 1999 as there has been no update for this community)*

The Australian South Sea Islander community in the Northern Rivers area was identified in a 1992 Census undertaken by the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission as the fourth largest in Australia and at that time was thought to number 950 persons in 250 households. This represented 8% of all Australian South Sea Islanders in Australia at that time. There has not been an update on this since then so the information relating to this group of people is from the Tweed Shire Community Profile 1999. Descended from persons who were brought here forcibly in the 19<sup>th</sup> century to work in the cane fields, the main countries to which Tweed Shire residents traced their ancestral origin in a 1998 survey were Vanuatu (75%) and the Solomon Islands (45%). The Northern Rivers Area Health Service (NRAHS) undertook a survey of the South Sea Islander people in 1998 and obtained responses from 495 people in 172 households. A majority of these respondents identified themselves as Australian South Sea

Islanders (66%) and a further 30% identified themselves as belonging both to the South Sea Islander community and the Indigenous community. The NRAHS survey identified that the proportion of persons aged 15 years and over who were recorded as unemployed was 16%, just slightly lower than the Indigenous community in the 1996 Census (18.16%) but still higher than the general community (7.35%). More than half of the survey respondents in 1998 were receiving a government benefit and 76% had an individual gross income of less than \$20,000 per annum.

### **Religious Affiliation**

In the 2001 census 53,850 persons (72.95%) identified themselves as belonging to a Christian religion. The largest numbers of persons belonged to the Anglican, Catholic, Uniting and Presbyterian denominations. A further 419 persons (0.57%) indicated that they identified with a non-Christian religion, the largest of these being Hinduism (0.42% of the population). Other significant non-Christian communities in the Shire are Islam and Judaism.

In total 10,188 persons in Tweed Shire (13.80%) reported that they followed 'no religion' compared with 9,880 (14.85%) in the 1996 Census. This category included persons who recorded Agnosticism, Atheism, Humanism and Rationalism on their census form.

### **Education**

In 2001 15,526 respondents or 21.03% were enrolled at an educational institution, very similar to 1996 with 21.01%. The most significant difference between Tweed Shire and NSW overall occurred in the area of persons enrolled in 'University or other Tertiary Institutions'. Tweed Shire had 1.32% of persons in this category compared with 3.43% at the Richmond-Tweed level and 4.63% at State level. Tweed students comprised just 0.02% of all persons in this category in NSW. However, this has decreased over the decade since 1991 when it was 0.80%. Of persons aged 15 years and over at the 2001 Census, 19,994 (33.58%) had left school at Year 10 or equivalent.

Over the ten year period between the 1991 and 2001 census the proportion of persons with a Higher Degree, Undergraduate Degree or Diploma increased. For example 4.97%

held a Bachelor Degree compared with 3.31% in 1991. Over the same period the proportion of persons with a 'Basic Vocational' qualification fell from 19.04% in 1991 to 17.89% in 2001. The areas in which the highest proportions of persons 15 years and over held qualifications in 2001 were Management and Commerce (5.27%), Health (3.23%) and Architecture and Building (3.54%).

### Employment

At the 2001 Census 27,333 persons (45.91%) of those aged 15 years and over were in the Labour Force compared with 24,768 persons or 46.96% in 1996, 50% in 1991 and 48.93% in 1986. Employment trends (per cent of persons aged 15 years and over) evident over the five years between 1996 and 2001 were:

- ❑ A decrease in full-time employed – 23.76% in 1996 to 22.48% in 2001;
- ❑ An increase in part-time unemployed - up from 14.81% in 1996 to 22.48% in 2001;
- ❑ A decrease in unemployed – down from 7.35% in 1995 to 5.80% in 2001.

The actual proportion of persons in the Labour Force in Tweed Shire decreased from 51.14% in 1996 to 49.85% in 2001. Tweed Shire's Labour Force grew by 2,566 persons (9.95%) between 1996 and 2001 compared with 5.5% in NSW. Differences between males and females in 2001 included: Females had a lower participation rate in the Labour Force than males and were much more likely to be in part-time employment (20.05% for females and 12.21% for males). Males had higher rates of unemployment than females. This situation was the same at the 1996 Census.

The overall unemployment rate, or the proportion of persons in the Labour Force unemployed, was 12.65% in 2001, a similar rate to the Northern Rivers area (12.9%), but significantly higher than the State level of 7%. In 2001 the age cohorts with the highest unemployment rate were 20-24 years (16.99% or 453 persons) and 15-19 years (10.70% or 481 persons). In 1996 the highest unemployment rate was in the 15 –19 years (24.32%) and the 20-24 years (25.36%). The highest unemployment rate for young people 15-19 years (21.18% or 86 persons) was in the Murwillumbah Planning District.

The occupations in which most people were employed in 2001 were: 'Intermediate Clerical,

Sales and Service Workers' (16.32%), 'Tradespersons and Related Workers' (14.05%), and 'Professionals' (13.66%). In comparison with New South Wales and the Northern Rivers region, Tweed Shire had lower proportions of persons employed as 'Managers and Administrators', and 'Professionals'. For example, in the 'Professional category' Tweed had 13.66% compared with the NSW figure of 19.1%.

The 'Retail Trade' was the largest industry of employment in the Shire, providing jobs for 4,417 (18.50%) of the working Labour Force. Other large employers were: 'Health and Community Services' (11.34%), 'Construction' (9.15%), 'Accommodation, Cafes and Restaurants' (8.78%) and 'Property and Business Services' (8.72%).

### Individual, Household and Family Income

In 2001, 59.21% of those aged 15 years and over in Tweed Shire had an individual weekly income of between \$120 and \$500 per week. 16.56% of individuals had a weekly income of less than \$160 per week. Compared with NSW (19.87%) there were 30.63% of individuals with a weekly income of between \$1-\$199 in Tweed Shire and 25.93% in the Richmond-Tweed SD.

The proportion of households in the North Coast earning weekly household incomes of less than \$500 was 46.6% compared with 31.6% for NSW, while only 15% of households had an income of \$1,200 or more, compared with 32.7% for NSW. The median household weekly income in Tweed Shire in 2001 was \$500-\$599 compared with \$800-\$899 for New South Wales. Just under 18% of people aged 15 or more in the Northern Rivers earn between \$200-\$299 per week; this is the most common income band for the Northern Rivers region. 12 % of NSW are in this income band.

An analysis of family income by family type, based on the 2001 Census data indicates that in the lowest income levels – less than \$300 per week – there were:

- 5.44% of Couple Family with Children
- 27.73 Couple Family without Children
- 38.64% One Parent Families
- 18.05% 'Other families'

In comparison with New South Wales, Tweed Shire had proportionally more families with incomes in the low to middle range and fewer

with high incomes. Median family income in Tweed in 2001 was \$600-\$699 per week compared with \$800-\$899 in NSW.

The low income profile is reflected in ABS estimates of Average Weekly Household Expenditure. In Richmond –Tweed this expenditure was \$607.49 compared with \$829.14 in NSW.

### **Marital Status**

In Tweed Shire in 2001 of persons aged 15 years and over:

32,120 (53.54%) were married;  
2,309 (3.85%) were separated;  
5,863 (9.77%) were divorced;  
5,200 (8.67%) were widowed;  
14,498 (24.17%) had never married.

Between the 1991 and 2001 Census there has been an upward trend in the proportion of persons who recorded themselves as divorced, separated or widowed. For example in 1991, 6.50% were divorced compared with 9.77% in 2001. Tweed Shire had higher proportions in each of these three categories compared with both NSW and the Northern Rivers. In 2001 9.77% of Tweed residents were divorced compared with 7.2% in New South Wales.

### **Families and Households**

In 2001 67.44% of households (20,029) in Tweed Shire were comprised of 'One family' and 27.08% (7,765) were 'Lone person' households. The most common household was a 'Couple family without children' comprising 30.74% of all households. This compared with 34.9% for New South Wales. In the Northern Rivers Region Tweed Shire was the LGA with the highest proportion of households consisting of 'Couples without Children' and 'Lone person' households (shared with Grafton LGA). In comparison with the State the Shire also had higher proportions of 'One parent' and 'Lone person' households and a lower proportion of 'Couple families with children.'

The most common household size was two persons (39.40%) followed by one person households (27.26%).

Considering persons living in households, from 1996-2001:

- The proportion of persons living in 'Couple families with children' peaked in 1991 at 51.24% declining since then to 42.61% in 2001;
- The proportion of persons living in 'One parent families' increased from 9.89% in 1991 to 13.94% in 2001;
- The proportion of persons living in 'Lone person households' increased from 9.08% in 1991 to 11.66% in 2001.

Summarising the living circumstances of children under the age of fourteen years in 2001:

- 70.4% of children lived in a 'Couple family' compared with NSW (77.0%); and
- 25.3% of children lived in a 'One parent family' compared with NSW (17.5%).

In 2001 there were 2,086 persons, aged 75 years and over, living alone in Tweed Shire. Of the total of lone person households this is 26.86%. Of those aged 75 years and over 1,468 were female and 618 were males.

### **Housing**

In the ten year period between the 1991 and 2001 Census, the proportion of private dwellings described as 'separate house' increased from 72.23% to 76.37%. The proportion described as 'caravan, cabin, houseboat' declined from 8.67% to 6.08%. This decline was offset by strong growth in the proportion of 'semi-detached, row or terrace house, townhouse, flat, unit up from 17.77% in 1991 to 23.30% in 2001.

The tenure of residents in private dwellings – proportionally – changed slightly over the ten years to 2001. In 2001:

48.08% of dwellings were 'fully owned';  
18.82% of dwellings were 'being purchased';  
26.42% of dwellings were 'being rented',  
2.60% from a State/Territory Housing Authority.

This tenure profile varied most from New South Wales in the proportion of persons renting from a State/Territory Housing Authority. In NSW overall, 4.87% of dwellings were rented in this manner compared with 2.60% in Tweed. Data from the Department of Housing, and current at September 2004, indicated that there were 2,672 applicants for public housing through the Tweed Heads office and a further 231 in Murwillumbah.

With respect to monthly mortgage payments, a higher proportion of Tweed Shire home purchasers were making repayments of \$1,000-\$1199 a month (14.72%) than at the State level (12.48%). Only 3.84% of Tweed Shire purchasers were in the highest repayment category of \$2,000 or more per month compared with 13.19% in New South Wales.

The most common range within which people were paying rent in the 2001 Census was between \$15-\$199 per week. Tweed Shire had proportionally more households paying this rate (35.64%) compared with NSW (20.82%). It had smaller proportions paying under \$100 a week (15.5%). Tweed Shire had 14.13% of households per week paying rent, compared with NSW (22.81%) and the Richmond-Tweed SD (13.28%).

### Transportation

The highest proportion of households in Tweed Shire in 2001 (48.15%) of households in Tweed Shire had access to one motor vehicle and 27.71% had access to two. The proportion of households with no motor vehicle at 10.19% was higher than for New South Wales (8.08%). The highest proportion of employed persons in Tweed Shire in 2001 (59.77%) drove themselves to work in a car. A further 6.97% travelled in a car as a passenger. A total of 6.35% reported that they 'worked at home'.

### Health

Hospital visitations are one indicator of the health of the community. The count is done on 'separations' – these are not the same as admissions. People may be admitted once, but counted as several different separations as they move to different status within the hospital, eg. from orthopaedics to rehabilitation. In 2002/03 there were 16,240 hospital separations. The most frequent users of hospital services were children aged 0-4 years (9.49%), and senior adults aged 65 years and over. The 65-69 year age cohort had the second highest proportion of separations (8.77%). Those aged 75 years and over accounted for 20.08% of separations even though they made up only 6.02% of the population separations of Tweed Residents. In 2002/03, 36% of all separations at the Tweed Hospital were Queensland residents.

The most common separations at the Tweed hospital in 2002/03 were:

- Orthopaedics
- Non Subspecialty Surgery
- Cardiology

The most common separations at the Murwillumbah Hospital in 2002/03 were:

- Obstetrics
- Orthopaedics
- Unqualified Neonate

In the period 1996-2000, incidence and death for melanoma of the skin were significantly higher in the Northern Rivers than the State average. The incidence was higher in males (12 per 100,000) than for females (3 per 100,000), and compared with males in NSW (7.4 per 100,000). The hospital separation rates for injuries due to interpersonal violence among 0-14 year olds were slightly higher than the state average. Overall, it was higher with a rate of 44.2 per 100,000 in the NRAHS and 34.5 per 100,00 for NSW. In the NRAHS in 2001 whooping cough notifications were the second highest in the state at 155 per 10,000. Tweed residents had higher death rates caused by intentional self harm (13.6 per 100,000) than NSW (11.1 per 100,000).

### Disability and Aged

The Australian Bureau of Statistics in a 1993 Census estimated that around 16% of the Australian population had some form of disability. This figure is likely to be conservative in areas with an older age profile because of the links between age and disability and frailty. The prevalence of disability is lower in the Richmond Tweed area than in the State with approximately 17% of the regional population having some form of disability compared with 19% in the State. Based on the latest population estimate available, 74,380 persons in 2001, and using the proportion of 17% of the population have disability Tweed Shire could expect to have approximately 12,645 persons with some form of disability. This compares with 1996 when the estimate was 11,292 persons with some form of disability.

By 2016 it is predicted that the proportion of people in the NRAHS aged 65 years and over will have increased from 17% (in 2001) to 23% of the total population. This 65+ years age group has the highest growth rate within the

Northern Rivers. This is significantly higher than projections for the aged population of NSW, which will experience a growth from 13% to 17% over the same period. ((Interim Population Projections NSW Health April 2003).

Data from Centrelink for the 1995, 1996, 1997 and 2002 calendar years shows that the number of Tweed residents in receipt of a Disability Support Pension rose from 2,247 (1995) to 4,239 (2002) over that period.

Data on recipients of services funded through the Commonwealth/State Disability Agreement in the Far North Coast area on one day in May 2002 (a snapshot) numbered 388 persons. The highest proportion of persons receiving services had primary disabilities classified as: Intellectual (55.93% or 217 persons), Physical (12.11% or 47 persons) and Developmental Delay (10.82% or 42 persons). The Far North Coast had significantly higher proportions than New South Wales of persons in the disability areas of: Developmental Delay (10.82% compared with 3.4%), Autism (5.67% and 4.63%), Acquired brain injury (3.53% and 2.46%), Speech (2.84% and 0.89%). Further investigation would be required to begin to hypothesise as to the reasons for the higher incidence of these disabilities.

### **Centrelink Payments**

Data on Centrelink payments indicate that as at June 2002 27,512 persons in Tweed Shire were in receipt of payments, excluding family payment. The largest categories were Aged Pensions (11,731), Disability Support (4,239) and other (3,823).

Within the Far North East Region (DOTARS Regional Profile) as at June 2001 Tweed (A) – Part A (i.e. the Tweed Heads urban area and immediate surrounds) had the highest proportion (45.0%) of people aged 15 years and over receiving income support payments. Tweed (A) – Part B (the remainder of the Shire) had 41.8%. High rates of income support (for example, more than 40% of the population aged 15 years and over) may indicate that an area is likely to be economically stressed. A high proportion of aged persons in an area may contribute to a high rate but will also indicate the level of financial resources available from such people in a region.

At June 2001 this region had an overall rate of 41.1% of persons aged 15 years and over receiving an income support payment from Centrelink compared with New South Wales (27.2%). The Region's older age profile and high unemployment rate are contributing factors to this very high rate.

### **Law and Justice**

The NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research calculated that over the 24 month period to end December 2002 there was a statistically significant increase in the Tweed Heads SSD in: Break and Enter – dwelling (up by an average of 15 % in each year); Stealing from a motor vehicle (13%). There were no offences for which there was a significant downward trend in the Tweed Heads SSD or Richmond-Tweed (Balance) SSD. For the category of assault within the Northern Rivers Tweed LGA had the lowest rate of 757 per 100,000 population. (Hunter Valley Research June 2003).

Tweed Shire had the second highest rate of Domestic assault in the Northern Rivers with a rate of 382.2 per 100,000 compared with the Richmond-Tweed (358.8) and New South Wales (287.8). The Tweed rate for Personal assault is higher than New South Wales (228.0 to 109.1 per 100,000).

Of criminal incidents recorded as at 2002 the highest proportions were in: Theft (70.68%), Malicious damage to property (13.27%) and Assault (10.9%).

In 2001-2002, for Tweed Shire there were 38 children in a final court appearance by most serious offence where the offence occurred in a NSW Department of Juvenile Justice Detention Centre. This represented 12.46% of all juvenile court appearances in the Richmond-Tweed Statistical Division. The most common offence was theft and related offences and Road traffic and motor vehicle regulatory.

### **Tweed Shire Planning Districts**

Tweed Shire Council has developed seven 'Planning Districts' to facilitate locality based planning for future growth and development in the Shire. Brief profiles of each of these Districts are available separately. The seven Districts are as follows:

District One: Tweed Heads

Tweed Heads, Tweed Heads West, Tweed Heads South, Banora Point, Bilambil Heights, Bilambil/Piggabeen

District Two: Rural North Coast

Chinderah, Fingal, Kingscliff, Cudgen Village, Cabarita Beach, Bogangar, Rural North Coast

District Three: Rural South Coast

Hastings Point, Pottsville, Burringbar

District Four: Dulguigan / Tumbulgum

North Tumbulgum, Tumbulgum, Dulguigan, Carool

District Five: Murwillumbah District

Wardrop Valley, Murwillumbah, Condong

District Six: Rural South West

Uki, Stokers Siding, Dunbible, Rural South West

District Seven: Rural North West

Tyalgum, Rural North West, Chillingham





**Part One: Tweed Shire  
– The Place**

## 1.1 Overview

Tweed Shire is home to an estimated 74,380 (ABS 2001). Located in the northeast corner of New South Wales the Shire has a total area of 1,303 square kilometres. To the north it is bounded by the Queensland-NSW border, Beaudesert Shire and the City of the Gold Coast. To the east is the Pacific Ocean, with the Local Government Areas (LGA) of Kyogle, Lismore and Byron completing the geographic boundaries. Together with the LGAs of Richmond Valley, Ballina, and Clarence Valley they are often grouped for planning and service delivery purposes as the Northern Rivers. The Northern Rivers in turn forms part of a broader region referred to as the NSW Far North Coast. This region incorporates up to eight more LGAs extending south along the NSW coast to Great Lakes. The exact number of LGAs included is different for different State and Federal Government Departments.

The Australian Bureaus of Statistics (ABS) places the Tweed Shire in the Richmond-Tweed Statistical Division that also includes the LGAs of Byron, Kyogle, Richmond Valley, Lismore, and Ballina. The Division is further divided into two statistical sub-divisions, Richmond-Tweed SD Bal (SSD) and Tweed Heads (SSD). The area of the Shire referred to as Tweed Shire (A) Pt B falls with the other LGAs into Richmond-Tweed SD Bal (SSD). The part of the Shire referred to as Tweed (A) Pt A makes up the whole of the Tweed Heads Statistical Sub-Division.

For the purposes of State and Federal political representation, Tweed Shire is in the State Electorate of Murwillumbah and the Federal Electorate of Richmond.

Locally the Tweed Shire Council has defined seven Planning Districts or “communities of interest”. These districts form a unit for analysis for ABS Census data in this profile. The seven districts and the localities they incorporate are:

1. **Tweed Heads** – Tweed Heads, Tweed, Heads West, Tweed Heads South, Banora Point, Bilambil Heights, Bilambil/Piggabeen, Terranora
2. **Rural North Coast** - Chinderah, Fingal, Kingscliff, Cudgen Village,

Cabarita/Bogangar, Rural North Coast Balance

3. **Rural South Coast** – Hastings Point, Pottsville, Burringbar area
4. **Dulguigan / Tumbulgum** - North Tumbulgum, Tumbulgum, Dulguigan, Carool
5. **Murwillumbah** - Wardrop Valley, Murwillumbah, Condong
6. **Rural South West** - Uki, Stokers Siding, Dunbible
7. **Rural North West** - Tyalgum, Rural North West Balance, Chillingham

The Pacific Highway runs North-South through the Tweed Shire. Entering Coolangatta, the ‘Twin Town’ of Tweed Heads that lies adjacent to the Queensland-NSW border, the highway follows the river to Murwillumbah, the administrative centre of the Shire. The drive is through lush, scenic farmland and pastoral country with the larger part of the Shire framed within the circle formed by the caldera of an extinct volcano. The Shire’s major landmark is Mt. Warning, the central core of the volcano. Called Wollumbin – one meaning said to be “cloud catcher” – by the local Aboriginal communities, Mt. Warning is clearly visible from sea. It, along with another prominent landmark, Point Danger, was given its current name by Captain James Cook when he explored along the East Coast of Australia in 1770.

The Shire contains a number of significant National Parks – Mt. Warning, the Nightcap Ranges, the Border Ranges and a portion of Lamington National Park – which attract tourists to their rainforest walks. Along the coast, Tweed Heads and a series of seaside communities, from Fingal through to Pottsville, have attracted holiday-makers spanning generations. Together, the two environments provide a spectacular diversity of plant and animal life that is a further attraction for both visitors and residents.

From Murwillumbah, the highway continues south turning back towards the coast before leading into Byron Shire.

The climate of the area is described as sub-tropical maritime and has the highest, average rainfall in NSW, receiving an average of 1,631.9 mm per year. The maximum mean temperature is 25.7 degrees celsius and the minimum mean is 14.3 degrees celsius. (Bureau of Meteorology).

## 1.2 History and development

### Original Inhabitants

*(The Indigenous history is sourced from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Issues Paper, C. Williams, S. Smith, and M. Watego, for Tweed Council, March 2001).*

The traditional inhabitants of much of the Northern Rivers region prior to white settlement were the Bundjalung people, who lived in the areas from south-east Queensland through to Grafton in NSW. The Tweed Local Government Area lies within the boundaries of the Bundjalung Tribal Dialect Territory. The breakdown of group affiliations within this Bundjalung Tribal area is complex with at least 20 dialects being spoken by the groups. Some of the names of the groups of local Bundjalung people are Nganduwal, Coodjungburra, Tul-gi-Gin, Moorung-Moobar, Minjungbal, Galibal, Wybal. This list is not exhaustive as there are many affiliated groups outside of the Tweed LGA boundary.

Historical accounts of Aboriginal settlement patterns in the Tweed area from the 1900's onward are scarce. Historical records point to unofficial settlements at Tyalgah, Duranbah Hill, South Tweed Heads, Fingal Headland and a number of individual Aboriginal families continued to live around the Murwillumbah area in the early 1900's. Today, the Australian Bureau of Statistics show Tweed Heads, Tweed Heads South and the Tweed Coast as being the main settlement places for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

A significant event in the life of Tweed Aboriginal people was the introduction of slave labourers from the South Sea Islands in the early 1900's. They were brought in to cut sugar cane. Many of them married Aboriginal people.

A number of sites in the now Tweed Shire hold particular spiritual significance for the local people. Wollumbin – Mt. Warning – is the most significant of these. Other important sites in the Shire are the bora rings at Tyalgum, Tweed Heads South and Wooyung, a cave at Point Danger, a rock shelter at Doon Doon and stone arrangements in the Wollumbin area. (North Coast Institute for Aboriginal Education 1998;39 as in Tweed Community Profile 1999). It is not known how many people lived in the Tweed Valley prior to European

settlement. Joshua Bray in 1863 estimated that there were around 600 people in the Murwillumbah area. (North Coast Institute for Aboriginal Education 1998;6 as in Tweed Community Profile 1999).

### European Settlement

*(Much of this history is from the Tweed Council Community Profile 1999).*

Although Captain James Cook sighted and named Point Danger and Mt. Warning in May 1770, he missed the opening of the Tweed River and the first European to view the Tweed was John Oxley in October 1823. The second visitor is reported to be Henry John Rous, five years later in 1828. The first Cedar-getters arrived on the Tweed in 1844 and other settlement followed slowly. Pastoralists started taking up large tracts of land encouraged by the British Government. Sometime in 1851-1852 the first cattle arrived in the area. In 1862, Samuel Gray and his wife's brother, Joshua Bray, settled in the area that was to become Murwillumbah.

The first local government municipality was declared in 1902 based in Murwillumbah and this confirmed Murwillumbah's importance as the trade and administrative centre of the area. On December 18<sup>th</sup>, 1906, the Shire of Tweed covering 1,322 square kilometres was declared. In 1947, after 40 years of operating as separate administrations, the two councils were amalgamated as Tweed Shire with a combined population of 10,000 people.

A significant part of Tweed Shire's history has been the Australian South Sea Islander community, identified by the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission to be the fourth largest such community in Australia. They came from eight islands, mainly Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands, but also New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Kiribati and Tuvalu. In Cudgen, the area in which the sugar industry was pioneered, the cemetery contains the names of South Sea Islanders going back as far as 1884. A National Census of Australian South Sea Islanders conducted by the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity

Commission in 1992 estimated that there were around 950 people or 250 households living in the Northern Rivers area, many of whom live in the Tweed Valley. A local health survey in 1998 identified 230 households as potential participants.

## 1.3 Economic base

Table 1.3.1 shows the industries that have demonstrated the most growth in employment numbers between the 1996 and 2001 Census counts. The industries that have experienced

most growth reflect both population growth and the importance of tourism.

**Chart 1.3.1**

***Growth Industries, Percent change 1996/2001 Census, Tweed Shire***

Source: ABS Census 1996 and 2001

Industry Type	Persons 1996	Persons 2001	Percent Change 96-01
Health and Community Services	2,142	2,708	26.42%
Property and business Services	1,687	2,083	23.47%
Education	1,373	1,616	17.70%
Personal and Other Services	724	860	18.78%
Manufacturing	1,615	1,721	6.56%
Construction	1,886	2,184	15.80%
Communication	311	289	-7.07%
Cultural and Recreation Services	447	626	40.04%
Retail	3,476	4,417	27.07%

### **Tourism**

Tourism is a major industry in the Shire. In 2001 the Shire hosted 541,857 visitors, approximately 22% of visitors to the Northern Rivers. (The ABS changed its methodology in collection of visitor numbers in late 1997 and advises against making comparisons between years since 1998 and prior). It is estimated by the Bureau of Tourism Research that there were 2 million domestic visitors to the Far North East region in 2002. The Tweed visitors expended \$157,597,242 in the Shire.

As at June 2002 there were 22 Hotels, Motels with Facilities in the Tweed Shire. This

comprised 707 guest rooms, 224 bed spaces and employed 182 persons. For the Richmond Tweed SSD there were 59 establishments comprising 1,716 guest rooms, 5,471 bed spaces and employed 522 persons. (Regional Statistics NSW 200.3 Cat. No. 1362.1) Expenditure by domestic visitors in the region (DOTAR) is only available for 1999 when it was estimated at around \$573m. There were an estimated 196,000 international visitors who stayed a total of 1,253,000 nights or on average 6.4 nights each. (DOTARS Far North East NSW Regional Profile 2003).

**Table 1.3.2**

***Estimates of Visits, Nights and Visitors' Expenditure for Tweed Shire***

Source: Bureau of Tourism Research, National Visitor Survey 1999, ABS 2001

Tweed LGA	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Visitors	414,000	403,000	399,004	541,857	429,000
Nights	1,390,000	1,570,000	1,271,953	2,284,018	1,700,000
Expenditure	-	-	-	\$157,597,242	-
Day Trips	877,000	777,000	738,697	638,440	580,000
Avg. Nights	3.36	3.90	3.19	4.22	3.96
Avg. Expend.	-	-	-	\$290.85	-
Avg. daily Expenditure	-	-	-	\$69.00	-

**Table 1.3.3****Tourist Accommodation, Hotels, Motels, Guest Houses and Serviced Apartments (a), Selected LGAs, Far North East NSW Region (b) –2001-02**

LGA	Ballina (A)	Byron (A)	Lismore (C)	Tweed (A)	Total Far North East NSW (b)	NSW
<b>2001-02</b>						
Establishments at June quarter	13	12	8	22	55	1313
Employment at June quarter	113	135	69	182	499	33568
Rooms at June quarter	374	319	224	707	1624	64072
Guest arrivals	89246	80860	44058	1313354	345518	11540387
Room nights occupied	75211	71992	45266	128041	320510	13536479
Room occupancy rates	54.9%	59.9%	54.4%	48.5%	53.0%	57.0%
Takings \$'000	5903	10271	2758	9842	28774	1661511

(a) Only hotels, motels etc, with 15 or more rooms included in survey

(b) Total Region includes Ballina, Byron, Lismore and Tweed LGAs, Tourism data for Kyogle LGQ are not available

Source: ABS, Survey of Tourist Accommodation

In 1999-2000 annual takings were \$23.1m increasing to \$25.7m in 2000-01. In 2001-02 the takings represented 1.7% of the total for NSW. The LGAs of Byron and Tweed attract the largest share of the tourist accommodation dollar within the region. In 2001-02 takings in Tweed were \$9.8m and in Byron \$10.3m, which were 34.2% and 35.7% respectively of the Region's annual total. (DOTARS)

The Registered Clubs Industry is an important part of the Tourism industry attracting large numbers of Queensland visitors. In the 1996/97 financial year, registered clubs in Tweed Shire generated combined revenue of \$85,864,304 with a net before tax profit of \$7,288,232 (Annual Reports, Tweed Shire Council Registered Clubs as in Tweed Community Profile 1999).

### Construction

Population growth in the Shire has created a thriving construction industry. The construction of new dwellings has increased dramatically. The number of new dwellings approved in 2001/02 was 674 up from 391 in 2000/01. This accounts for 46.8% of the total Richmond Tweed SSD. Other residential dwellings approved was up over the same time from 13 to 140. The total value of approved work on private residential buildings has doubled from 52,126 million dollars in 2000/01 to 101,251 million dollars in 01/02. Approval of non-residential buildings over the same time increased from 29,936 million dollars to 86,771

million dollars. This accounts for 74.5% of the total Richmond Tweed SSD in this category. Table 1.3.4 profiles building approvals in the Tweed Shire from 1998/99 to 2001/02.

### Agriculture

Although not represented amongst the highest growth industries agriculture remains a vital industry in many parts of the Tweed Shire, although the value of agricultural production overall continues to decline. In 1992/93 it was valued at \$60,728.1m, in 1995/96 it was \$56,286.7m and in 2000/01 it was \$47m. Based on ABS data, the proportion of the Labour Force engaged in agricultural production is also shrinking. At the 1996 census 1,316 persons identified their industry of employment as 'Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing' and in 2001 that number was 690. There has been a structural shift in the region away from employment in agriculture, forestry and fishing to more people being employed in the tertiary sector. Those people being displaced from agricultural employment are not necessarily those gaining employment in the tertiary sector.

Tweed Shire is still a rich agricultural region with sugar cane, bananas, avocados, vegetables, some dairying and beef cattle raising. The annual Tweed Banana Festival held in Murwillumbah commemorates the agricultural strength in the area. The decline of world sugar prices in recent times is expected to have some impact on the Region's

agriculture sector, particularly within the Tweed and Ballina Shires. The national dairy deregulation program that came into effect on July 1, 2000 has had a negative impact on the dairying industry in the Northern Rivers. In 2000-01, the value of agricultural commodities produced in the Region was \$228m. In Tweed Shire in 2000-01 the value of sugar cane was estimated at \$12,374m. The second highest value was bananas estimated at \$9,701m with cattle and calf disposals with \$6,311m. (DOTARS 2003). Nurseries, flowers and turf is also significant with a value of \$3,468m. There were 572 establishments with agricultural activity in 2001 covering a total area of 48,798 Ha. In the region in 1998 there were 11,048 business locations and of these 3,122 were in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing. It is the fifth largest employer in the Northern Rivers and proportionally is a larger employer than in Sydney, NSW or the Gold Coast. Although this proportion is falling this is as much a sign of changing work practices (more capital intensive work practices requiring less labour) as it is about less agricultural production. (DIPNR June 2003).

Other	10,375	5,648	2,808	57,220
<b>Total of Non-Residential Buildings</b>	<b>18,817</b>	<b>15,188</b>	<b>29,936</b>	<b>86,771</b>
<b>Total Value of Buildings Approved (\$'000)</b>	<b>130,931</b>	<b>85,582</b>	<b>57,672</b>	<b>169,563</b>

### Business Registrations

In 1998 there were 3,219 registered business locations in Tweed Shire, The majority of these businesses (2,940 or 91.33%) employed ten persons or less. Only 239 of these, or 7.42%, employed between 10-49 persons. A further 40 businesses employed 50 or more people. The highest numbers of registered businesses were in the fields of: 'Agriculture, forestry and fishing' (693 or 21.53%), Retail Trade (585 or 18.87%), Construction (350 or 10.87%), Property and business services (349 or 10.84%).

**Table 1.3.4  
Tweed Shire Building Approvals by Type  
1998/99 to 2001/02**

Source: ABS Catalogue 1262.1 – Regional Statistics from NSW 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003

	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02
Dwellings, Units Approved				
Houses	644	457	391	674
Other Residential	266	194	13	140
<b>Total Dwelling Units Approved</b>	<b>910</b>	<b>651</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>814</b>
Value of Buildings Approved (\$'000)				
Residential Buildings				
New Houses	64,638	48,684	44,529	79,389
New other residential building	41,516	16,886	1,680	15,796
Additions and alterations	5,961	4,824	5,917	6,066
<b>Total of Residential Buildings</b>	<b>112,114</b>	<b>70,394</b>	<b>52,126</b>	<b>101,251</b>
Non-Residential				
Shops	4,194	1,145	1,440	3,329
Factories	820	1,597	760	650
Offices	1,290	230	1,800	1,021
Education	2,138	1,291	5,328	2,195
Health	n.a.	5,277	17,800	22,356



## 1.4 Population trends and forecasts

The most recent population data available for Tweed Shire is the estimates prepared by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). They have estimated that the population of the Shire as at the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2002 was 76,229 persons. The average annual growth rate from 1991 to 1996 of 3.9% has fallen to an average of 2.6% from 1996 to 1998 (based on housing and population census and estimated residential population figures). (Tweed Council Corporate Research 2004). The Northern Rivers represents approximately 4% of the State's population. At the 2001 ABS Census the population was 262,216 persons.

In actual population numbers and based on the estimated residential population Tweed Shire grew by 7,516 or 11.2% persons between 1996 and 2001. This has slowed as between 1991 and 1996 the rate was 19.7%. The percentage change needs to be seen within the context of the population size as Tweed also had a relatively large increase in the real number of people. Based on these forecasts, Tweed would remain the largest local government area within the Northern Rivers.

The growth rate for the Northern Rivers for the period 1996-2001 was 4.8%, NSW was 5.5% and the Gold Coast was 18.4%. (AGS Census 2001 as in DIPNR 2003).

Forecasts of future population growth were prepared by the Hunter Valley Research Foundation for the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources for the Northern Rivers Regional Profile – A socio-economic profile of the Northern Rivers Region in 2003. Their forecast was that the

Tweed Shire would attain a population of 79,699 by 2006, 98,074 by 2021 and 104,355 by 2026.

Projections prepared by the Hunter Valley Research Foundation indicate that over the period 2001 to 2021, the proportion of persons in each age cohort will vary rather than showing a clear pattern. Table 1.4.2 shows the estimated change in the number of persons in each age cohort. It shows that the biggest changes will occur in the age cohorts 55 and over with the 60-64 (16.4%), 65-69 (14.4%) and 55-59 (13.1%). The Tweed Shire Council has investigated the population capacity of different parts of the Shire based on available land supply for residential development. As outlined in the mapping of population growth in the Tweed Coast area in 2001 the areas with the capacity for the highest future population growth are Banora Point (12,650), Kings Forest (12,000 persons), Cobaki Lakes (12,000), Bilambil Heights (8,000) and West Kingscliff (4,500).

**Table 1.4.1**

***Estimated Resident Population Tweed Shire 1985-2002***

Source: ABS Cat No. 3218.0, 3209.1, 3234.1

Compiled : Tweed Council, Corporate Research

Year	85/86	87/88	89/90	92/93	94/95	96/97	98/99	00/01	01/02
Population	44,450	48,570	52,150	58,278	63,019	67,065	69,969	74,577	76,229

Population Change 99/00-00/01 (%) is 3.65%  
00/01-01/02 (%) is 2.17%

**Table 1.4.2****Actual and predicted populations (medium level) by age cohorts – persons of total population, Tweed Shire 1996-2026**

Source: Hunter Valley Research Foundation for DIPNR 2003

Age Group	1996 Actual	2001 Actual	2006 Predicted	2011 Predicted	2016 Predicted	2021 Predicted	2026 Predicted
0-4	4235	4146	4081	4160	4383	4679	4956
5-9	4749	4930	4876	4897	5039	5314	5662
10-14	4797	5202	5390	5425	5515	5710	6028
15-19	3733	4494	4826	5036	5121	5246	5457
20-24	2762	2667	3131	3364	3519	3600	3708
25-29	3233	3108	3040	3507	3758	3941	4060
30-34	4098	3822	3727	3727	4218	4507	4737
35-39	4921	4760	4533	4523	4590	5109	5449
40-44	4687	5491	5379	5265	5333	5467	6012
45-49	4253	4990	5703	5687	5658	5782	5971
50-54	3446	4745	5427	6138	6189	6228	6411
55-59	3332	4231	5511	6241	6989	7100	7205
60-64	3903	4344	5283	6658	7465	8289	8473
65-69	4679	4674	5116	6077	7435	8261	9109
70-74	4451	4703		4726	5156	5989	7139
75-79	2825	3873	4070	4148	4500	5131	5987
80-84	1500	2206	2868	3027	3106	3355	3780
85+	915	1435	2012	2611	2984	3215	3461
<b>Total</b>	<b>66519</b>	<b>73821</b>	<b>79699</b>	<b>85646</b>	<b>91789</b>	<b>98074</b>	<b>104335</b>
<b>Avg annual change</b>		<b>2.10%</b>	<b>1.54%</b>	<b>1.45%</b>	<b>1.40%</b>	<b>1.33%</b>	<b>1.25%</b>

In the ABS Census 2001 a question is asked for people aged one year and over to identify whether they are still living at the same address as one year ago and five years ago. Those who did not move in the last year comprised 77.3% or 54,749 persons. Those who moved elsewhere within the LGA were 10.4% or 7,363 persons. These rates compare with NSW where 78.1% of persons were at the same address and 21.9% had moved, 8% within the same LGA. Five years ago 48.6% (32,812 persons) of persons were at the same address. Those who moved elsewhere within the LGA were 20.9% of the population. These rates compare with NSW where 53.1% of persons were at the same address five years ago and 16.3% moved elsewhere within the same LGA. A significant proportion of people who had moved into the shire came from interstate (12.3%). Persons who came from within NSW accounted for a further 10.4% and 1.7% came from overseas. This has changed since 1996 when people who had moved into the Shire from NSW accounted for 16.4% and those from interstate accounted for 12.9%. In NSW in 2001 4.6% of the population had come from overseas. In the Richmond-Tweed SD 50.5% of persons were at the same address as five years ago, 20.1% moved elsewhere within

the LGA, 10.3% moved from within NSW, 8.2% came from interstate and 1.6% from overseas.

Data collected by the ABS on births and deaths shows that there were 755 births in Tweed Shire in 2001. Deaths in the same year numbered 755.

**Table 1.4.3****Population Increase through migration and natural increase, Tweed Shire 1994-2001**

Source: Tweed Community Profile 1999, ABS Regional Profiles, 2004

	1994	1996	2001
Est. Population Number	60,759	65,052	68,729
Population Growth	2,481	2,033	1,652
Rate of Population Change	4.30%	3.20%	2.17%
Births	766	791	755
Deaths	551	584	755
Natural Increase	215	207	0
Net Migration	2,266	1,826	1,652

Note: This table is based on 'Estimated Resident Population' not the Census count.



## **Part Two: Tweed Shire – The People**

## 2.1 Age and Sex

### Census 2001

Table 2.1.1 provides details of the population count at the 2001 Census based on age and sex and gives a comparison with the NSW population. Significant differences can still be seen in the proportion of the population in the 15 to 30 year age group where the Tweed

Shire proportion (13.8%) is much lower than NSW (20.27%). It is the reverse in the 60-79 year age group where the Tweed Shire population is much higher than NSW with 23.6% compared to 13.97%. This was also the scenario in the 1996 census.

**Table 2.1.1**

### **Age By Sex, Tweed Shire at 2001 Census compared with NSW**

Source: ABS Census 2001

Age and gender	Tweed LGA				New South Wales			
	Males	Females	Persons	Per Cent	Males	Females	Persons	Per Cent
0 years	404	373	777	1.0%	40,655	38,269	78,924	1.24%
1	379	392	771	1.0%	43,128	40,889	84,017	1.32%
2	435	409	844	1.1%	44,124	42,084	86,208	1.35%
3	435	413	848	1.1%	44,344	42,085	86,429	1.36%
4	476	430	906	1.2%	44,629	42,134	86,763	1.36%
<b>0-4</b>	<b>2,129</b>	<b>2,017</b>	<b>4,146</b>	<b>5.6%</b>	<b>216,880</b>	<b>205,461</b>	<b>422,341</b>	<b>6.63%</b>
5	499	428	927	1.2%	45,144	42,781	87,925	1.38%
6	492	472	964	1.3%	45,474	43,602	89,076	1.40%
7	549	475	1,024	1.4%	45,794	43,352	89,146	1.40%
8	498	494	992	1.3%	45,899	43,653	89,552	1.41%
9	535	488	1,023	1.4%	46,452	43,832	90,284	1.42%
<b>5-9</b>	<b>2,573</b>	<b>2,357</b>	<b>4,930</b>	<b>6.6%</b>	<b>228,763</b>	<b>217,220</b>	<b>445,983</b>	<b>7.00%</b>
10	556	500	1,056	1.4%	46,664	44,199	90,863	1.43%
11	541	509	1,050	1.4%	46,335	43,619	89,954	1.41%
12	548	498	1,046	1.4%	45,847	43,703	89,550	1.41%
13	490	571	1,061	1.4%	44,752	42,736	87,488	1.37%
14	520	469	989	1.3%	44,657	42,514	87,171	1.37%
<b>10-14</b>	<b>2,655</b>	<b>2,547</b>	<b>5,202</b>	<b>7.0%</b>	<b>228,255</b>	<b>216,771</b>	<b>445,026</b>	<b>6.98%</b>
15	539	481	1,020	1.4%	45,675	42,974	88,649	1.39%
16	520	461	981	1.3%	45,567	43,253	88,820	1.39%
17	458	473	931	1.3%	44,783	42,681	87,464	1.37%
18	468	383	851	1.1%	44,190	42,402	86,592	1.36%
19	386	325	711	1.0%	43,615	41,486	85,101	1.34%
<b>15-19</b>	<b>2,371</b>	<b>2,123</b>	<b>4,494</b>	<b>6.0%</b>	<b>223,830</b>	<b>212,796</b>	<b>436,626</b>	<b>6.85%</b>
<b>20-24</b>	<b>1,387</b>	<b>1,280</b>	<b>2,667</b>	<b>3.6%</b>	<b>207,358</b>	<b>201,361</b>	<b>408,719</b>	<b>6.41%</b>
<b>25-29</b>	<b>1,472</b>	<b>1,636</b>	<b>3,108</b>	<b>4.2%</b>	<b>221,023</b>	<b>225,492</b>	<b>446,515</b>	<b>7.01%</b>
<b>30-34</b>	<b>1,780</b>	<b>2,042</b>	<b>3,822</b>	<b>5.1%</b>	<b>229,614</b>	<b>238,910</b>	<b>468,524</b>	<b>7.35%</b>
<b>35-39</b>	<b>2,243</b>	<b>2,517</b>	<b>4,760</b>	<b>6.4%</b>	<b>238,984</b>	<b>244,019</b>	<b>483,003</b>	<b>7.58%</b>
<b>40-44</b>	<b>2,586</b>	<b>2,905</b>	<b>5,491</b>	<b>7.4%</b>	<b>237,801</b>	<b>244,517</b>	<b>482,318</b>	<b>7.57%</b>
<b>45-49</b>	<b>2,392</b>	<b>2,598</b>	<b>4,990</b>	<b>6.7%</b>	<b>217,220</b>	<b>221,057</b>	<b>438,277</b>	<b>6.88%</b>
<b>50-54</b>	<b>2,401</b>	<b>2,344</b>	<b>4,745</b>	<b>6.4%</b>	<b>207,522</b>	<b>205,445</b>	<b>412,967</b>	<b>6.48%</b>
<b>55-59</b>	<b>2,002</b>	<b>2,229</b>	<b>4,231</b>	<b>5.7%</b>	<b>164,487</b>	<b>160,843</b>	<b>325,330</b>	<b>5.11%</b>
<b>60-64</b>	<b>2,046</b>	<b>2,298</b>	<b>4,344</b>	<b>5.8%</b>	<b>133,065</b>	<b>133,999</b>	<b>267,064</b>	<b>4.19%</b>
<b>65-69</b>	<b>2,237</b>	<b>2,437</b>	<b>4,674</b>	<b>6.3%</b>	<b>110,762</b>	<b>117,267</b>	<b>228,029</b>	<b>3.58%</b>
<b>70-74</b>	<b>2,296</b>	<b>2,407</b>	<b>4,703</b>	<b>6.3%</b>	<b>101,955</b>	<b>115,282</b>	<b>217,237</b>	<b>3.41%</b>
<b>75-79</b>	<b>1,846</b>	<b>2,027</b>	<b>3,873</b>	<b>5.2%</b>	<b>77,085</b>	<b>100,599</b>	<b>177,684</b>	<b>2.79%</b>
<b>80-84</b>	<b>978</b>	<b>1,228</b>	<b>2,206</b>	<b>3.0%</b>	<b>44,302</b>	<b>70,462</b>	<b>114,764</b>	<b>1.80%</b>
<b>85-89</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>605</b>	<b>1,006</b>	<b>1.4%</b>	<b>20,160</b>	<b>41,330</b>	<b>61,490</b>	<b>0.97%</b>
<b>90-94</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>0.6%</b>	<b>7,653</b>	<b>21,618</b>	<b>29,271</b>	<b>0.46%</b>
<b>Overseas visitors</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>559</b>	<b>0.8%</b>	<b>28,726</b>	<b>31,851</b>	<b>60,577</b>	<b>0.95%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>36,196</b>	<b>38,184</b>	<b>74,380</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>3,145,445</b>	<b>3,226,300</b>	<b>6,371,745</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

In comparison with the Northern Rivers Tweed is significant for its aged population. With 22.9% of the population aged over 65 years it has the second highest proportion with Maclean LGA having 23.9% and the nearest LGA following that is Ballina with 19.3%. However, given Tweed Shire's large population the numbers of aged people is significant. Overall the Northern Rivers has 18% of the population aged 65 + compared to Sydney with 11.9%, the Gold Coast with 15.9% and NSW

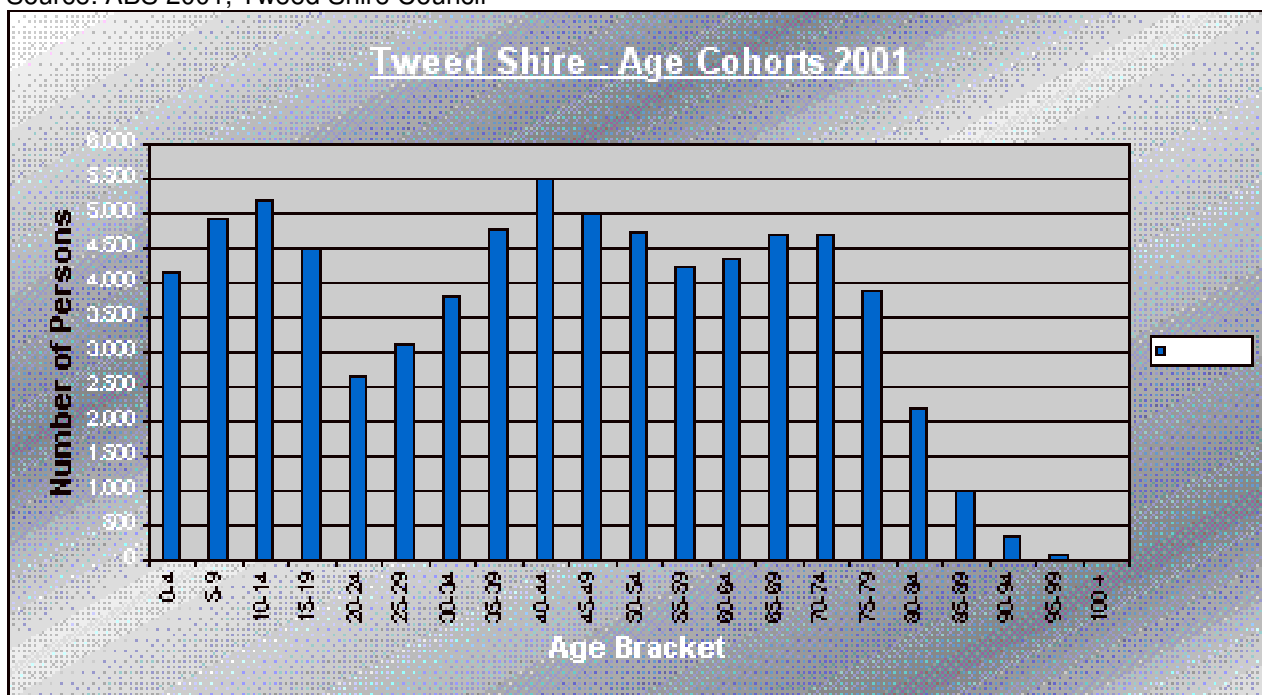
with 13.1% (Hunter Valley Research for DIPNR, 2004)

Chart 2.1.2 shows the age profile for the Shire by five year age cohorts. The largest age cohorts were: 40-44 (5,491 persons); 10-14 (5,202 persons); 45-49 (4,990 persons); 5-9 (4,930 persons); 50-54 (4,745 persons); 35-39 (4,760 persons).

**Chart 2.1.2**

**Tweed Shire – Age Cohorts 2001**

Source: ABS 2001, Tweed Shire Council



**Table 2.1.2**

**Percent change by age cohorts, 1986-2001**

Source: ABS Census 2001, Tweed Community Profile 1999

Age Cohort	Tweed LGA				Change	% Change 86 to 2001
	1986	1991	1996	2001		
0 to 4	3,363	3,968	4,235	4,146	783	23.3%
5 to 9	3,372	4,074	4,749	4,930	1,558	46.2%
10 to 14	3,359	3,943	4,797	5,202	1,843	54.9%
15 to 19	3,191	3,092	3,733	4,494	1,303	40.8%
20 to 29	6,069	5,906	5,995	5,775	-294	-4.8%
30 - 39	6,512	8,176	9,019	8,582	2,070	31.8%
40 - 49	4,672	6,660	8,940	10,481	5,809	124.3%
50 - 59	4,539	5,431	6,778	8,976	4,437	97.8%
60 - 64	3,220	3,681	3,903	4,344	1,124	34.9%
65 or more	7,393	11,022	14,369	16,891	9,498	128.5%
OS Vis			346	559	213	61.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>45,690</b>	<b>55,953</b>	<b>66,864</b>	<b>74,380</b>	<b>28,344</b>	<b>62.0%</b>

### 1991-2001

Between the 1991 and 2001 census, the greatest increase in numbers by age cohorts was in the 65 + cohort which grew by 5869 persons. This was followed by the 40-49 year age cohort with 3,821 persons and the 50-59 year olds with 3,545 persons. The 20-29 year age cohort decreased in numbers by 131 persons.

and 2001 for both Tweed Shire and NSW. Although the Tweed Shire largely follows the general growth and decline in age cohorts seen at State level there are some significant differences in amounts. For example the 0-4 year age cohort declined by 1.5% in Tweed Shire but 0.9% at the State level. The 75-79 year age group grew by 1.8% in Tweed and by 0.5% at the State level.

Table 2.1.3 shows changes in age cohorts as a proportion of the total population in 1991, 1996

**Table 2.1.3**

### **Changes in Age Profile, Tweed Shire 1991-2001 compared with NSW**

Source: ABS Census 2001, Tweed Community Profile 1999

Age Cohorts	Tweed Shire			New South Wales		
	1991	1996	2001	1991	1996	2001
0 to 4	7.1%	6.3%	5.6%	7.5%	7.1%	6.6%
5 to 9	7.3%	7.1%	6.6%	7.3%	7.1%	7.0%
10 to 14	7.0%	7.2%	7.0%	7.3%	7.1%	7.0%
15 to 19	5.5%	5.6%	6.0%	7.6%	6.8%	6.9%
20 to 24	4.7%	4.1%	3.6%	7.7%	7.2%	6.4%
25 to 29	5.9%	4.8%	4.2%	7.9%	7.4%	7.0%
30 to 34	7.3%	6.1%	5.1%	8.2%	7.8%	7.4%
35 to 39	7.3%	7.4%	6.4%	7.6%	7.9%	7.6%
40 to 44	6.6%	7.0%	7.4%	7.4%	7.3%	7.6%
45 to 49	5.3%	6.4%	6.7%	6.0%	6.9%	6.9%
50 to 54	4.7%	5.2%	6.4%	4.9%	5.5%	6.5%
55 to 59	5.0%	5.0%	5.7%	4.3%	4.5%	5.1%
60 to 64	6.6%	5.8%	5.8%	4.4%	3.9%	4.2%
65 to 69	7.6%	7.0%	6.3%	4.1%	3.9%	3.6%
70 to 74	5.9%	6.7%	6.3%	3.2%	3.5%	3.4%
75 to 79	3.4%	4.2%	5.2%	2.3%	2.5%	2.8%
80 to 84	1.8%	2.2%	3.0%	1.4%	1.6%	1.8%
85 to 89	0.8%	1.0%	1.4%	0.6%	0.1%	1.0%
90+	0.3%	0.4%	0.6%	0.3%	0.3%	0.5%

### By Districts

Table 2.1.4 gives a breakdown of the population by age cohort in each of the Shire's seven Planning Districts. An analysis of the proportion of the population in each age cohort indicates that Tweed Heads again has the

oldest profile with 14.41% of the total population 65+ and Tumbulgum has just 0.26%. The two rural districts, Rural North West and Rural South West, have the youngest profile. Of the total population of the Rural North West 7% is aged 0-4 years.

**Table 2.1.4****Age Profile, Persons by Planning District, Tweed Shire 2001**

Source: ABS Census 2001, Tweed Community Profile 1999

Age Cohorts	Rural Coast A	Rural Coast B	Rural North West	Rural South West	Murwillumbah	Tumbulgum Dulguigan	Tweed Heads	Tweed Shire
0 to 4	711	378	193	216	572	81	2,012	4,146
5 to 9	812	466	222	289	698	122	2,311	4,930
10 to 14	863	522	249	325	761	159	2,315	5,202
15 to 19	767	393	188	251	728	148	2,038	4,494
20 to 24	487	197	87	76	416	56	1,357	2,667
25 to 29	571	239	111	115	372	84	1,612	3,108
30 to 34	622	343	179	150	501	96	1,880	3,822
35 to 39	841	453	230	266	660	126	2,172	4,760
40 to 44	928	553	278	373	730	172	2,452	5,491
45 to 49	851	404	245	318	618	170	2,401	4,990
50 to 54	750	382	196	258	589	153	2,443	4,745
55 to 59	687	329	155	175	480	109	2,283	4,231
60 to 64	683	395	147	127	401	84	2,496	4,344
65 to 69	757	393	105	103	355	84	2,836	4,674
70 to 74	804	272	66	84	388	48	3,014	4,703
75 to 79	559	206	43	60	408	23	2,578	3,873
80 to 84	333	69	30	29	292	20	1,441	2,206
85 to 89	128	23	16	6	197	12	607	1,006
90 to 94	60	9	3	0	67	3	204	343
95 to 99	4	3	0	0	19	0	34	74
100 + over	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	12
Overseas Visitors	58	16	18	18	69	16	332	559
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12,276</b>	<b>6,045</b>	<b>2,761</b>	<b>3,239</b>	<b>9,321</b>	<b>1,766</b>	<b>38,824</b>	<b>74,380</b>

## 2.2 Persons Born Overseas

### Born Overseas

At the 2001 census 10,636 persons or 14.3% indicated that they had been born overseas, 5.27% of persons in an 'other country' or one where English is not the main language. Persons from these 'other' countries are often referred to as persons who are 'Culturally and Linguistically Diverse' (CALD). A review of earlier Census data from 1991 and 1996 shows that there was an increase in the proportion of persons born overseas from 12.53% in 1991 to 13.5% in 1996 to the 2001 figure of 14.3%. The proportion of persons born in the 'Main English Speaking Countries' has decreased from 10.04% in 1996 to 9.03% in 2001. The proportion of persons from 'other countries' has increased from 3.46% in 1996 to 5.27% in 2001.

In addition to those born overseas, it is often useful to look at the 'second generation', persons born in Australia to overseas born parents. In Tweed Shire in 2001 there were 8,159 Australian born persons (11% of the total population) for whom at least one parent had been born overseas in an 'other country'. (ABS Table BO5 2001). In terms of ancestry, 279 persons said they are of Maori ancestry,

### Length of Residence

Table 2.2.1 shows the length of residence in Australia for persons born overseas for Tweed Shire and NSW. Compared with NSW, Tweed Shire had proportionally less persons who had arrived in Australia in the five years preceding the 2001 census. Of those born overseas from a mainly English speaking country 53 (.69%) arrived in 2001, 561 (7.32%) arrived between 1996 and 2001 with the bulk of people, 6,714 (89.58%) arriving before 1996. Those who are from mainly Non-English speaking countries, 35 (1.19%) arrived in 2001, 250 (8.51%) arrived between 1996-2001 and 2,532 (86.15%) arrived before 1996. (ABS Regional Profile 2004)

**Table 2.2.1**

### ***Year of arrival in Australia by Local Government Area 2001 (b)***

Source: 2004 ABS NSW Regional Profile

	Tweed LGA		NSW	
	Persons	Percent	Persons	Percent
Arrived 2001	88	.61	31,115	1.67
Arrived 1996-2001	814	5.62	225,297	12.11
Arrived before 1996	9,270	64.04	1,147,790	61.70
Other	4,304	29.73	456,178	24.52
Total	14,476	100.00	1,860,380	100.00

b) cells may have been randomly adjusted to avoid release of confidential data

### By Planning District

Table 2.2.2 shows the distribution of persons born overseas by Planning District within the Shire. The Rural South West had the highest proportion of persons born in an 'other country' (5.13%) a slight increase since 1996 when it was 4.66%. This was followed by the Rural North West (4.92%) up from 3.76% in 1996. The Tweed Heads district had the highest proportion of all persons born overseas (17.16%). These figures are all significantly lower than those for NSW where 23.4% of persons identified as being born overseas.



**Table 2.2.2****Proportion of Persons born overseas by Planning District, Tweed Shire 2001**

Source: ABS Census 2001, Tweed Council

Planning District	MESC (Main English Speaking Countries)		Other		Total Born OS		Australian Born		Overseas Visitors + Not Stated	Total Pop.
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Persons	Percent		
Tweed Heads	4976	12.76%	1713	4.39%	6689	17.16%	29990	76.92%	2309	38988
Rural Coast A	1083	8.84%	349	2.85%	1432	11.69%	10163	82.95%	657	12252
Rural Coast B	484	7.97%	212	3.49%	696	11.45%	5041	82.97%	339	6076
Tumbulgum/Dulguigan	151	8.86%	50	2.93%	201	11.79%	1414	82.93%	90	1705
Murwillumbah	531	5.69%	294	3.15%	825	8.83%	7935	84.96%	580	9340
Rural South West	307	9.42%	167	5.13%	474	14.55%	2555	78.42%	229	3258
Rural North West	184	6.66%	136	4.92%	320	11.58%	2250	81.40%	194	2764
Tweed Shire	6716	9.03%	3920	5.27%	10636	14.30%	59348	79.79%	4396	74380

**Table 2.2.3****Birthplace, Persons by Countries, Tweed Shire Planning Districts, 2001**

Source: ABS Census 2001, Tweed Council

	Rural Coast A	Rural Coast B	Rural North West	Rural South West	Murwillumbah	Tumbulgum Dulguigan	Tweed Heads	Total
Australia	10,163	5,041	2,250	2,555	7,935	1,414	29,990	59,348
Canada	9	3	3	21	18	0	42	96
China (excludes SARs and Taiwan Province)(a)	0	6	0	0	3	0	44	53
Croatia	3	3	3	3	3	0	15	30
Egypt	3	0	3	0	0	3	33	42
Fiji	9	6	3	0	6	3	24	51
France	3	6	3	6	3	0	21	42
Germany	47	47	23	37	31	6	208	399
Greece	3	6	0	0	9	0	27	45
Hong Kong (SAR of China)(a)	9	0	0	0	0	0	39	48
India	15	3	13	16	59	3	65	174
Indonesia	3	3	3	3	3	0	37	52
Ireland	24	6	6	3	6	3	107	155
Italy	16	20	15	6	25	3	140	225
Korea, Republic of (South)	0	6	0	0	0	0	15	21
Lebanon	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	6
Macedonia, FYROM(b)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Malaysia	9	0	3	0	0	0	37	49
Malta	12	0	0	0	3	3	45	63
Netherlands	54	27	18	31	41	3	197	371
New Zealand	256	126	51	79	121	32	1,223	1,888
Philippines	26	9	9	9	22	0	142	217
Poland	6	3	0	0	3	0	46	58
Singapore	3	3	3	3	0	0	21	33
South Africa	27	6	3	6	3	0	82	127
Sri Lanka	0	0	0	3	0	0	15	18
Turkey	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	6
United Kingdom(c)	736	327	112	189	362	103	3,392	5,221
United States of America	22	10	6	9	15	10	106	178
Viet Nam	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	6
Yugoslavia, Federal Republic of	0	3	3	0	3	0	51	60
Born elsewhere overseas (d)	134	64	37	50	86	29	503	903
Not stated	587	320	176	208	508	71	1,971	3,841
Overseas visitors	70	19	18	21	72	19	338	557
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,252</b>	<b>6,076</b>	<b>2,764</b>	<b>3,258</b>	<b>9,340</b>	<b>1,705</b>	<b>38,988</b>	<b>74,383</b>

## Country of Origin

The largest individual groups of overseas born persons in Tweed Shire came from:

United Kingdom	5,221
New Zealand	1,888
Germany	399
Netherlands	371
Italy	225
The Philippines	217
India	174
Ireland	155

A review of previous census data indicates that the rank order has changed only slightly since 1996 with Germany and the Netherlands changing places and the Philippines and India changing places. The top five positions remain the same. The five most highly ranked groups all increased in numbers over the 1996 to 2001 period. For example, the number of United Kingdom born persons increased by 541. Persons born in New Zealand increased by 349.

Table 2.2.3 shows persons born overseas by their country of birth and by Planning District. For example, a large majority of persons born in India live in the Tweed Heads and Murwillumbah Planning Districts. Over 60% of Philippine born persons reside in Tweed Heads.

## Language spoken:

The number of persons who were aged five years and over who spoke a language other than English in Tweed Shire in 2001 was 2,066 persons or 3.01%. This compares with 24.3% of the NSW population. The main languages other than English spoken by Tweed Shire residents in 2001 are:

German	288
Italian	240
Cantonese	110
French	106
Tagalog (Philippines)	100
Spanish	72
Greek	60
Polish	41

ABS Community Profile tables do not give a complete listing of languages spoken. Less common languages are grouped into an 'other' category that included 753 persons in Tweed Shire in 2001.

Table 2.2.4 shows the number of persons who reported speaking a language other than English at the 2001 census by Planning District of residence. The Rural North West (4.11%), Rural South West (4.07%) and Tweed Heads (3.23%) had the highest proportion of persons who spoke a language other than English.

**Table 2.2.4**

### **Percent persons who speak a language other than English Tweed Shire 2001 and compared with 1996 and 1991**

Source: ABS Census 2001, Tweed Council

Planning District	Speaks English Only		Speaks Other Language	
	Persons	Prop. %	Persons	Prop. %
Tweed Heads	35,845	91.96%	1,157	3.23%
Rural Coast A	11,464	93.61%	225	1.96%
Rural Coast B	5,711	93.72%	148	2.59%
Tumbulgum / Dulguigan	1,606	92.73%	47	2.93%
Murwillumbah	8,548	91.50%	267	3.12%
Rural South West	2,922	90.05%	119	4.07%
Rural North West	2,506	90.37%	103	4.11%
<b>Tweed Shire '01</b>	<b>68,602</b>	<b>92.19%</b>	<b>2,066</b>	<b>3.01%</b>
<b>Tweed Shire '96</b>	<b>58,903</b>	<b>94.57%</b>	<b>1,539</b>	<b>2.47%</b>
<b>Tweed Shire '91</b>	<b>49,304</b>	<b>95.45%</b>	<b>1,393</b>	<b>2.70%</b>

## English Proficiency

In the 2001 census, 249 persons or 10.13% of those who speak English and another language at home reported that they spoke English 'not well/not at all'. This compares with the Richmond Tweed figure of 9.22% and NSW figures of 18.84%. Of the individual

Planning Districts, Tweed had the highest number of overseas born persons who spoke English 'not well' or 'not at all' (66 persons). Murwillumbah had the second highest with 47 persons. There were no persons identifying in the Rural North West Planning District as speaking English 'not well' or 'not at all'.

**Table 2.2.5****Language spoken at home and proficiency in spoken English (a) by LGA 2001 (b)**

Source: ABS Regional Profile 2004

	Speaks English Only	Speaks other Language and speaks English (c)			Total	Not Stated (e)	Total No.
		Very well/Well	Not Well/Not at all	Not stated (d) No.			
Tweed	68,602	2,152	249	57	2,458	2,761	73,821
Richmond-Tweed	195,489	6,052	632	167	6,851	8,741	210,811
NSW	4,777,493	970,038	230,478	22,843	1,223,359	310,309	6,311,161

a) Excludes overseas visitors

b) Cells may have been randomly adjusted to avoid the release of confidential data

c) Includes people whose language spoken at home was not stated but proficiency in English was stated

d) Includes people whose language spoken at home was stated and proficiency in English was not stated

e) Includes people where both language spoken at home and proficiency in English was not stated

## 2.3 Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and Australian South Sea Islander Persons

*In this section information about the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community is drawn from Census data. Information about the South Sea Islander community is based on the 1998 study 'Australian South Sea Islanders in the Tweed Valley/ which was undertaken by the Northern Rivers Area Health Service. It is re-printed from the Tweed Council Community Profile 1999.*

### Census 2001

In 2001, 1,867 persons in the Tweed Shire identified themselves as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander or both. This represented 1.56% of the ATSI population in NSW. Of the Indigenous population in the Region Tweed LGA had the highest number of persons. As a proportion of the general Tweed population they made up 2.51%. This was higher than for NSW (1.9%) but lower than the North Coast (3.1%). There were slightly more females than males. These figures and the ones that follow should be used advisedly as Census data on this population usually represents a significant under-enumeration. Table 2.3.2 shows that the greater proportion of the Indigenous population were Aboriginal.

### 1991 to 2001

Over the period between the 1991 and 2001 Census counts, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community increased in numbers as well as in proportion to the rest of

the population. In 1986, 784 persons were counted (1.65%). In 1991 there were 987 counted (1.78%). Between the 1991 and 1996 census the number grew by 474 or 48%. However, between 1996 and 2001 the number grew by 406, a decrease in growth. It is not known whether the increasing numbers overall of ATSI people represents better reporting in the Census or is a significant increase in numbers. One indication could be that enrolments of Aboriginal students in Primary and Secondary schools in the Shire increased in this period. In 1997, Aboriginal students in secondary schools in the Shire numbered 135 and made up 4.03% of enrolments. In the primary schools, 208 students made up 4.11% of all enrolments. Table 2.3.2 and 2.3.3 show that in 2002 there were 444 Indigenous students in primary school and 227 in Secondary school. The proportion of students in government schools was 7.63% in primary school and 5.93% in secondary. In the non-government schools it was 2.05% in primary school and 1.38% in secondary school. The comparative proportions across the Richmond Tweed were 2.11% in non-government primary and 1.56% in Secondary. In government school enrolments for Richmond Tweed it was 8.01% in Primary and 5.62% in secondary school. For NSW it was 1.19% in non-government primary school and .68% in secondary. For government schools it was 4.7% in primary and 3.5% in secondary school. (ABS Regional Profile 2004).

**Table 2.3.1**

### **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Persons By Sex, Tweed Shire 2001**

Source: ABS Census 2001

	Males	Females	Persons	Prop. %
Aboriginal Persons	646	703	1349	1.81%
Torres Strait Islander Persons	132	120	252	0.34%
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Persons	136	130	266	0.36%
<b>Total</b>	<b>914</b>	<b>953</b>	<b>1867</b>	<b>2.51%</b>

### By Planning District

Table 2.3.4 shows the population of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons by Planning District. Tweed Heads had the highest number of ATSI people (934) or 51.95% of the Shire's

total Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population. Rural North Coast with 469 persons accounted for a further 26% of this community.

**Table 2.3.2****Government school enrolments by Indigenous status, 2002**

Source: NSW Dept. of Education, Science and Training, Government School Census Collections, 2002

LGA and Statistical Division	Primary			Secondary			Total of all Grades		
	Indigenous no	Non - Indigenous no	Total no	Indigenous no	Non - Indigenous no	Total no	Indigenous no	Non - Indigenous no	Total no
Tweed	397	4,806	5,203	199	3,155	3,354	596	7,961	8,557
Richmond-Tweed SD	1,247	14,314	15,561	662	11,117	11,779	1,909	25,431	27,340
NSW	21,133	428,349	449,482	11,742	239,576	305,318	32,875	721,925	754,800

**Table 2.3.3****Non-government school enrolments by Indigenous status by LGA 2002**

Source: Dept. of Education, Science and Training, Non-Government School Census Collections 2002

	Primary			Secondary			Total all Grades		
	Indigenous no	Non - Indigenous no	Total	Indigenous no	Non - Indigenous no	Total	Indigenous	Non - Indigenous no	Total
Tweed	47	2,249	2,296	28	2,001	2,029	75	4,249	4,324
Richmond-Tweed SD	145	6,734	6,879	85	5,348	5,433	230	12,081	12,311
NSW	2,150	177,887	180,037	1,174	170,244	171,418	3,324	348,131	351,455

**Age profile**

Table 2.3.5 outlines the changes in the age profile of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population as recorded in the Census data in 1986, 1991, 1996 and 2001. The 0-4 and 5-9 year age cohorts showed the largest increase as a proportion of the ATSI community.

The age profile for the ATSI community in Tweed Shire in 2001 was considerably younger than that for the Shire overall. For example, the 5-9 year age cohort comprised 14.35% of the Indigenous community but only 7.0% of the general community. The 65 years and over age cohort was 3.11% of the ATSI community compared to 13.96% of the general community.

**Employment Profile**

Table 2.3.6 shows the labour force status of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population in 2001 compared with this data for the general population. It indicated that there was a higher proportion of ATSI persons in the Labour Force (55% compared with 46%) with one possible explanation for this being that for Census purposes persons participating in the Community Development Employment Program (CDEP) are classified as 'employed'. There are slightly more Indigenous persons in part-time rather than full-time employment. The most significant difference between the two populations is in the proportion of the work force that was unemployed. 12.7% of the ATSI

community aged 15 years and over were unemployed compared with 5.8% of the general community. As a proportion of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons in the Labour Force, the unemployment rate was 31.3%, the same as at the 1996 census and compared with 44.7% in 1991.

A review of labour force status for ATSI persons across the 1986, 1991, 1996 and 2001 census, indicates that the proportion of persons aged 15 years and over who were unemployed has fluctuated from 17.89% in 1986 to 28.94% in 1991 to 18.16% in 1996 to 12.71% in 2001. These fluctuations parallel the proportions of people engaged in the workforce. In 1996 the proportion of persons unemployed fell from 28.94% to 18.16% to 2001 where it was 12.71%. The proportion of persons in the Labour Force also fell in 1996 from 64.79% to 58.09% to 55.06%.

At the same time the proportion in full-time employment has continued to decrease slightly – 23.28% in 1986, 22.70% in 1996 and 18.89% in 2001. The largest change has been in the proportion of ATSI persons employed part-time, up from 7.76% in 1986 to 11.90% in 1991 to 15.83% in 1996 and then to 20.50% in 2001. (Tweed Community Profile 1999).

Indigenous employment in the Northern Rivers Region has fallen over the decade following 1991 but it is still very high. In the NR Region the LGAs of Ballina, Tweed and Byron have

the lowest rates of Indigenous unemployment. There are greater employment opportunities, especially for younger Indigenous people.

(Hunter Valley Research NR Regional Profile 2003).

**Table 2.3.4**

**Aboriginal and Torres Straits Islander Persons Tweed Shire by Planning District 2001**

Source: ABS census 2001, Tweed Council

Planning District	Total Population	Aboriginal		Torres Strait Islander		AB & TSI		Total		Prop. % ATSI Pop.
		Persons	Prop. %	Persons	Prop. %	Persons	Prop. %	Persons	Prop. %	
Tweed Heads	36042	684	1.90%	26	0.07%	144	0.40%	934	2.59%	51.95%
Rural Coast A	12269	317	2.58%	72	0.59%	80	0.65%	469	3.82%	26.08%
Rural Coast B	6089	63	1.03%	33	0.54%	9	0.15%	105	1.72%	5.84%
Tumbulgum/Dulgiugan	1729	17	0.98%	7	0.40%	0	0.00%	24	1.39%	1.33%
Murwillumbah	9360	123	1.31%	9	0.10%	15	0.16%	147	1.57%	8.18%
Rural South West	3248	63	1.94%	9	0.28%	3	0.09%	75	2.31%	4.17%
Rural North West	2759	41	1.49%	3	0.11%	0	0.00%	44	1.59%	2.45%

**Table 2.3.5**

**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Persons By age, Tweed Shire 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001**

Source: ABS Census 2001

	Persons				Prop %			
	1986	1991	1996	2001	1986	1991	1996	2001
0 - 4 years	99	135	221	242	13.08%	13.66%	15.13%	12.96%
5 - 9 years	79	114	190	268	10.44%	11.54%	13.00%	14.35%
10 - 14 years	112	116	191	240	14.80%	11.74%	13.07%	12.85%
15 - 19 years	111	106	142	207	14.66%	10.73%	9.72%	11.09%
20 - 24 years	71	115	137	123	9.38%	11.64%	9.38%	6.59%
25 - 29 years	57	78	107	129	7.53%	7.89%	7.32%	6.91%
30 - 34 years	44	73	98	115	5.81%	7.39%	6.71%	6.16%
35 - 39 years	43	64	96	132	5.68%	6.48%	6.57%	7.07%
40 - 44 years	36	52	76	100	4.76%	5.26%	5.20%	5.36%
45 - 49 years	29	38	51	97	3.83%	3.85%	3.49%	5.20%
50 - 54 years	24	30	50	59	3.17%	3.04%	3.42%	3.16%
55 - 59 years	16	18	37	54	2.11%	1.82%	2.53%	2.89%
60 - 64 years	10	21	18	43	1.32%	2.13%	1.23%	2.30%
65 years +	26	28	47	58	3.43%	2.83%	3.22%	3.11%
Total	757	988	1461	1867	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

**Table 2.3.6**

**Labour Force Status (Full-time/Part-time) by Sex, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Persons Tweed Shire 2001 – Persons Aged 15 years and over**

Source: ABS Census 2001

Employment Status	Indigenous Persons 15 years and over						Tweed General Population
	Males		Females		Persons		
	Persons	Prop. %	Persons	Prop. %	Persons	Prop. %	
Employed (a): Full-time (b)	135	25.62%	76	12.88%	211	18.89%	22.48%
Employed (a): Part-time	99	18.79%	130	22.03%	229	20.50%	16.29%
Employed (a): Not stated (c)	17	3.23%	16	2.71%	33	2.95%	1.34%
Employed (a): Total	251	47.63%	222	37.63%	473	42.35%	40.11%
Unemployed	85	16.13%	57	9.66%	142	12.71%	5.80%
Total labour force	336	63.76%	279	47.29%	615	55.06%	45.91%
Not in the labour force	183	34.72%	297	50.34%	480	42.97%	49.85%
Not stated (d)	8	1.52%	14	2.37%	22	1.97%	4.24%
Total	527	100.00%	590	100.00%	1117	100.00%	100.00%

(a) For census purposes, persons participating in the Community Development Employment Program (CDEP) are classified as 'employed'

- (b) In 2001, 'full-time' is defined as having worked 35 hours or more in all jobs during the week prior to Census night.
  - (c) Includes employed persons who did not state their hours worked.
  - (d) Includes persons who did not state their labour force status.
- 

### ***Australian South Sea Islander People***

There is no update on the Australian South Sea Islander Community in the Tweed Valley since the 1999 Community Profile that utilised data obtained from the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC) census in 1992 and the Northern Rivers Area Health Service (NRAHS) 1998 survey. The information on this community is replicated here from the 1999 Tweed Community Profile in the absence of new information. The HREOC report, 'A Call for Recognition, HREOC 1992' identified the Northern Rivers Region South Sea Islander community as the fourth largest community of Australian South Sea Islander origin in Australia. As members of this community were born in Australia they are not identified in general census data and therefore the special study was undertaken. Their estimate from that census was that there were 950 persons in 250 households of South Sea Islander heritage living in the Northern Rivers Region, many of whom lived in the Tweed Valley. They represented 8% of the entire South Sea Islander population in Australia. The NRAHS undertook a survey in 1998 of the South Sea Islander community based on a sample of 495 people from 172 households. Based on the 1992 Census Data from HREOC this represents 45% of the estimated population (persons) and 69% of the estimated households in the Northern Rivers area.

## 2.4 Religious Affiliation

In the 2001 Census, 53,850 persons or 72.95% identified themselves as belonging to a Christian religion. A further 914 or 1.24% indicated that they belonged to a non-Christian religion. The largest groupings of persons belonged to the Anglican (28.95%), Catholic (24.93%), Uniting 6.03%) and Presbyterian and Reformed (5.89%) religions. Buddhism (495 persons or 0.67%) was the largest non-Christian religion specified in the ABS tables. A total 13.80% of Census respondents reported that they had 'no religion'. Table 2.4.1 shows religious affiliation by sex.

### 1991-2001

A review of religious affiliation over the three Census, 1991, 1996 and 2001 shows that

there have been significant changes. The major Christian faiths have increased in numbers but their following as a proportion of the population has decreased from 74.17% in 1996 to 72.95% in 2001. The non-Christian religions have increased both in numbers and as a proportion of the population. Buddhism, with 0.67% of the population has overtaken Hinduism that has 0.42% of the population in 2001 compared with 0.61% in 1996 when it was the largest non-Christian religion. Buddhism was just 0.22% of the population in 1996. Islam and Judaism have both increased in numbers. The proportion of the population indicating that they have 'no religion' decreased from 1996 when it was 14.85%.

**Table 2.4.1**  
**Religion by Sex, All Persons, Tweed Shire 2001**

Source: ABS census 2001

Religion	Males	Females	Persons	Prop. %
Buddhism	239	256	495	0.67%
Christianity:				
Anglican	10,177	11,197	21,374	28.95%
Baptist	409	482	891	1.21%
Brethren	3	0	3	0.00%
Catholic	8,796	9,610	18,406	24.93%
Churches of Christ	106	145	251	0.34%
Jehovah's Witnesses	256	305	561	0.76%
Latter Day Saints	50	73	123	0.17%
Lutheran	202	222	424	0.57%
Oriental Christian	3	0	3	0.00%
Orthodox	114	96	210	0.28%
Presbyterian and Reformed	2,101	2,247	4,348	5.89%
Salvation Army	131	183	314	0.43%
Seventh-day Adventist	287	333	620	0.84%
Uniting Church	2,015	2,435	4,450	6.03%
Pentecostal	234	261	495	0.67%
Other Protestant	76	89	165	0.22%
Other Christian(a)	552	660	1,212	1.64%
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,512</b>	<b>28,338</b>	<b>53,850</b>	<b>72.95%</b>
Hinduism	144	169	313	0.42%
Islam	43	30	73	0.10%
Judaism	22	22	44	0.06%
Other Religions:				0.00%
Australian Aboriginal Traditional Religions	0	3	3	0.00%
Other Religious Groups	186	230	416	0.56%
<b>Total</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>0.57%</b>
No religion(b)	5,515	4,673	10,188	13.80%
Inadequately described(c)	782	692	1,474	2.00%
Not stated	3,501	3,464	6,965	9.43%
<b>Overseas visitors</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>559</b>	<b>0.76%</b>
<b>Total (minus Overseas Visitors)</b>	<b>35,944</b>	<b>37,877</b>	<b>73,821</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

(a) Includes 'Christian, nfd'

(b) Includes 'No religion nfd', 'Agnosticism, 'Humanism and 'Rationalism'

(c) Includes 'Religious belief, nfd'



## 2.5 Education

### Participation in education

On census night 2001, 15,526 or 21.03% of persons in Tweed were enrolled in some form of educational institution. Compared with NSW the enrolment area in which the largest differences occurred was post-secondary institutions. Tweed Shire had 1.32% of its population attending 'University or other Tertiary Institutions' while the figure for NSW was 4.63%. Southern Cross University opened a campus in Tweed Heads in 2003. The proportion of students attending TAFE in Tweed was 2.15% compared with 3.78% in NSW. Table 2.5.1 shows the changes in enrolment figures over the four census 1986, 1991, 1996 and 2001. This table indicates that the proportion of persons participating in post-

secondary education in Tweed Shire has steadily increased over the four census. The largest increase has been in the numbers enrolled in 'Technical or Further Education Institutions' (TAFE) up from 1.4% in 1986 to 2.15% in 2001. It is likely that some residents access TAFE colleges and Universities in Queensland. There is a large TAFE College, a campus of Griffith University and Bond University located on the Gold Coast.

**Table 2.5.1**

### **Attendance at Educational Institutions, Tweed Shire, 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001 – All Persons**

Source: ABS census 2001, Tweed Community Profile 1999

	Persons Attending				Prop. % Attending			
	1986	1991	1996	2001	1986	1991	1996	2001
<b>Pre-school</b>	806	902	902	977	1.77%	1.62%	1.36%	1.32%
Infants/Primary:								
Government	3,357	4,130	4,803	4,751	7.37%	7.43%	7.22%	6.44%
Catholic				1,161	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	1.57%
Other Non Government	1,104	1,289	1,707	777	2.42%	2.32%	2.57%	1.05%
Total	4,461	5,419	6,510	6,689	9.79%	9.75%	9.79%	9.06%
<b>Secondary:</b>								
Government	2,493	2,670	3,027	3,224	5.47%	4.80%	4.55%	4.37%
Catholic				1,005	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	1.36%
Other Non Government	657	560	1,265	681	1.44%	1.01%	1.9%	0.92%
Total	3,150	3,230	4,292	4,910	6.91%	5.81%	6.45%	6.65%
<b>Technical or Further Educational Institution:</b>								
Full-time	85	165	340	540	0.19%	0.30%	0.51%	0.73%
Part-time	486	938	1,051	1,035	1.07%	1.69%	1.58%	1.40%
Not stated(a)	66	15	13	13	0.14%	0.03%	0.02%	0.02%
Total	637	1,118	1,404	1,588	1.40%	2.01%	2.11%	2.15%
<b>University or other Tertiary Institution:</b>								
Full-time	201	142	222	459	0.44%	0.26%	0.33%	0.62%
Part-time	153	296	427	510	0.34%	0.53%	0.64%	0.69%
Not stated(a)	9	0	5	3	0.02%	0.00%	0.01%	0.00%
Total	363	438	654	972	0.80%	0.79%	0.98%	1.32%
<b>Other:</b>								
Full-time	23	71	66	99	0.05%	0.13%	0.10%	0.13%
Part-time	84	128	141	279	0.18%	0.23%	0.21%	0.38%
Not stated(a)	32	7	6	12	0.07%	0.01%	0.01%	0.02%
Total	139	206	213	390	0.31%	0.37%	0.32%	0.53%
Not Attending	32,949	41,680	49,068	55,434	72.31%	74.98%	73.77%	75.09%
Not Stated (b)	3,064	2,598	3,475	2,861	6.72%	4.67%	5.22%	3.88%
Overseas Visitors	121	265	346	559	0.27%	0.48%	0.52%	0.76%
Total minus overseas visitors	45,569	55,591	66,518	73,821	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

**Table 2.5.2****Age left school by sex, Persons aged 15 years and over, Tweed Shire, 2001**

Source: ABS census 2001

	Males	Females	Persons	Male	Female	Persons
Year 8 or below	3,547	3,724	7,271	12.41%	12.03%	12.21%
Year 9 or equivalent	3,194	3,415	6,609	11.17%	11.03%	11.10%
Year 10 or equivalent	9,449	10,545	19,994	33.05%	34.06%	33.58%
Year 11 or equivalent	1,914	1,973	3,887	6.70%	6.37%	6.53%
Year 12 or equivalent	7,292	7,564	14,856	25.51%	24.43%	24.95%
Still at school	882	893	1,775	3.09%	2.88%	2.98%
Did not go to school	95	99	194	0.33%	0.32%	0.33%
Not stated	2,213	2,744	4,957	7.74%	8.86%	8.33%
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,586</b>	<b>30,957</b>	<b>59,543</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

(a) Refers to Primary or Secondary schooling

**Age left school**

Table 2.5.2 shows the age at which people – 15 years and over in Tweed Shire in 2001 – left school.

Overall 21,019 persons or 23.31% of the population aged 15 or more had left school at 15 or younger. There were 194 persons or .33% (of those aged 15 years and over) who did not go to school.

Across Planning Districts Murwillumbah had the highest proportion of persons who had left school at 14 years and under (13.85%) and the Rural North West had the highest proportion who had left at 15 years (11.8%). The area

with the highest number of persons who ‘did not go to school’ was Tweed Heads with 97 persons. Proportionally, it was Murwillumbah with 44%.

The Northern Rivers had a lower proportion of residents aged 15 and over who completed Year 12 than either Sydney or the Gold Coast (NR 27%; Sydney 45%; Gold Coast 38%) The NR had a higher proportion who completed only up to Year 10 than either Sydney or the Gold Coast (NR 34%; Sydney 23%; Gold Coast 28%) (Hunter Valley Research NR Regional Profile 2003).

**Table 2.5.3****Qualifications (highest) Level by Sex, Tweed Shire, 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001 – All Persons aged 15 years and over**

Source: ABS census 2001, Tweed Community Profile 1999

	Persons				Prop. %			
	1986	1991	1996	2001	1986	1991	1996	2001
Postgraduate Degree	65	155	219	362	0.18%	0.46%	0.42%	0.61%
Postgraduate Diploma/Certificate	166	300	461	526	0.47%	0.89%	0.87%	0.88%
Bachelor Degree	569	1116	1927	2960	1.60%	3.31%	3.65%	4.97%
Advanced Diploma/Diploma	1082	2002	2522	2890	3.05%	5.94%	4.78%	4.85%
Certificate	6651	6413	8047	10654	18.74%	19.04%	15.26%	17.89%
Not Stated (including inadequately described) (b)	4697	6139	7113	7917	13.24%	18.23%	13.49%	13.30%
Not applicable(c)	22259	17555	32449	34234	62.72%	52.12%	61.53%	57.49%
<b>Total</b>	<b>35489</b>	<b>33680</b>	<b>52738</b>	<b>59543</b>				

(a) Excludes schooling up to Year 12

(b) Includes ‘inadequately described’

(c) Includes persons who do not have a qualification and persons who have a qualification out of scope of the Australian Standard Classification of Education

## Level of Qualification

Census data is collected on the level and area of a person's qualifications. Table 2.5.3 shows the proportion of persons aged 15 years and over who had post-secondary qualifications as at the census in 1986, 1991, 1996 and 2001. It shows the proportion of persons with a Higher Degree or an Undergraduate Degree or Diploma has continued to increase. For example, in 1986 1.6% of persons aged 15 and over had a Bachelor Degree. In 2001 this figure was 4.97%. The proportion of persons obtaining a Higher Degree is also increasing. The 'Certificate' category decreased in 1996 to 15.26% only to increase in 2001 to 17.89%, but the overall trend is still decreasing since 1986. Compared with Sydney, Northern Rivers residents are less likely to have a Bachelor Degree or Postgraduate Degree but are more likely to have a Certificate at either level III or IV (Hunter Valley Research 2003).

Of people with a qualification, the Rural South West Planning District had the highest proportion of persons with a 'Higher Degree' (1.12%) compared with the overall Shire rate of 0.61%. The South West also had the highest proportion of persons holding a 'Bachelor Degree' 7.77%. Tweed Heads and Rural North West had the equal highest proportion of the category "Certificate" (18.13%).

The 2001 Census data indicated that although males were more likely to have a higher

degree – 229 (0.8%) compared with females – 137 (0.44%) females were more likely to have a Bachelor Degree (5.35% compared with 4.55%) or Post Graduate Diploma (1.04% compared to males .67%) or a Diploma (5.48% compared with 4.2%). Males made up the majority of those with a Certificate – 27.11% compared with the female rate of 9.37%.

## Area of qualification

Table 2.5.4 shows the areas in which people held qualifications, as at the 2001 Census. The data indicates that 'Engineering and Related Technologies' was the most highly ranked category (7.86%) of all persons aged 15 years and over with a qualification). Second highest ranking was 'Management and Commerce' (5.27%) followed by 'Health' (3.87%) and 'Architecture and Related Technologies' (3.54%).

An analysis of the data on a Planning District Basis indicates the four most highly ranked areas of qualification in the Shire were held in common with the individual Planning Districts of Tweed Heads, Rural North West, Rural North Coast and Dulguigan/Tumbulgum. In Rural South Coast, Rural South West and Murwillumbah 'Engineering' was also the main area of qualification but 'Education' figured in the highest categories.

**Table 2.5.4**

**Qualification by type by Sex, Tweed Shire 2001 – Persons Aged 15 years and over with a qualification (excluding overseas visitors) (a)**

Source: ABS Census 2001

	<b>Males</b>	<b>Females</b>	<b>Persons</b>	<b>Prop. %</b>
Natural and Physical Sciences	190	124	314	0.53%
Information Technology	151	116	267	0.45%
Engineering and Related Technologies	4,434	249	4,683	7.86%
Architecture and Building	2,055	55	2,110	3.54%
Agriculture, Environmental & Related Studies	463	99	562	0.94%
Health	502	1,802	2,304	3.87%
Education	622	1,303	1,925	3.23%
Management and Commerce	1,041	2,099	3,140	5.27%
Society and Culture	470	914	1,384	2.32%
Creative Arts	240	352	592	0.99%
Food, Hospitality and Personal Services	727	910	1,637	2.75%
Mixed Field Programmes	0	5	5	0.01%
Field of Study inadequately described	167	82	249	0.42%
Not stated	2,830	3,307	6,137	10.31%
Not applicable(b)	14,694	19,540	34,234	57.49%
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,586</b>	<b>30,957</b>	<b>59,543</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

(a) Excludes schooling up to Year 12

(b) Includes persons who do not have a qualification and persons who have a qualification out of scope of the Australian Standard Classification of Education

## 2.6 Employment Patterns

### Participation in the Work Force

At the 2001 Census 45.91% of the population aged 15 years and over or 27,334 persons were in the Labour Force meaning they were working or looking for work. This compared with 24,768 persons (46.96%) in 1996 and 21,840 (50%) in 1991. (Tweed Community Profile 1999). Other trends evident over the three Census (as a proportion of all persons aged 15 years and over) were:

- Decrease in full-time employed – 23.76% in 1996 to 22.48% in 2001;
- Increase in part-time employed – up from 14.81% in 1996 to 22.48% in 2001;
- Decrease in unemployed – down from 7.35% in 1996 to 5.80% in 2001;
- Decrease in the number of persons not in the Labour Force - 51.14% in 1996 to 49.85% in 2001.

Tweed Shire had 0.86% of the entire Labour Force in NSW as counted on Census night 2001. Tweed Shire's Labour Force grew by 2,566 persons (9.95%) between 1996 and 2001 compared with 5.5% in NSW. Full-time employment at the State level decreased from 62.7% in 1996 to 61% in 2001. Part-time employment increased from 26.4% in 1996 to 29% in 2001, an increase of 15.8%. In the Northern Rivers there has been a move towards part-time employment that reflects national trends. While there has been a rise in the overall number of people working, the increase has been mainly due to the creation of more part-time jobs. Within the Northern Rivers the shift has affected all age groups but most particularly the 15-19 year age group and particularly females. (Hunter Valley Research NR Regional Profile 2003).

Table 2.6.1 shows Labour Force data gathered at the 2001 Census by sex and as a proportion of the Labour Force (Rate) as well as a proportion of all persons aged 15 years and over (participation). Females had a lower participation rate in the Labour Force than males and were much more likely to be in part-time employment (20.05% for females and 12.21% for males). Males had higher rates of unemployment than females, 14.19% compared with 10.76%.

The overall unemployment rate on Census night (proportion of the Labour Force unemployed) was 12.65%. This was a similar rate to the Northern Rivers which had an unemployment rate of 12.9% (down from 18% in 1991) but significantly higher than the State at 7%. (Hunter Valley Research 2003). The unemployment rate in the Northern Rivers has traditionally been higher than the State average. The unemployment rate on the Gold Coast was 10%. Unemployed persons in Tweed Shire on Census night 2001 (3,454) made up 1.62% of all unemployed persons in NSW.

Across individual Planning Districts, general unemployment levels at the 2001 Census (proportion of Labour Force unemployed) were:

Tweed Heads	11.86%
Rural North Coast	14.37%
Rural South Coast	13.73%
Dulguigan/Tumbulgum	10.72%
Murwillumbah	11.46%
Rural South West	19.02%
Rural North West	11.69%

All had unemployment rates higher than the State average of 7%. The unemployment rate for young people aged 15-19 was particularly high in Murwillumbah where 21.18% of this age cohort were unemployed on Census night 2001. The Rural North West District had the lowest unemployment rate for this age cohort at 6.52%. The highest rate for any age cohort was in the Rural North West in the 35-44 year age cohort with 37.68%.

**Table 2.6.1****Age by Labour Force Status (Full-time/Part-time) by Sex, Tweed Shire 2001**  
**Persons aged 15 years and over (excluding overseas visitors)**

Source: ABS Census 2001

	Males			Females			Persons
	Persons	Prop. % Lab Force	Prop. % Persons 15 years & over	Persons	Prop. % Lab Force	Prop. % Persons 15 years & over	Persons
<b>Employed:</b>							
Full-Time (a)	8,907	59.50%	31.16%	4,477	36.21%	14.46%	13,384
Part-Time	3,490	23.31%	12.21%	6,207	50.21%	20.05%	9,697
Not stated (b)	450	3.01%	1.57%	349	2.82%	1.13%	799
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,847</b>	<b>85.81%</b>	<b>44.94%</b>	<b>11,033</b>	<b>89.24%</b>	<b>35.64%</b>	<b>23,880</b>
<b>Unemployed:</b>							
Seeking full-Time work	1,817	12.14%	6.36%	775	6.27%	2.50%	2,592
Seeking Part-Time work	307	2.05%	1.07%	555	4.49%	1.79%	862
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,124</b>	<b>14.19%</b>	<b>7.43%</b>	<b>1,330</b>	<b>10.76%</b>	<b>4.30%</b>	<b>3,454</b>
Total labour Force	14,971	100.00%	52.37%	12,363	100.00%	39.94%	27,334
Not in the Labour Force	12,551		43.91%	17,129		55.34%	29,680
Not stated (c)	1,064		3.72%	1,463		4.73%	2,527
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,586</b>		<b>100.00%</b>	<b>30,955</b>		<b>100.00%</b>	<b>59,541</b>

(a) Full-time is defined as having worked 35 hours or more in all jobs during the week prior to Census night

(b) Includes employed persons who did not state their hours worked

(c) Includes persons who did not state their labour force status

Table 2.6.2 shows the 2001 Census data by sex by age cohorts. Unemployment rates were highest in the 20-24 (16.99%) and 15-19 (10.70%) age cohorts. Males in these age cohorts had a higher unemployment rate than females of the same age. Males in the 20-24 year age cohort had a staggering 21.49% unemployment rate.

**Table 2.6.2****Unemployment Rates by Age Cohort, Tweed Shire, 2001**

Source: ABS Census 2001

Age Cohort	Males		Females		Persons	
	Total in Labour Force	%of Labour Force Unemployed	Total in Labour Force	%of Labour Force Unemployed	Total in Labour Force	Total in Labour Force
15 to19 years	2371	11.26%	2123	10.8%	4494	10.70%
20 to24 years	1387	21.49%	1280	12.11%	2667	16.99%
25 to 34 years	3252	13.35%	3678	6.88%	6930	9.91%
35 to 44 years	4829	9.71%	5422	6.51%	10251	8.02%
45 to 54 years	4793	8.87%	4942	4.94%	9735	6.87%
55 to 64 years	4048	5.21%	4527	2.39%	8575	3.72%
65 years & over	7906	0.25%	8983	0.03%	16889	0.14%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>28,586</b>	<b>7.43%</b>	<b>30,955</b>	<b>4.30%</b>	<b>59541</b>	<b>5.80%</b>

**Occupation of Employed Persons**

The top three occupations in which employed persons were engaged as at Census night 2001 were the ABS categories of 'Intermediate Clerical, Sales and Service Workers', 'Tradespersons and Related Workers', and 'Professionals'. Table 2.6.3 shows the number and proportion percent of persons in each category including the different occupational patterns for males and females.

persons in the categories of; 'Professionals', 'Associate Professionals', 'Intermediate and Elementary Clerical Sales and Service' (two categories). Proportional declines were experienced in the categories of 'Managers and Administrators', 'Tradespersons and Related Workers', 'Advanced Clerical and Service Workers', and 'Intermediate Production and Transport Workers.' The category of 'Labourers and Related Workers' has remained steady.

The 2001 Census shows an increase from the 1996 Census in the proportion of employed

In comparison with the Northern Rivers region and NSW, Tweed had a lower proportion of employed people in the occupational categories of 'Managers and Administrators', and 'Professionals'. For example, in the 'Professional category' Tweed had 13.66% compared with the NSW figure of 19.1%, although the level of 'Associate Professionals' was just slightly higher (12.26%) than that for the State (11.6%). Conversely, Tweed had proportionally more persons in the categories of 'Tradespersons' (14.04%) than NSW where it was 7.4% and had the highest proportion in the Northern Rivers. In the category of

'Labourer' in Tweed the proportion was 10.35% compared with NSW with 8%.

At the Planning District level comparisons of two randomly selected categories indicated that:

- Rural South West had the highest proportion of 'Professionals' (18.43%) and Tweed Heads had the lowest (12.93%)
- Dulguigan/Tumbulgum had the highest proportion of 'Labourers and Related Workers' (12.79%) and Tweed Heads the lowest (8.95%)

**Table 2.6.3**

**Occupation by Sex, All Employed Persons Tweed Shire 2001**

Source: ABS Census 2001

	<b>Males</b>	<b>Females</b>	<b>Persons</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Managers and Administrators	1,258	489	1,747	7.32%
Professionals	1,374	1,888	3,262	13.66%
Associate Professionals	1,630	1,297	2,927	12.26%
Tradespersons and Related Workers	2,940	415	3,355	14.05%
Advanced Clerical and Service Workers	89	794	883	3.70%
Intermediate Clerical, Sales and Service Workers	1,028	2,868	3,896	16.32%
Intermediate Production and Transport Workers	1,680	224	1,904	7.97%
Elementary Clerical, Sales and Service Workers	964	1,957	2,921	12.23%
Labourers and Related Workers	1,597	875	2,472	10.35%
Inadequately described	124	61	185	0.77%
Not stated	163	161	324	1.36%
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,847</b>	<b>11,029</b>	<b>23,876</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

**Industry of Employment**

The industry employing the most persons in Tweed Shire at Census night 2001 was the 'Retail Trade' that provided jobs for 4,417 persons or 18.50% of the working Labour Force. The other major industries of employment in rank order were 'Health and Community Services' (11.34%), 'Construction' (9.15%), 'Accommodation, Cafes and Restaurants' (8.78%) and 'Property and Business Services' (8.72%). This was the same order as at the 1996 Census. This pattern was different between males and females. The highest proportion of employment for both males and females was in the 'Retail Trade' sector but for females the second highest employment was in the 'Health and Community Services' sector while for males it was the 'Construction' industry. Table 2.6.4 gives a more detailed breakdown of the proportion of workers employed in each industry.

The major industry of employment was also different across Planning Districts in the Shire.

'Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing' was the largest industry in the Rural North West and Rural South West and second largest for the Dulguigan/Tumbulgum district. In all the other districts 'Retail Trade' was the largest industry with 'Health and Community Services' the second largest in the South West, Murwillumbah and Rural North Coast.

Many industries show clear upward or downward trends across the four Census in 1986, 1991, 1996 and 2001. Industries that have significantly declined in terms of the proportion of people they employ (not necessarily in other ways) are: 'Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing'; and 'Finance and Insurance'. For example, the 'Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing' industry employed 10.84% of workers in 1986 compared with 6.84% in 1996 and 5.46% in 2001. Industries that increased the share of workers they employed between 1986 and 2001 were: 'Construction' and 'Health and Community Services'. (ABS 2001 Census and Tweed Community Profile 1999).

“There has been a significant shift in the Northern Rivers economy with a trend toward proportionally greater employment in the tertiary or service sector of the economy. While tertiary employment was becoming more important primary sector employment was shrinking. In 2001 in the Northern Rivers the largest proportion of employment by industry was in the ‘Retail Trade’, followed by ‘Health and Community Services’ with Manufacturing and Education next. For NSW the ‘Manufacturing’ industry was the greatest employer of people followed by the ‘Construction’ and ‘Retail Trade’ industries. In Tweed Shire ‘Manufacturing’ ranked sixth highest.

Table 2.6.5 shows the pattern of employment by industry for Tweed Shire and NSW at the 1996 and 2001 Census. Common to the four highest employment industries in each of these areas are the categories of ‘Retail Trade’, ‘Property and Business’, ‘Health and Community Services’, and ‘Construction’.

**Table 2.6.4**  
**Industry by Sex, Tweed Shire 2001**  
 Employed persons (excluding overseas visitors)  
 Source: ABS Census 2001

Industry	Persons			Prop. %		
	Male	Female	Persons	Male	Female	Persons
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	931	373	1,304	7.24%	3.38%	5.46%
Mining	37	6	43	0.29%	0.05%	0.18%
Manufacturing	1,255	466	1,721	9.77%	4.22%	7.21%
Electricity, Gas and Water Supply	116	5	121	0.90%	0.05%	0.51%
Construction	1,931	253	2,184	15.03%	2.29%	9.15%
Wholesale Trade	627	270	897	4.88%	2.45%	3.76%
Retail Trade	2,084	2,333	4,417	16.22%	21.15%	18.50%
Accommodation, Cafes and Restaurants	954	1,142	2,096	7.42%	10.35%	8.78%
Transport and Storage	723	182	905	5.63%	1.65%	3.79%
Communication Services	201	88	289	1.56%	0.80%	1.21%
Finance and Insurance	169	308	477	1.32%	2.79%	2.00%
Property and Business Services	1,024	1,059	2,083	7.97%	9.60%	8.72%
Government Administration and Defence	533	368	901	4.15%	3.34%	3.77%
Education	521	1,095	1,616	4.05%	9.93%	6.77%
Health and Community Services	590	2,118	2,708	4.59%	19.20%	11.34%
Cultural and Recreational Services	358	268	626	2.79%	2.43%	2.62%
Personal and Other Services	461	399	860	3.59%	3.62%	3.60%
Non-classifiable economic units	125	104	229	0.97%	0.94%	0.96%
Not stated	211	193	404	1.64%	1.75%	1.69%
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,851</b>	<b>11,030</b>	<b>23,881</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

**Table 2.6.5****Industry of Employment Tweed Shire 2001 compared with NSW**

Source: ABS Census 2001, Tweed Council Community Profile 1999

Industry	Tweed '96	Tweed '01	Tweed '01	NSW '01	NSW '01
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	6.8%	1304	5.46%	92,358	3.36%
Mining	0.2%	52	0.22%	14,823	0.54%
Manufacturing	7.7%	1721	7.21%	316,113	11.50%
Electricity, Gas and Water Supply	0.5%	124	0.52%	20,389	0.74%
Construction	9.0%	2184	9.14%	189,740	6.90%
Wholesale Trade	4.0%	898	3.76%	152,790	5.56%
Retail Trade	16.6%	4417	18.50%	390,914	14.22%
Accommodation, Cafes and Restaurants	9.6%	2096	8.78%	141,927	5.16%
Transport and Storage	4.1%	901	3.77%	125,752	4.58%
Communication Services	1.5%	285	1.19%	54,958	2.00%
Finance and Insurance	2.4%	474	1.98%	131,955	4.80%
Property and Business Services	8.1%	2082	8.72%	334,299	12.16%
Government Administration and Defence	3.5%	901	3.77%	105,380	3.83%
Education	6.6%	1616	6.77%	187,168	6.81%
Health and Community Services	10.3%	2708	11.34%	258,522	9.41%
Cultural and Recreational Services	2.1%	626	2.62%	67,595	2.46%
Personal and Other Services	3.5%	860	3.60%	98,321	3.58%
Non-classifiable economic units	1.0%	229	0.96%	14,884	0.54%
Not stated	2.4%	404	1.69%	50,508	1.84%
<b>Total</b>	<b>99.9%</b>	<b>23882</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>2,748,396</b>	<b>100.00%</b>



## 2.7 Income

Census data provides detailed information about individual, household and Family Income.

### Individual Income

Table 2.7.1 shows individual weekly income by age cohort and indicates that (for persons aged 15 years and over) the largest number of persons, 11,482 (19.14%) have incomes between \$200 and \$299 per week. In the Northern Rivers the figure is just under 18 per cent while the NSW proportion is 12%. The largest number of persons 31,887 (59.21%) have incomes somewhere between \$120 and \$500 per week. A total of 9,930 persons (16.56%) had incomes of less than \$160 per week. Overall, incomes for Northern Rivers' individuals are generally lower than NSW and are more concentrated in the middle income ranges. There are proportionally fewer people in the higher income brackets in the NR compared with NSW. (Hunter Valley Research NR Regional Profile 2003).

Across Planning Districts the proportion of persons having incomes of less than \$160 per week is as follows:

Rural South West	(560 persons)	23.86%
Rural North West	(446 persons)	21.55%
Dulguigan/Tumbulgum	(257 persons)	19.2%
Murwillumbah	(1,355 persons)	18.79%
Rural South Coast	(851 persons)	18.02%
Rural North Coast	(1,617 persons)	16.35%
Tweed Heads	(4,845 persons)	15.09%

In the 1996 Census the Rural South West had the highest proportion of individual incomes of less than \$160 per week (35.88%) followed by the Rural North West (35.15%) and then the Rural South Coast (33.65%).

The Tumbulgum/Dulguigan Planning District had the highest proportion of individuals (6.94%) with incomes of \$1,000 per week or more. This was followed by the Rural North Coast (5.47%) and Rural North West (4.83%). The Rural North West had had the highest proportion of individuals (72.13%) with incomes of \$499 per week and less equating to \$25,948 per annum. The Rural South West was next with 72.01%.

The proportion of households in the North Coast earning weekly household incomes of less than \$500 was 46.6% compared with 31.6% for NSW, while only 15% of households had an income of \$1,200 or more, compared with 32.7% for NSW. (Far North East NSW Region DOTARS A Regional Profile June 2003). According to the Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS), in a press release in September 2003, there was a survey by Roy Morgan Research that "asked Australians what is the smallest amount that a family of four – two parents and two children – need each week to keep in health and to live decently." "The average response is \$541 per week." "The results indicate that around 100,000 unemployed families who are solely on social security payments of only \$519 a week are falling below this 'community' poverty line." In March 2003 the Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research defined the poverty line for a couple with two children as \$29,031 a year and for a single person \$15,456. According to the Australian Senate Inquiry into Poverty Report Overview, *A hand up not a hand out: Renewing the fight against poverty*, March 2004 "Perhaps the most salient example of the prevalence of poverty and disadvantage is the striking finding that 21 per cent of households, or 3.6 million Australians, live on less than \$400 a week – less than the minimum wage." (page xvii). In Tweed 31.75% of households earn less than \$400 a week. There are 2,446 persons, or 3.29% of the total population of Tweed Shire receiving the Centrelink Parenting Payment Single. Overall, there are 27,512 persons receiving Centrelink income support.

According to the Sydney Morning Herald (Oct. 9, 1999) the rural and coastal areas are beginning to show similarly high concentrations of single parent families to outer Sydney suburbs like Campbelltown (32%) and Blacktown (29%). There is a "nationwide shift in population, with high-income households moving into the cities and the poor moving out. This is leading to a high concentration of poor families in seaside towns which are ill-equipped to support them." The extent of the problem is shown in research by Monash University's Centre for Population and Urban research conducted for the SMH. 68% of children on the North Coast live in families receiving welfare support. And, many of these

families have moved into areas during the past two decades. "But the new arrivals often struggle to cope in an area which has high unemployment and no public transport. The large numbers of children moving into the area has meant the schools are overflowing and there's been significant increases in youth homelessness and early school leaving."

From the DOTARS Far North East Regional Profile 2003 the average individual annual taxable income for Tweed – Part A was \$29,007 in 1999/00 and was \$28,040 in Tweed- Part B. The income in Part B was the second lowest in the Far North East Region

next to Kyogle, which was \$27,125. The average for NSW was \$38,954 and for Australia was \$36,161. (Australian Taxation Office, Taxation Statistics). The most noticeable feature of the income for the Northern Rivers as compared to NSW is that the distribution is skewed towards the lower middle income bands and decreases in the higher income bands whereas in NSW the distribution is comparatively more evenly spread with a rise in proportions for higher income bands. (Hunter Valley Research NR Regional Profile 2003).

**Table 2.7.1**

**Weekly Individual Income, Persons by Age, Tweed Shire 2001**

**Persons aged 15 years and over**

Source: ABS Census 2001

	15 - 19 years	20 - 24 years	25-34 years	35 - 44 years	45 - 54 years	55 - 64 years	65 - 74 years	75 years & over	Total	Prop. % of All Individuals
Negative/Nil income	1,153	94	209	343	431	333	92	42	2,697	4.50%
\$1-\$39	368	13	49	86	81	76	36	16	725	1.21%
\$40-\$79	656	35	110	156	100	108	60	45	1,270	2.12%
\$80-\$119	452	95	154	236	185	225	163	96	1,606	2.68%
\$120-\$159	321	198	410	485	470	726	660	362	3,632	6.05%
\$160-\$199	241	300	550	766	1,001	1,675	2,447	1,461	8,441	14.07%
\$200-\$299	426	423	871	1,302	1,278	1,723	2,839	2,620	11,482	19.14%
\$300-\$399	228	450	849	1,277	962	908	1,175	893	6,742	11.24%
\$400-\$499	83	386	890	1,281	1,011	669	504	398	5,222	8.71%
\$500-\$599	29	238	791	1,065	1,013	563	270	240	4,209	7.02%
\$600-\$699	7	122	536	750	674	314	152	98	2,653	4.42%
\$700-\$799	0	58	372	544	470	214	108	94	1,860	3.10%
\$800-\$999	0	48	395	655	604	235	102	96	2,135	3.56%
\$1,000-\$1,499	3	19	259	625	699	211	71	68	1,955	3.26%
\$1,500 or more	6	8	76	163	222	93	52	39	659	1.10%
Not stated	515	180	409	517	534	502	646	946	4,249	7.08%
Overseas visitors	71	34	72	63	59	48	69	32	448	0.75%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,559</b>	<b>2,701</b>	<b>7,002</b>	<b>10,314</b>	<b>9,794</b>	<b>8,623</b>	<b>9,446</b>	<b>7,546</b>	<b>59,985</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

**Household Income**

At the time the 2001 Census was taken 10,841 (38.24%) of the households indicated that their weekly income was in the \$200-\$499 range. Table 2.7.2 shows the numbers and proportion of households in each Planning District with a weekly income of less than \$300 or a weekly income in excess of \$1,000. It shows that

Murwillumbah (18.61%) and Tweed Heads (17.23%) had the highest proportions of households in the under \$300 per week category. Tweed Heads (28.47%) and Dulguigan/Tumbulgum (22.35%) had the highest proportions of households with a weekly income in excess of \$1,000. In the Northern Rivers Regional Profile

**Table 2.7.2****Households with a Weekly Income of less than \$300 or more than \$1,000 by Planning District, Tweed Shire 2001**

Source: ABS Census 2001, CDATA 01

	Income less than \$300/wk		Income in excess \$1,000/wk	
	Number of households	Prop. % households	Number of households	Prop. % households
Tweed Heads	2647	17.23%	4374	28.47%
Rural Coast A	853	18.56%	863	18.78%
Rural Coast B	319	14.57%	379	17.31%
Tumbulgum/Dulgiugan	90	14.90%	135	22.35%
Murwillumbah	655	18.61%	642	18.24%
Rural South West	200	17.50%	203	17.76%
Rural North West	167	16.55%	167	16.55%

Table 2.7.3 compares weekly household income with that of NSW. The most significant figure is that of households with incomes of between \$1500-\$1999 which in Tweed is 4.34% compared with NSW (10.94%). Households with incomes \$2,000 or more in Tweed were 2.38% and in NSW were 10.22%. Tweed Shire has higher proportions of lower income households. In Tweed 11.95% of households have incomes between \$120-\$299 compared with NSW with 7.42% and 14.27 have incomes between \$300-\$399 compared with NSW with 8.7%.

**Table 2.7.3****Weekly Household Income, Tweed Shire 2001 compared with NSW 2001**

Source: ABS Census 2001, NSW Regional Profile 2004

	Tweed Shire '01	Tweed Shire %	NSW '01	NSW %
Negative/Nil	167	.59	17,248	.77
\$1-\$119	1407	4.94	90,065	4.03
\$120-\$299	3405	11.95	165,701	7.42
\$300-\$399	4065	14.27	191,382	8.57
\$400-\$499	3371	11.83	158,139	7.08
\$500-\$599	1975	6.93	111,087	4.98
\$600-\$699	2159	7.58	127,845	5.73
\$700-\$799	1357	4.76	98,815	4.43
\$800-\$999	2362	8.29	192,175	8.61
\$1000-\$1199	1707	5.99	178,141	9.98
\$1200-\$1499	1500	5.27	172,775	7.74
\$1500-\$1999	1236	4.34	244,355	10.94
\$2000 or more	679	2.38	228,299	10.22
Partial income stated (a)	1787	6.27	178,210	7.98
All incomes not stated (b)	1310	4.60	78,594	3.52
<b>Total</b>	<b>28487</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2,232,831</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Weekly Family Income**

In considering Weekly Family income the category of 'less than \$499' has been chosen. As one of the poverty line indicators this equates to \$25,948 or less per annum. Table 2.7.4 shows the proportion of family type by weekly family income in Tweed Shire in 2001. In Tweed Shire in 2001 the most significant

figures is that 60.29% of 'One Parent Families' have incomes \$499 or less. The proportion of 'Other Family' households with this income is 46.83% and for 'Couple Family without Children' it is 43.84%. 11.37% of 'Couple Family with Children' had incomes of less than \$499 per week.

**Table 2.7.4****Prop % Family Type by Weekly Family Income, Tweed Shire 2001**

Source: ABS Census 2001

	Couple Family with Children	Couple Family without Children	One Parent Family	Other Family	Total
Negative/Nil income	0.35%	0.49%	0.62%	0.00%	0.44%
\$1-\$199	0.40%	0.69%	3.27%	0.00%	0.96%
\$200-\$299	0.70%	1.24%	10.86%	5.37%	2.54%
\$300-\$399	3.99%	25.31%	23.89%	12.68%	16.78%
\$400-\$499	5.93%	16.11%	21.65%	28.78%	13.10%
\$500-\$599	6.39%	6.52%	11.93%	15.12%	7.25%
\$600-\$699	8.03%	10.52%	8.49%	7.80%	9.05%
\$700-\$799	7.26%	4.20%	5.71%	6.83%	5.46%
\$800-\$999	14.78%	8.35%	6.16%	11.71%	10.16%
\$1,000-\$1,199	10.51%	5.84%	3.95%	6.34%	7.10%
\$1,200-\$1,499	12.15%	5.36%	1.94%	1.46%	7.10%
\$1,500-\$1,999	9.33%	4.18%	1.20%	3.90%	5.47%
\$2,000 or more	5.57%	2.30%	0.32%	0.00%	3.09%
Partial income stated(a)	12.90%	5.30%	9.34%	3.90%	8.51%
All incomes not stated(b)	1.70%	3.59%	4.21%	8.29%	2.98%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

(a) Includes families where at least one, but not all, member(s) aged 15 years and over did not state an income and/or at least one family member aged 15 years and over was temporarily absent

(b) Includes families where no members present stated an income

Table 2.7.5 compares family incomes across Planning Districts. Rural South Coast had the highest proportion of families with incomes of less than \$300 per week and Dulguigan/Tumbulgum had the highest proportion of families with an income in excess of \$1,000 per week.

**Table 2.7.5****Families with weekly incomes less than \$300 or greater than \$1,000, Tweed Shire Planning Districts 2001**

Source: ABS Census 2001, CDATA01

	Income less than \$300/wk		Income in excess \$1,000	
	Number of Families	Prop % Families	Number of Families	Prop % Families
Tweed Heads	353	3.3	2462	23.02
Rural North Coast	151	4.79	737	23.37
Rural South Coast	266	16.02	342	20.60
Tumbulgum/Dulguigan	21	4.6	124	27.13
Murwillumbah	103	4.27	550	22.79
Rural South West	72	7.86	190	20.74
Rural North West	46	5.82	159	20.13

## 2.8 Marital Status

Census data shows marital status by age and sex across five categories for persons aged 15 years and over.

Table 2.8.1 shows the marital status as at the 2001 Census and the differences between males and females. The high proportion of females who were in the widowed category reflects the age profile of the population and

the fact that women tend to live longer than men. In the 60 and over age category, there were 3,582 females who had been widowed compared to 1021 males. Amongst persons aged 24 or younger, 97.05% of males and 94.03% of females had never been married. This compares with 95.78% of males and 90.40% of females at the 1996 Census.

**Table 2.8.1**  
**Registered Marital Status by Sex, Tweed Shire 2001**

Source: ABS Census 2001

	<b>Males</b>	<b>% Males</b>	<b>Females</b>	<b>% Females</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>% Total</b>
Never Married	7,996	27.78%	6,502	20.84%	14,498	24.17%
Married	16,008	55.62%	16,112	51.63%	32,120	53.54%
Separated	1,038	3.61%	1,271	4.07%	2,309	3.85%
Divorced	2,600	9.03%	3,263	10.46%	5,863	9.77%
Widowed	1,141	3.96%	4,059	13.01%	5,200	8.67%
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,783</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>31,207</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>59,990</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

Table 2.8.2 shows trends in marital status in Tweed Shire over the four Census 1986, 1991, 1996 and 2001. It indicates a continuing upward trend in the proportion of people who were divorced or widowed. At the same time

there was a decrease in the proportion of persons who were married, down from 61.30% in 1991 to 53.54% in 2001.

**Table 2.8.2**  
**Registered Marital Status Tweed Shire 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001**

Source: ABS Census 2001, Tweed Community Profile 1999

	<b>Tweed '86</b>	<b>Tweed '91</b>	<b>Tweed '96</b>	<b>Tweed '01</b>
Never Married	23.00%	21.20%	22.40%	24.17%
Married	61.50%	61.30%	57.10%	53.54%
Separated	2.90%	3.20%	3.90%	3.85%
Divorced	5.30%	6.50%	8.20%	9.77%
Widowed	7.30%	7.80%	8.40%	8.67%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

Table 2.8.3 compares marital status in Tweed Shire with the broader NSW North Coast region and NSW at the 2001 census. Tweed had a higher proportion of persons who were separated, divorced or widowed compared with both areas however, the differences were more pronounced between the Shire and NSW compared to the Shire and the Richmond-Tweed region. Tweed Shire also had significantly less persons who had 'never married' (24.17%) compared with NSW (31.3%). However, the proportion of people who are married has declined across all of these areas during the ten year period from 1991 to 2001. The Region has a higher proportion of divorced people than the State and a lower proportion of residents who have never married.

**Table 2.8.3****Registered Marital Status, Tweed Shire 2001 compared with Richmond-Tweed SD and NSW**

Source: ABS Census 2001, ABS Regional Profile 2004,

	<b>Tweed</b>	<b>Richmond-Tweed</b>	<b>NSW</b>
Never Married	24.17%	28.3%	31.3%
Married	53.34%	50.6%	51.7%
Separated	3.85%	3.8%	3.3%
Divorced	9.77%	9.5%	7.2%
Widowed	8.67%	7.7%	6.5%
Total	100%	100%	100%

## 2.9 Families and Households

Census data provides information about different family types as both a proportion of households and as a proportion of all persons. Information is also available on the size of households and on the age and relationship of persons living in families.

### Households

In Tweed Shire in 2001 the largest proportion of family households (30.74%) were 'Couple Families without children'. This has decreased slightly since the 1996 Census when it was 31.06%. Table 2.9.1 shows the proportion of households by family type. At the 2001 Census the Northern Rivers 'Couple family without children' comprised 24.95% compared with 34.9% for NSW. 'Couple family with children' accounted for 48.02% in the Northern Rivers compared with 47.8% in NSW. The most

significant difference is in the 'Lone person household' category. Tweed had 27.08% and NSW had 8.8%. Tweed Shire and Grafton are the LGAs with the highest proportion of Lone person households of the Northern Rivers Region LGAs. Generally for the Northern Rivers region it has a higher proportion of couples without children, lone parents and lone person households compared with the State. There is a corresponding lower proportion of couples with children. The proportion of lone parent and lone person households in the Region increased significantly between 1996 and 2001, while the proportion of households consisting of couples with children declined. (Hunter Valley Research NR Regional Profile, 2003). The growth in lone person households may be attributed to the ageing population. Table 2.9.2 makes these comparisons.

**Table 2.9.1**

### **Family Type**

#### **Families (a) and Persons in families (b) in occupied private dwellings (excluding overseas visitors)**

Source: ABS Census 2001

Family Households	Total	Prop. % of all households
<b>One family households:-</b>		
Couple family with children	7,163	24.98
Couple family without children	9,129	31.84
One parent Family	3,503	12.22
Other family	234	0.82
<b>TOTAL ONE FAMILY HOUSEHOLDS</b>	<b>20,029</b>	<b>69.86</b>
Multi-Family Households		
<b>TOTAL FAMILY HOUSEHOLDS</b>		
<b>Non-family households:-</b>		
Lone person household	7,765	27.08
Group household	877	3.06
<b>TOTAL NON-FAMILY HOUSEHOLDS</b>	<b>8,642</b>	<b>30.14</b>
<b>TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS</b>	<b>28,671</b>	<b>100</b>

**Table 2.9.2**

### **Household Type and Size Richmond -Tweed SD and NSW 2001**

Source: ABS Regional Profile 2004

	Richmond-Tweed SD no.	Prop % Richmond - Tweed	NSW no.	Prop % NSW
Single Family	54,893	68.98	1,596,231	71.49
Multiple Family Household	545	.68	28,867	1.29
Group Households	21,010	26.40	522,487	23.40
Lone Person Households	3,132	3.94	85,243	3.82
Total Households	79,580	100	2,232,828	100

Table 2.9.3 shows Household Type by Family Type by Planning District in Tweed Shire in 2001. It indicates that:

- The highest proportion of 'Couple families with children' were found in Tumbulgum/Dulguigan and the Rural North West

- The highest proportion of "One parent families' were found in the Rural South West and the Rural North Coast
- The highest proportion "Couple families without children' were found in Tweed Heads and the Rural North Coast
- The highest proportion of 'Lone person households' were found in the Rural North Coast (28.99%) and Murwillumbah (28.72%)

**Table 2.9.3**

**Prop % Family Type, Tweed Shire Planning Districts 2001  
Families (a) and Persons in families (b) in occupied private dwellings**

Source: ABS Census 2001

FAMILY HOUSEHOLDS	Tweed Heads	Rural North Coast	Rural South Coast	Tumbulgum/Dulguigan	Murwillumbah	Rural South West	Rural North West
Couple Family with Children	32.31	33.21	40.70	48.03	42.59	43.91	45.96
Couple Family without Children	50.45	43.9	40.94	35.31	38.33	33.18	39.21
One Parent Family	16.09	21.43	17.39	15.35	18.30	21.9	13.64
Other Family	1.15	1.45	0.97	1.32	0.78	1.02	1.19
<b>Total One Family</b>							
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

a) Includes same sex couples

b) Excludes family members who were temporarily absent on census night

**Household Size**

Table 2.9.4 shows a summary of household numbers by size (number of persons usually resident) by Planning District. In Tweed Shire overall the proportions were:

One Person Household	27.26%
Two Person Households	39.40%
Three Person Households	12.98%
Four Person Households	12.02%
Five or more person households	8.34%

**Table 2.9.4**

**Households by Number of Persons usually resident, Tweed Shire Planning Districts 2001 (a)  
Occupied private dwellings (b)**

	Number of Persons usually resident												Total Households
	1	Prop. %	2	Prop. %	3	Prop. %	4	Prop. %	5	Prop. %	6 or more	Prop. %	
Tweed Heads	4313	28.05%	6489	42.20%	1854	12.06%	1679	10.92%	731	4.75%	312	2.03%	15378
Rural North Coast	1,345	28.99%	1,797	38.74%	591	12.74%	510	10.99%	286	6.17%	110	2.37%	4639
Rural South Coast	522	23.68%	832	37.75%	292	13.25%	321	14.56%	158	7.17%	79	3.58%	2204
Tumbulgum/Dulguigan	130	21.24%	212	34.64%	101	16.50%	96	15.69%	56	9.15%	17	2.78%	612
Murwillumbah	1,008	28.72%	1,135	32.34%	510	14.53%	484	13.79%	238	6.78%	135	3.85%	3510
Rural South West	237	20.79%	397	34.82%	193	16.93%	177	15.53%	96	8.42%	40	3.51%	1140
Rural North West	210	20.87%	369	36.68%	162	16.10%	154	15.31%	72	7.16%	39	3.88%	1006
Tweed Shire	7,765	27.26%	11,225	39.40%	3,697	12.98%	3,424	12.02%	1,647	5.78%	729	2.56%	28487

(a) Includes partners, children, and co-tenants (in group households) who were temporarily absent on Census night. A maximum of 3 temporary absentees can be counted in each household

(b) Excludes 'Non-classifiable households' and 'Visitor Only households'



## Persons in Families

Over the four census in 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001 (Table 2.9.5):

- The proportion of persons living in 'Couple families with children' peaked in 1991 at 51.24% and declined from then to 42.61% in 2001;
- The proportion of persons living in 'One parent families' increased from 9.89% in 1991 to 13.94% in 2001;
- The proportion of persons living in 'Couple families without children' has increased from 24.23% in 1991 to 27.31% in 2001;
- The proportion of persons in 'Lone persons households' increased from 9.08% in 1991 to 11.66% in 2001.

A table in the ABS Basic Community Profile (B14) shows individuals' age and relationship to their household. This data is summarised below for the 15-24 year age cohorts.

Young people aged 15-24 years:

- 2,691 persons (3.76%) were a dependent student
- 170 persons (0.24%) were a lone parent
- 1,787 persons (2.5%) were a husband or wife in a registered marriage
- 227 persons (0.32%) lived in a lone person household
- 376 persons (0.53%) lived in a group household

**Table 2.9.5**

***Persons in family, group and lone person households (excluding overseas visitors), Tweed Shire 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001***

Source: ABS Census 2001, Tweed Community Profile 1999

	1986		1991		1996		2001	
	Persons	Prop. %	Persons	Prop. %	Persons	Prop. %	Persons	Prop. %
Couple family with children	19,822	45.11%	25,111	51.24%	27,051	46.41%	28,387	42.61%
Couple family without children	13,773	31.35%	11,874	24.23%	14,413	24.73%	18,195	27.31%
One parent family	2,729	6.21%	4,846	9.89%	6,947	11.92%	9,287	13.94%
Other family	1,385	3.15%	450	0.92%	465	0.80%	486	0.73%
<b>Total one family households</b>	<b>37,709</b>	<b>85.82%</b>	<b>42,281</b>	<b>86.28%</b>	<b>48,876</b>	<b>83.86%</b>	<b>56,355</b>	<b>84.59%</b>
Multi-family households	1,743	3.97%	654	1.33%	1,101	1.89%	591	0.89%
Lone person household	3,094	7.04%	4,448	9.08%	6,322	10.85%	7,765	11.66%
Group household	1,393	3.17%	1,619	3.30%	1,985	3.41%	1,907	2.86%
<b>Total Households</b>	<b>43,939</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>49,002</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>58,284</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>66,618</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

## 2.10 Housing

Considerable data is available from the 2001 census and earlier census about the housing choices of Tweed Shire residents. This data is complimented by the inclusion of data on Public Housing stock and availability. Information on new dwelling and other building approvals has been incorporated in Section 1.3 of this profile.

### Dwelling Structure and Location

Table 2.10.1 shows the trend in housing structures that has occurred over the 1986 to 2001 period for the Shire. It indicates that there was a significant increase in the proportion of persons living in 'separate houses' up from 70.37% in 1996 to 76.37% in 2001 and an increase in the proportion of those living in either a 'semi-detached, row or terrace house, townhouse, flat or unit, up from 17.77% in 1991

to 23.30% in 2001. At the same time the proportion of persons living in 'caravans, cabins, houseboats' and other alternative accommodations decreased.

Table 2.10.2 shows that the proportion of persons living in 'separate houses' in 2001 ranged from 64.52% in the Tweed Heads Planning District to 97.52% in the Tumbulgum/Dulguigan Planning District. This has changed since 1996 when the Rural North Coast Planning District had the lowest proportion of people living in separate houses. Tweed Heads (18.80%) had significantly more persons living in 'semi-detached housing' and 'flats, units, apartments' than the other Planning Districts. Rural North Coast had the highest proportion of people living in a 'Caravan, cabin, houseboat' with 6.65%.

**Table 2.10.1**

**Dwelling Structure, Prop % in Occupied Private Dwellings (excluding overseas visitors) Tweed Shire 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001**

Source: ABS Census 2001, Tweed Community Profile 1999

	1986	1991	1996	2001
Separate house	73.75%	72.23%	70.37%	76.37%
Semi-detached, row or terrace house, townhouse, flat, unit.	14.89%	17.77%	21.22%	23.30%
Caravan, cabin, houseboat	9.03%	8.67%	6.38%	6.08%
Improvised home, tent, sleep-outs	0.46%	0.25%	0.26%	0.12%
House or flat attached to a shop, office etc	0.81%	0.68%	0.54%	0.50%
Not stated	1.05%	0.40%	1.22%	0.34%
<b>Total</b>	<b>44,537</b>	<b>54,080</b>	<b>63,523</b>	<b>67,505</b>

**Table 2.10.2**

**Dwelling Structure, Prop % in all private dwellings, Tweed Shire Planning Districts, 2001**

Source: ABS Census 2001

	Tweed Heads	Rural North Coast	Rural South Coast	Tumbulgum/Dulguigan	Murwillumbah	Rural South West	Rural North West
Separate house	64.52%	67.69%	79.42%	97.52%	88.05%	94.82%	94.37%
Semi-detached, row or terrace house, townhouse etc.	18.80%	11.71%	10.03%	0.47%	2.12%	0.19%	1.02%
Flat, unit or apartment	10.18%	16.48%	3.01%	0.47%	7.76%	0.16%	1.94%
<b>Other dwelling</b>							
Caravan, cabin, houseboat	6.00%	3.66%	6.65%	0.00%	0.63%	2.84%	0.66%
Improvised home, tent, sleepers out	0.02%	0.05%	0.10%	0.18%	0.17%	0.97%	0.62%
House or flat attached to a shop, office etc	0.26%	0.20%	0.36%	0.94%	0.97%	0.00%	0.11%
<b>Total Other Dwelling</b>	<b>6.28%</b>	<b>3.92%</b>	<b>7.11%</b>	<b>1.12%</b>	<b>1.77%</b>	<b>3.81%</b>	<b>1.39%</b>
Not stated	0.23%	0.20%	0.43%	0.41%	0.30%	1.03%	1.28%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

## Dwelling Tenure

Table 2.10.3 shows the proportion of private dwellings that were rented/owned/being purchased in Tweed Shire in 2001 compared with the proportion at earlier Census and in the NSW North Coast and NSW. From 1996 to 2001 there has been a significant increase in the proportion of houses being fully owned from 42.97% to 48.08%. This is higher than for

NSW where it is 41.10% and for NSW North Coast (47.68%). The proportion of dwellings being purchased has declined significantly from 23.78% in 1996 to 18.82% in 2001, which is lower than both the North Coast and NSW. Tweed Shire has a slightly higher proportion of homes being rented overall, although a lower proportion through the State/Territory Housing Authority.

**Table 2.10.3**

### **Tenure Type, Prop % Occupied Private Dwellings, Tweed Shire 1986,1991,1996,2001, NSW North Coast and NSW**

Source: ABS Census 2001, Tweed Council

	Tweed '86	Tweed '91	Tweed '96	Tweed '01	NSW North Coast '96	NSW North Coast '01	NSW '96	NSW '01
Fully Owned	42.96%	45.31%	42.97%	48.08%	48.80%	47.68%	43.30%	41.10%
Being Purchased (b)	25.08%	22.99%	23.78%	18.82%	19.30%	12.97%	23.10%	23.31%
Rented: State/Territory Housing Authority	2.53%	2.30%	2.82%	72.60%	3.60%	72.92%	5.50%	74.87%
Rented: Other (c)	24.01%	22.43%	24.74%	23.47%	22.90%	29.33%	23.10%	22.34%
Rented: Not Stated	0.76%	0.82%	0.29%	0.36%	0.20%	0.38%	0.20%	0.33%
<b>Rented: Total</b>	<b>27.30%</b>	<b>25.55%</b>	<b>27.85%</b>	<b>26.42%</b>	<b>26.80%</b>	<b>32.63%</b>	<b>28.80%</b>	<b>27.53%</b>
Other (d)	4.66%	6.14%	5.40%	6.68%	5.20%	6.72%	4.80%	8.06%

(a) In 1996 persons living in 'manufactured Home Estates' and Accommodation for the Retired or Aged (self-care) have been excluded

(b) In 1996 this classification includes dwellings which were being purchased under a rent/buy scheme

(c) In 1996 includes all other rented accommodation. In 1991 and 1986 includes 'other government agency'

(d) Includes 'being occupied rent free', being occupied under a life tenure scheme and 'other/not stated'

Table 2.10.4 compares tenure of private dwellings across Planning Districts. The proportion of dwellings fully owned varied from 44.71% in Murwillumbah to 50.09% in Tweed Heads. This has changed from 1996 when the Rural North Coast had the lowest home ownership with 45.12% and Tumbulgum/Dulguigan had the highest proportion of dwellings owned, (51.71%) and being purchased (25.13%). Rural North Coast and Tweed Heads had the lowest proportion of dwellings being purchased, the same as in 1996. The highest proportion of rented households by far was in the Rural North Coast (30.43%) the same District as in 1996 (33.75%).

**Table 2.10.4**

### **Tenure Type, Prop % Occupied Private Dwellings, Tweed Shire Planning District 2001**

Source: ABS Census 2001, Tweed Council

	Fully Owned	Being Purchased	Being Purchased under a rent/buy scheme	State/Territory Housing Authority	Other	Not Stated (a)	Total	Other Tenure Type (b)	Not Stated (c)
Tweed Heads	50.09%	17.93%	0.53%	2.77%	22.42%	0.37%	<b>25.56%#</b>	2.29%	3.60%
Rural North Coast	44.80%	15.35%	0.36%	3.36%	30.43%	0.42%	<b>34.22%</b>	2.43%	0.0285
Rural South Coast	46.69%	17.97%	0.37%	0.61%	23.83%	0.41%	<b>24.85%</b>	4.60%	0.0553
Tumbulgum/Dulguigan	46.28%	27.73%	0.95%	0.00%	16.64%	0.48%	<b>17.12%</b>	4.60%	0.0333
Murwillumbah	44.71%	21.33%	0.78%	3.49%	23.12%	0.08%	<b>26.70%</b>	2.29%	0.0419
Rural South West	44.61%	23.18%	0.74%	0.00%	16.34%	0.50%	<b>16.83%</b>	4.87%	0.0677
Rural North West	49.47%	20.42%	0.58%	0.77%	17.64%	0.00%	<b>18.41%</b>	5.94%	0.0518

(a) Includes rented dwelling where the landlord was not stated

(b) Includes dwellings being occupied rent-free and dwellings being occupied under a life tenure scheme

(c) Includes dwellings where the tenure type was not stated

## Housing Loan Repayments

Tables 2.10.5 and 2.10.6 show the amount which households purchasing a home are repaying on a monthly basis. Table 2.10.5 indicates that Tweed Shire had a greater proportion of purchasing households in the low and middle ranges - up to \$1,200 a month – and fewer in the \$1,200 plus ranges than NSW. Significantly for Tweed Shire the proportion of households paying more than \$1,400 per month has increased from 6.7% in 1996 to 11.07% in 2001. In NSW it was 28.72%. The majority of LGAs in the Northern Rivers region have a median housing loan repayment of between \$600-\$799.

However, the LGAs of Byron, Ballina and Tweed have higher median repayments of \$800-\$999 per month as well as having higher median weekly rents. The proportion of residents in the Region having mortgage repayments in the lower bands has been declining over the ten year period from 1991 to 2001 (in 1991, 12% of monthly mortgage repayments were less than \$201, while in 2001 that figure had dropped to 3%). In contrast, proportions of residents paying more than \$626 per month have been increasing over the same period. Ten percent in the Northern Rivers are making repayments of more than \$1,400 compared with 37% in Sydney and 17% in the Gold Coast. (Hunter Valley Research NR Regional Profile, 2003).

**Table 2.10.5**

### **Monthly Housing Loan Repayments, Tweed Shire 2001 compared with NSW**

Source: ABS Census 2001, Tweed Community Profile 1999

	Tweed '01	Tweed '01 %	NSW '01	NSW '01 %
\$1-\$199	150	2.63%	10808	1.98%
\$200-\$399	342	6.00%	23260	4.26%
\$400-\$599	695	12.19%	51508	9.43%
\$600-\$799	993	17.42%	69996	12.82%
\$800-\$999	1168	20.49%	78687	14.41%
\$1000-\$1199	839	14.72%	68190	12.48%
\$1200-\$1399	517	9.07%	57144	10.46%
\$1400-\$1599	221	3.88%	36745	6.73%
\$1600-\$1799	142	2.49%	31062	5.69%
\$1800-\$1999	49	0.86%	16971	3.11%
\$2000 or more	219	3.84%	72031	13.19%
Not stated	366	6.42%	29793	5.45%

**Table 2.10.6**

### **Monthly Housing Loan Repayment, Prop % Purchasing Households, Tweed Shire Planning Districts**

Source: ABS Census 2001, Tweed Council

	Tweed Heads	Rural North Coast	Rural South Coast	Tumbulgum Dulguigan	Murwillumbah	Rural South West	Rural North West
\$1-\$199	2.70%	3.14%	2.61%	0.00%	3.44%	2.06%	5.22%
\$200-\$399	4.80%	5.28%	7.84%	6.52%	7.89%	9.97%	8.70%
\$400-\$599	10.24%	11.32%	13.51%	10.87%	16.03%	17.87%	17.39%
\$600-\$799	15.51%	15.60%	21.35%	13.59%	24.30%	18.21%	18.26%
\$800-\$999	21.02%	21.38%	18.52%	15.76%	21.50%	17.18%	18.26%
\$1000-\$1199	17.13%	15.09%	12.85%	12.50%	8.91%	12.03%	8.70%
\$1200-\$1399	10.61%	7.80%	8.93%	8.15%	6.62%	5.15%	4.35%
\$1400-\$1599	4.19%	4.78%	4.14%	7.07%	1.15%	3.44%	4.35%
\$1600-\$1799	2.33%	2.39%	1.31%	5.43%	1.15%	2.41%	3.91%
\$1800-\$1999	0.81%	0.38%	0.65%	3.26%	0.38%	1.03%	1.30%
\$2000 or more	4.09%	6.16%	3.05%	8.70%	3.05%	4.12%	3.91%
Not stated	6.56%	6.67%	5.23%	8.15%	5.60%	6.53%	5.65%

## Weekly Rent

Tables 2.10.7 and 2.10.8 both show renting households by the amount of weekly rent they are paying. Table 2.10.7 shows that Tweed

Shire had a higher proportion of households paying less than \$200 per week rent (79.83%) compared with NSW (56.3%). The proportion of households paying \$200-\$299/week has

almost doubled from 1996 (7.5%) to 2001 (14.13%). Those households paying \$0 to \$99/week rent has decreased significantly from 25.09% in 1996 to 15.5% in 2001. The proportion of households paying between \$300

to \$399/week has doubled from 0.5% in 1996 to 1.18% in 2001. Indicators for housing stress vary but generally any household paying more than 30% of their income on rent would be considered to be in housing stress.

**Table 2.10.7**

**Weekly Rent, Proportion of Households, Tweed Shire 2001 compared with NSW North Coast and NSW – Occupied private dwellings being rented**

Source: ABS Census 2001, Tweed Council

	Tweed '01	Tweed '01	NSW '01	NSW '01
\$1-\$49	328	4.10%	40,347	6.25%
\$50-\$99	912	11.40%	82,935	12.85%
\$100-\$149	2,295	28.69%	105,722	16.38%
\$150-\$199	2,851	35.64%	134,352	20.82%
\$200-\$249	855	10.69%	91,277	14.14%
\$250-\$299	275	3.44%	55,919	8.67%
\$300-\$349	67	0.84%	38,817	6.02%
\$350-\$399	27	0.34%	24,723	3.83%
\$400-\$499	30	0.38%	23,075	3.58%
\$500 or more	85	1.06%	23,055	3.57%
Not stated	275	3.44%	25,097	3.89%
<b>Total Households</b>	<b>8,000</b>	<b>8,000</b>	<b>645,319</b>	<b>645,319</b>

Table 2.10.8 shows the proportion of households in each rent range across Planning Districts. The most common range was \$100-\$199 per month with the Rural North Coast having the lowest proportion in this range (61.58%), whereas in 1996 it was the Rural South West (48.52%). The Rural South West had the highest proportion of households (22.97%) paying less than \$100 per week and did so in 1996 (45.93%) also. Significantly, in 1996 only one district, Tumbulgum/Dulguigan paid weekly rent of between \$500-\$599 (2.48%) and Tweed Heads District had 0.8% of

households paying weekly rent of \$1,000 or more compared with 2001 where every Planning District, except the Rural North West had households paying \$500 or more in weekly rent. Generally, more households are paying higher rental per week, across all of the Planning Districts. Tweed Heads was the district with the highest proportion of households paying between \$200-\$299 per week in 1996 (9.6%) and is again in 2001 (16.74%) although with a significantly higher proportion.

**Table 2.10.8**

**Weekly Rent, Prop % Renting Households, Tweed Shire Planning Districts 2001**

Source: ABS Census 2001, Tweed Council

	Tweed Heads	Rural North Coast	Rural South Coast	Tumbulgum Dulguigan	Murwillumbah	Rural South West	Rural North West
\$1-\$49	4.55%	3.94%	1.93%	0.00%	5.09%	4.31%	1.66%
\$50-\$99	9.90%	11.99%	9.02%	17.14%	16.68%	18.66%	14.36%
\$100-\$149	26.88%	25.14%	26.57%	29.52%	38.05%	37.32%	50.28%
\$150-\$199	35.93%	36.44%	38.16%	36.19%	32.55%	32.54%	28.73%
\$200-\$249	12.88%	11.24%	13.20%	5.71%	2.95%	2.87%	1.66%
\$250-\$299	3.86%	4.69%	3.38%	2.86%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
\$300-\$349	1.10%	1.51%	1.45%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	1.66%
\$350-\$399	0.48%	0.00%	0.48%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
\$400-\$499	0.21%	0.70%	0.48%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
\$500 or more	0.79%	1.51%	1.45%	2.86%	0.61%	1.44%	0.00%
Not stated	3.43%	2.84%	3.86%	5.71%	4.07%	2.87%	1.66%

## Public Housing

Public Housing in Tweed Shire is administered through two regions; Tweed Heads and Murwillumbah. Table 2.10.9 shows the number of applicants current as at September 2004 by the size of housing requested. The table highlights the large numbers of households waiting. Information on the length of application time for housing that was presented in the Tweed Community Profile 1999 is no longer

available for comparative purposes. Also, there is no longer 5 bedroom stock available as there was in 1998. Table 2.10.10 highlights that between October 1998 and September 2004, a period of six years, the number of persons on the waiting list has increased significantly for the Tweed Heads area but has changed little, in fact, decreasing slightly, in the Murwillumbah area. The turnover of public housing is very low and this is a high demand area for housing.

**Table 2.10.9**  
**Department of Housing Current Status**

Source: Dept. of Housing, Sept. 2004

	NR 17 Tweed		NR 22 Murwillumbah	
	Applicants	Prop.% Applicants	Applicants	Prop. % Applicants
Bedsitters	254	9.51%	None (sock disposed of)	
1 bedroom Singles				
1 bedroom Pensioner	780	29.19%	59	25.54%
2 Bedroom	751	28.11%	55	23.81%
3 bedroom	737	27.58%	91	39.39%
4 bedroom	150	5.61%	26	11.26%
5 bedroom	None			
Total Applicants	2672	100%	231	100%

**Table 2.10.10**  
**Change in Dept. Housing Wait Lists,**

Source: Dept. of Housing, Tweed Community Profile 1999

	May '96	Oct. '98	% change	Sept. '04	% change '98-'04
Tweed Heads	1335	1690	24.7	2672	9.59%
Murwillumbah	164	233	42.1	231	-0.17%
Total Applicants	1519	1923	26.6	2903	8.58%

Table 2.10.11 profiles public housing tenant households and public housing stock as captured in June 2003 and draws comparisons with NSW. Tweed Shire at that time had a higher proportion of one bedroom stock (36.38%) and a lower proportion of 3 bedroom stock (31.22%) compared with NSW. Compared with information from June 1997 the trend was the same but the proportions slightly different. The proportion of one bedroom stock

in Tweed was 35.02% compared with NSW (23.83%). The proportion of three bedroom stock in Tweed then was 37.85% compared with NSW (43.31%). Of all tenants receiving a rental rebate, Tweed Shire had a higher proportion on one person households (53.02%) compared with NSW (47.77%). The proportion for Tweed has decreased since June 1997 when it was 56.84% and has decreased for NSW (50.67%).

**Table 2.10.11****Public Housing Stock and Tenants, Public housing tenant households, by whether receiving rental subsidy (a) and household size, by LGA, June 2003**

Source: 2004 ABS Regional Profile (NSW Department of Housing, Public Housing Collection, as at 30 June 2003)

	Number Tweed	Prop. % Tweed	Number NSW	Prop % NSW
<b>Public Housing Stock</b>				
1 bedroom or bedsit	310	36.38	32,825	25.57
2 bedrooms	234	27.46	34,863	27.16
3 bedrooms	266	31.22	51,308	39.97
4 or more bedrooms	42	4.93	9,342	7.28
Total Dwellings	852	100	128,356	100
<b>Public Housing Tenants (households) Receiving Rental Rebate</b>				
1 person household	413	53.02	53,191	47.77
2 person household	227	29.14	28,920	25.97
3 person household	79	10.14	14,038	12.61
4 person household	34	4.36	7,964	7.15
5 or more person household	26	3.34	7,134	6.41
Total households receiving a rental subsidy	779	100	111,341	99.92
Households not receiving a rental subsidy (b)	70		14,060	
Total Public Housing Tenant Households	849		125,401	

(a) Refers to the difference between market rent of the dwellings and the rent charged to the tenant based on income.

(b) (b) Information about household size was unavailable for public housing tenant households not receiving a rental subsidy

## 2.11 Transportation

### Motor Vehicle Ownership

At the 2001 Census, a smaller proportion of households in Tweed Shire (10.19% or 2,382 households) compared with New South Wales were without a motor vehicle (8.08%) and Richmond-Tweed SD (10.9% or 8,767 households). The average number of vehicles per dwelling in Tweed Shire is 1.47, in Richmond-Tweed SD, 1.51 and for NSW, 1.57. Table 2.11.1 shows motor vehicle ownership

by Planning District as at the 2001 Census and compares it with the Shire overall. Predictably, the highest proportion of households without a motor vehicle were in the predominantly urban areas of Tweed Heads, Rural North Coast and Murwillumbah. Multiple vehicle ownership was highest in Tumbulgum/Dulguigan where 54.33% of households had two or more vehicles compared with 36.32% in Murwillumbah.

**Table 2.11.1**

**Prop % Households by Number of Motor Vehicles, Tweed Shire Planning Districts, 2001  
Occupied private dwellings**

Source: ABS Census 2001 Table B29

	% age of motor vehicles					Total no. of vehicles
	No motor vehicle	1 motor vehicle	2 motor vehicles	3 or more motor vehicles	Not Stated	
Tweed Heads	11.46	51.45	24.4	6.97	5.73	16,331
Rural North Coast	10.63	51.08	24.87	6.91	6.50	5078
Rural South Coast	7.12	48.54	31.22	8.37	4.75	2402
Tumbulgum/Dulguigan	4.49	31.86	38.14	16.19	4.33	624
Murwillumbah	13.51	44.94	27.99	8.33	5.23	3576
Rural South West	4.88	41.54	35.77	9.43	8.37	1230
Rural North West	5.72	40.61	34.51	13.63	5.53	1049
Tweed Shire	10.195	48.15	27.71	7.105	5.76	30284

### Travel to work

In the 2001 Census 14,271 persons (59.77% of employed persons) in Tweed Shire indicated that they travelled to work by driving themselves in a car. A further 1,665 persons (6.97%) travelled in a car as a passenger. Those working from home accounted for 1,515 persons (6.35%). A further 3.59% walked to work. Table 2.11.2 shows the method of travel to work as a proportion of employed persons. There were 3,557 persons travelling from

Tweed (Part A) to the Gold Coast for work and 696 from Tweed (Part B). There were 2,562 persons travelling from the Gold Coast to Tweed (Part A) for work. (Dept. of Local Government and Planning, Qld Government). In 1996 a slightly smaller proportion of people travelled to work by driving themselves in a car (58.63%), but more travelled in a car as a passenger (7.32%). There were proportionally more people in 1996 working from home (7.17%).

**Table 2.11.2**

**Method of Travel to Work, Tweed Shire 2001  
(Employed persons excluding overseas visitors)**

Source: ABS Census 2001

	Persons	Prop. % '01
<b>One method only:</b>		
Train	16	0.07%
Bus	197	0.83%
Ferry	0	0.00%
Tram(a)	0	0.00%
Taxi	29	0.12%
Car, as driver	14,271	59.77%
Car, as passenger	1,665	6.97%
Truck	670	2.81%



Motorbike/motor scooter	160	0.67%
Bicycle	285	1.19%
Other	136	0.57%
Walked only	856	3.59%
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,285</b>	<b>76.58%</b>
<b>Two methods:</b>		
Train and Bus	3	0.01%
Train and other (excluding bus)	13	0.05%
Bus and other (excluding train)	57	0.24%
Other two methods	221	0.93%
<b>Total</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>1.23%</b>
<b>Three methods:</b>		
Train and other two methods	3	0.01%
Bus and other two methods (excluding train)	7	0.03%
Other three methods	7	0.03%
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>0.07%</b>
Worked at home	1,515	6.35%
Did not go to work	3,283	13.75%
Not stated (b)	483	2.02%
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,877</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

1 a) includes light rail

1b) includes cases where method of travel to work could not be determined.

Table 2.11.3 shows method of travel to work by Planning District. Tweed Heads (62.65%) and Rural North Coast (59.08%) had the highest proportions of persons who drove themselves to work by car. The Rural South West (14.24% of employed persons) and Rural South West (13.82%) had the highest proportion of persons who indicated that they 'worked at home'. In 1996 the same Planning Districts, Tweed Heads Planning District with 61.59% and the Rural North Coast with 58.17%, had the highest proportions of persons who drove

themselves to work by car. The Rural South West (14.24%) and the Rural North West (13.82%) had the highest proportions of persons who indicated that they 'worked at home'. This has changed since 1996 when Tumbulgum/Dulguigan, along with the Rural South West had the highest proportions of people working at home. Travel by bus only has increased slightly or stayed the same in all areas since 1996 except in Tweed Heads where it decreased significantly from 1.55% to 0.89% in 2001.

**Table 2.11.3**

***Method of Travel to Work, Prop. % Persons, Tweed Shire Planning Districts 2001***

Source: ABS Census 2001, Tweed Council

	Tweed Heads	Rural North Coast	Rural South Coast	Tumbulgum/Dulguigan	Murwillumbah	Rural South West	Rural North West
<b>One method only:</b>							
Train	0.13%	0.15%	0.30%	0.00%	0.09%	0.00%	0.00%
Bus	0.89%	1.58%	0.46%	0.00%	0.28%	0.59%	0.00%
Ferry	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Tram(a)	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Taxi	0.13%	0.15%	0.00%	0.00%	0.19%	0.00%	0.29%
Car, as driver	62.65%	59.08%	58.48%	57.53%	55.47%	55.22%	52.55%
Car, as passenger	7.49%	7.26%	4.21%	6.99%	7.55%	5.17%	4.51%
Truck	2.13%	2.29%	3.55%	4.38%	4.40%	3.32%	5.98%
Motorbike/motor scooter	0.52%	0.54%	0.66%	0.41%	0.72%	0.59%	0.59%
Bicycle	1.23%	1.35%	0.81%	0.41%	1.64%	0.00%	0.00%
Other	0.39%	0.46%	0.51%	0.00%	0.91%	1.27%	1.47%
Walked only	2.28%	4.05%	4.87%	3.70%	6.67%	4.39%	3.53%
<b>Total</b>	<b>77.82</b>	<b>76.92%</b>	<b>73.86%</b>	<b>73.42%</b>	<b>77.92%</b>	<b>70.54%</b>	<b>68.92%</b>
<b>Two methods:</b>							
Train and Bus	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Train and other (excluding bus)	0.13%	0.08%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

Bus and other (excluding train)	0.30%	0.31%	0.00%	0.00%	0.09%	0.00%	0.59%
Other two methods	0.83%	0.92%	1.22%	1.37%	1.19%	0.59%	1.47%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.26%</b>	<b>1.30%</b>	<b>1.22%</b>	<b>1.37%</b>	<b>1.29%</b>	<b>0.59%</b>	<b>2.06%</b>
<b>Three methods:</b>							
Train and other two methods	0.03%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Bus and other two methods (excluding train)	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Other three methods	0.03%	0.08%	0.15%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.05%</b>	<b>0.08%</b>	<b>0.15%</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
Worked at home	4.79%	5.71%	8.02%	10.68%	6.04%	14.24%	13.82%
Did not go to work	14.04%	14.37%	14.42%	12.47%	12.96%	12.10%	12.06%
Not stated (a)	2.03%	1.63%	2.34%	2.05%	1.79%	2.44%	3.14%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

(a) Includes case where method of travel to work could not be determined

## **Part Three: Tweed Shire – Community Wellbeing**

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*Attempts have been made in this Community Profile to directly compare data with the previous Tweed Community Profile 1999. However, in the intervening five years much of the Government Department information that was a part of that document is no longer collected in the same way. Where possible information is included for comparative purposes.*

## 3.1 Health

Much of the information in this section has been supplied by the Northern Rivers Area Health Service (NRAHS) Planning Officer.

### Overview

Residents of the Tweed Valley have their health needs serviced by the Northern Rivers Area Health Service (NRAHS). The NRAHS was amalgamated with the Mid North Coast Area Health Service in July 2004. There are two hospitals in Tweed Shire. Murwillumbah is a District Hospital with 89 indicative, acute beds and the Tweed Hospital is a Major Non-Metropolitan Referral Hospital with 184 indicative, acute beds. Inpatient rehabilitation services and day hospital services are provided by the Murwillumbah Hospital. The Tweed Heads Hospital recently underwent an extensive re-development. Community Health services are also provided at both sites.

'Bugalwena', an Aboriginal Health Service, operates within the Cooloon Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Unit building located in the Tweed Community Health Centre, next to the Tweed Hospital. In 2002/03 residents of the Tweed Valley constituted approximately 28% of the NRAHS total population and accounted for 24.5% of episodes in NRAHS hospitals. In March 2001 the Riverlands Drug and Alcohol Centre, a 16 bed detoxification service was opened. Tweed Shire residents use this facility as well as detoxification facilities on the Gold Coast. As Tweed is experiencing an increasingly ageing population there is likely to be an increase in demand for health services.

### Age of Persons entering hospital

Table 3.1.1 shows the age and sex of persons admitted to the hospital in Tweed Shire for 2002/03. The count is done on 'separations' – these are not the same as admissions. People may be admitted once, but counted as several different separations as they move to different status within the hospital, eg. from orthopaedics to rehabilitation. Consistent with health care provision generally, Tweed residents who were the most frequent users of hospital services were children aged 0-4 years (9.49%), and senior adults aged 65 years and over. The 65-69 year age cohort had the second highest proportion of separations (8.77%). Those aged 75 years and over accounted for 20.08% of separations even

though they made up only 6.02% of the population.

**Table 3.1.1**  
**Tweed Resident Hospital Separations for 2002/03 by Age and Sex**

Source: Northern Rivers Area Health Service, Flow Info. 5.1, Sept. 2004

Age group	Males	Females	Total
Total	7,834	8,406	16,240
0 to 4 years	871	670	1,541
5 to 9 years	246	154	400
10 to 14 years	220	149	369
15 to 19 years	268	293	561
20 to 24 years	217	428	645
25 to 29 years	267	483	750
30 to 34 years	281	595	876
35 to 39 years	352	505	857
40 to 44 years	387	457	844
45 to 49 years	400	368	768
50 to 54 years	363	384	747
55 to 59 years	390	388	778
60 to 64 years	578	463	1,041
65 to 69 years	743	681	1,424
70 to 74 years	811	569	1,380
75 to 79 years	653	675	1,328
80 to 84 years	421	583	1,004
85 to 89 years	243	351	594
90 to 94 years	115	175	290
95 to 99 years	7	33	40
100 to 104 yea	1	2	3

**Table 3.1.2**  
**NRAHS All Separations for 2002/03 by LGA of Residence**

Source: Northern Rivers Area Health Service, Flow Info. 5.1, Sept. 2004

Local Government Area	Seps
Total	66,346
Tweed	16,240
Lismore	10,028
Ballina	9,503
Grafton	6,596
Byron	5,760
Macleay	5,618
Casino	3,878
Kyogle	2,725
Richmond River	2,538
Ulmarra	1,408

Copmanhurst	1,224
Nymboida	828

### Reasons for admission to hospital

Table 3.1.3 shows the most common reason for admission to the Tweed Hospital for Tweed residents in the 2002/03 year were:

- ❑ Orthopaedics – 1,565 persons
- ❑ Non-subspecialty surgery – 1,311 persons
- ❑ Cardiology – 1,199 persons
- ❑ Obstetrics – 1,141 persons

Females, 7,615 persons, generally had a higher number of separations ((55.51%) than males, 6,102 persons (44.48%) although a significant part of that difference could be attributed to the categories 'Obstetrics' and 'Gynaecology', which were fourth and fifth highest reasons for hospital visitation. Again, the 0-4 year age cohort had the highest number, 1,504 (10.96%) of visitation, followed by the 70-74 year cohort with 1,031 persons (7.52%) and the 75-79 year olds with 1,014 persons (7.39%).

**Table 3.1.3**

### **Top 20 Separations at the Tweed Hospital by SRG 2002/03**

Source: Northern Rivers Area Health Service, Flow Info. 5.1, Sept. 2004

Description	Local	Inflow	Total
<b>TOTAL</b>	8,228	5,490	13,718
Orthopaedics	888	677	1,565
Non Subspecialty Surgery	762	549	1,311
Cardiology	703	496	1,199
Obstetrics	574	567	1,141
Gynaecology	484	423	907
Respiratory Medicine	509	355	864
Non Subspecialty Medicine	502	329	831
Unqualified Neonate	352	401	753
Psychiatry - Acute	396	142	538
Neurology	298	177	475
Gastroenterology	268	186	454
Diagnostic GI Endoscopy	329	115	444
Urology	194	127	321
Drug and Alcohol	154	151	305
Upper GIT Surgery	195	99	294
Immunology and Infections	182	108	290
Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery	165	91	256
Ear, Nose and Throat	149	69	218
Colorectal Surgery	143	69	212
Medical Oncology	146	39	185

TABLE 3.1.4 shows the place of residence for inpatients of the Tweed Hospital. In 2002/03, 48% of all separations at the Tweed Hospital were residents of the Tweed Valley. The population of seven statistical local areas (SLAs) in South-East Queensland is included in calculations for routine public clinical work at the Tweed Hospital. As at the 2001 ABS Census the total population of these seven SLAs was 45,287. In 2002/03, 36% of all separations at the Tweed Hospital were Queensland residents. Of the 4,961 separations from Queensland, 2,417 were from the Gold Coast South, 2,010 were from the

Gold Coast Border, 282 from Other Queensland area and 252 from Gold Coast North. This part of South East Qld recorded a 2.3% annual growth in population between 1996 and 2001 (census). Compared to NRAHS, this area has a higher aged population (19% compared to 17% for NRAHS) and a lower Aboriginal population (1.4% compared to 3.2% for NRAHS). (Interim Population Projections NSW Health April 2003). Table 3.1.5 shows some of the population statistics of the Queensland SLAs that attend the Tweed Hospital.

**Table 3.1.4**  
**Place of Residence for Inpatients of the Tweed Hospital (Separations 2002/03)**

Source: Northern Rivers Area Health Service, Flow Info. 5.1, Sept. 2004

Place of Residence	Separations
<b>TOTAL</b>	13,718
Queensland	4,961
Northern Rivers	8,228
Tweed	7,902
Byron	211
Lismore	37
Ballina	32
Grafton	16
Maclean	14
Casino	5
Kyogle	4
Richmond River	3
Copmanhurst	2
Ulmarra	2

**Table 3.1.5**  
**Population Characteristics of Qld SLAs that flow to the Tweed Hospital**

Source: Northern Rivers Area Health Service

SLA	Population Total (2001)	% Aboriginal Population (2001)	% population aged 65 years and over (2001)	% Annual Growth 1997-2002
Bilinga	1,389	0.9%	22%	2.94
Coolangatta	4,371	1.7%	25%	3.94
Currumbin	2,542	1.4%	14%	1.49
Currumbin Waters	9,357	1.3%	16%	1.53
Elanora	10,562	1.2%	15%	3.32
Palm Beach	12,614	1.5%	21%	1.24%
Tugun	4,452	1.5%	19%	4.04
<b>Total</b>	<b>45,287</b>	<b>1.4%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>(Av) 2.64%</b>

Source: 2001 Census, Usual Residents Profile, ABS, except for annual growth figures, which are based on Estimated Resident Population (ERP) figures provided by Gold City Council 2003 Social Profile

Table 3.1.6 shows that the Service Related Group (SRG) with the most frequent activity at Murwillumbah Hospital during 2002/03 was non-subspecialty surgery, followed by obstetrics, orthopaedics and unqualified neonates.

**Table 3.1.6**  
**Top 20 Separations at Murwillumbah Hospital by SRG 2002/03**

Source: Northern Rivers Area Health Service, Flow Info. 5.1, Sept. 2004)

Description	Local	Inflow	Total
<b>TOTAL</b>	5,153	416	5,569
Non Subspecialty Surgery	489	52	541
Obstetrics	499	28	527
Orthopaedics	422	44	466
Unqualified Neonate	363	25	388
Non Subspecialty Medicine	345	13	358
Cardiology	342	10	352
Respiratory Medicine	311	13	324
Ophthalmology	230	87	317

Rehabilitation	283	17	300
Gynaecology	267	8	275
Gastroenterology	221	9	230
Neurology	208	9	217
Immunology and Infections	145	6	151
Urology	118	7	125
Diagnostic GI Endoscopy	105	2	107
Ear, Nose and Throat	80	17	97
Upper GIT Surgery	82	11	93
Drug and Alcohol	72	7	79
Psychiatry - Acute	64	13	77
Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery	59	17	76

Table 3.1.7 shows the place of residence for inpatients of the Murwillumbah Hospital.

In 2002/03, 92.53% of all separations at the Murwillumbah Hospital were NSW residents with 6% from Queensland. Tweed Shire residents comprised 86% of all separations at the Murwillumbah Hospital. Of the NSW residents Tweed comprised 93.21% of separations followed by Byron Shire with 5.67%. Females, 3,109 persons (55.83%) generally had a higher number of separations than males, 2,460 (44.17%). The 0-4 year age cohort accounted for the greatest number of separations with 752 persons (13.5%) followed by the 80-84 year age cohort, 434 persons (7.79%) and the 75-79 year olds, 429 (7.70%).

**Table 3.1.7**  
**Place of Residence for Inpatients of Murwillumbah Hospital (Separations 2002/03)**

Source: Northern Rivers Area Health Service, Flow Info. 5.1, Sept. 2004)

Location	Number
Queensland	338
Northern Rivers	5,153
Tweed	4,803
Byron	292
Lismore	20
Kyogle	12
Ballina	7
Grafton	5
Macleay	5
Casino	4
Richmond River	2
Ulmarra	2
Copmanhurst	1
Total	5,569

Table 3.1.8 shows selected health data for the NRAHS. In the period 1996-2000, incidence and death for melanoma of the skin were significantly higher in the Northern Rivers than the State average. The incidence was higher in males (12 per 100,000) than for females (3 per 100,000), and compared with males in NSW (7.4 per 100,000). Incidence rates are higher in coastal areas that reflects the environment and activity resulting in greater sun exposure. The hospital separation rates for injuries due to interpersonal violence among 0-14 year olds were slightly higher than the state average. Overall, it was higher with a rate of 44.2 per 100,000 in the NRAHS and 34.5 per 100,00 for NSW. In the NRAHS in 2001 whooping cough notifications were the second highest in the state at 155 per 10,000. As at December 2002 of the 17 NSW Area Health Service regions the NRAHS had the lowest proportion of children aged 12 to 15 months (84%) immunised compared to the state (90%). Q fever notifications were the fourth highest of all the NSW Health Service regions (Regional Profile, DOTARS, June 2003). The Northern Rivers shows a statistically higher degree of 'risk drinking' among both males (54% compared with 48% for the State) and females (34% compared with 29% for the State). (Hunter Valley Research NR Profile June 2003).

**Table 3.1.8****Causes of Death****Selected health data, Northern Rivers Area Health Service (a) 1996-2000 Combined**

Source: Regional Profile, DOTARS, June 2003

Health Condition	Males		Females		Persons	
	No.	Rate per 100,000	No	Rate per 100,000	no.	Rate per 100,000
Deaths from all causes	5,954	776.4	4,718	453.5	10,672	602.0
<b>Selected causes of death</b>						
Coronary heart disease (b)	615	133.5	221	44.7	836	88.2
Stroke Deaths	490	62.3	638	54.9	1128	58.8
Lung cancer	407	50.3	164	18.2	571	32.6
Colorectal cancer	207	25.9	156	16.4	362	20.9
Melanoma of the skin	92	12.0	27	3.0	119	7.2
Prostate cancer	247	30.7	-	-	-	-
Breast cancer (c)	-	-	71	54.8	-	-
Cervical cancer	-	-	17	2.2	-	-
Deaths from injury and poisoning	439	72.9	183	25.2	622	48.6
<b>Selected diseases – new cases</b>						
Lung cancer	459	56.5	193	21.7	652	37.7
Colorectal cancer	550	69.0	411	43.5	961	55.7
Melanoma of the skin	517	69.7	322	42.3	839	55.1
Prostate cancer	879	108.8	-	-	-	-
Breast cancer (c)	-	-	364	279.8	-	-
Cervical cancer	-	-	64	9.2	-	-
<b>Hospital separations</b>						
Hospital separations for injury and poisoning (d)	2804	2270	2048	1423	4852	1848
Hospital separations for interpersonal violence (e)	68	49.0	51	39.1	119	44.2
<b>Communicable diseases (b) notifications</b>						
Gonorrhoea (f)					25	12.5
Salmonella (g)					478	66.5
Syphilis (g)					45	6.5
Hepatitis A (g)					13	2.0
Hepatitis B (g)					97	14.2
Hepatitis C (h)					383	163.5
Q fever (i)					159	12.3
Whooping Cough (h)					4,435	68.0

a) comprises LGAs of Ballina, Byron, Copmanhurst, Grafton, Kyogle, Lismore, Maclean, Pristine Waters, Richmond Valley, Tweed

b) persons aged 25-74 years

c) females aged 50-69 years

d) 1999-2000

e) children aged 0-14 years, 1995-96 to 1999-2000

f) 2000-2001

g) 1999 to 2001

h) 2001

i) 1997 to 2001



## 3.2 Disability and Aged

### Incidence and Profile of Disability

The World Health Organisation defines disability as: An impairment and refers to any restriction or lack of ability to perform an activity within the range considered normal for a person. Based on this definition the Australian Bureau of Statistics in a 1993 Census estimated that around 16% of the Australian population had some form of disability. This figure is likely to be conservative in areas with an older age profile because of the links between age and disability and frailty. The prevalence of disability is lower in the Richmond Tweed area than in the State with approximately 17% of the regional population having some form of disability compared with 19% in the State. (Hunter Valley Research, June 2003). Based on the latest population estimate available, 74,380 persons in 2001, and using the proportion of 17% of the population have disability Tweed Shire could expect to have approximately 12,645 persons with some form of disability. This compares with 1996 when the estimate was 11,292 persons with some form of disability.

The ABS Regional Profile 2004 includes data provided by a 'snapshot' of services funded and delivered through the Commonwealth/State Disability Agreement in the Far North Coast on one day in May 2002. Table 3.2.1 shows that 388 persons received services on that day. The highest proportions of persons receiving services primary disabilities classified as: Intellectual (55.93% or 217 people; Physical (12.11% or 47 people); and Developmental Delay (10.82% or 42 people). This order and proportions of these have changed slightly since 1997 when Developmental Delay with 13.5% (48 persons) had the second highest proportion followed by Physical with 10.1% (36 persons). Intellectual had the same number of persons but the proportion has declined from 61% in 1997. The Far North Coast had higher proportions than NSW of service recipients in the disability categories of: Developmental Delay (10.82% compared with 3.40% in NSW); Autism (5.67% and 4.63%); Physical (12.11% and 10.90%); Acquired Brain Injury (3.35% and 2.46%); Neurological (4.64% and 2.62%); and Speech (2.84% and .89%).

**Table 3.2.1**

***Disability Service Recipients (a) by Primary Disability Type, by Local Planning Area (b), May 2002***

Source: 2004 ABS NSW Regional Profile

Source: NSW Dept. of Disability, Health and Aged Care, Commonwealth and State Disability Agreement Minimum Dataset, May 2002

Service Recipients	Persons no	Persons %	NSW Persons no	NSW Persons %
Developmental delay	42	10.82%	430	3.40%
Intellectual	217	55.93%	8,649	68.34%
Specific Learning	n.p.		86	.68%
Autism	22	5.67%	586	4.63%
Physical	47	12.11%	1,379	10.90%
Acquired brain injury	13	3.35%	311	2.46%
Neurological	18	4.64%	331	2.62%
Vision	4	1.03%	163	1.29%
Hearing	3	.77%	193	1.52%
Speech	11	2.84%	113	.89%
Psychiatric	n.p.		263	2.08%
Not stated	6	1.55%	126	1.00%
Total	388	100.00%	12,656	100.00%

(a) Recipient of services funded under the Commonwealth/State Disability Agreement, on the snapshot day (May 2002). Excludes recipients of 'Employment Services' which are provided by the Commonwealth Government

(b) NSW Dept. of Disability Health and Aged Care Local Planning Area.

Centrelink data on the numbers of persons in receipt of disability support payments in Tweed Shire (Table 3.2.2) shows that over the three years 1995 to 1997, the number of persons in receipt of payments increased by 510 or 7.05% and from 1997 to 2002 the number increased by 1,482 or 8.98%. Of 27,512 persons receiving Centrelink income support the proportion of those on a Disability Support Pension account for 15.41%. There are 11,731 persons (42.64%) of all persons on a pension on an Aged Pension. However, in terms of the total population of the Tweed Shire 15.77% are on an Aged Pension and 5.7% are on a Disability Support Pension.

**Table 3.2.2**  
**Disability Support Pension Recipients, Tweed Shire**

Source: Tweed Community Profile 1999, ABS NSW Regional Profile 2004

	1995	1996	1997	2002	% Change '97-'02
Recipients	2,247	2,550	2,757	4239	8.98%

Table 3.2.3 shows disability service recipients by broad service type by Local Planning areas as a snapshot as at May 2002. The Far North Coast receives more community services than NSW and more respite services.

**Table 3.2.3**  
**Disability service recipients (a) by broad service type, by Local Planning Area (b), May 2002**

Source: NSW Dept. of Disability, Health and Aged Care, Commonwealth and State Disability Agreement Minimum Dataset, May 2002

Source: 2004 ABS NSW Regional Profile

Local Planning Area (b)	Accommodation support no. and %age	Community Support no. and %age	Community access no. and %age	Respite no. and %age	Total (a) no. and %age
Far North Coast	121 29.9%	126 31.1%	111 27.4%	47 11.6%	405 100%
NSW	6,060 44.1%	3,109 22.6%	3,975 28.9%	612 4.4%	13,756 100%

- (a) Recipient of services funded under the Commonwealth/State Disability Agreement, on the snapshot day (May 2002). Excludes recipients of 'Employment Services' which are provided by the Commonwealth Government
- (b) NSW Dept. of Disability Health and Aged Care Local Planning Area.

Table 3.2.4 shows the provision of Home and Community Care (HACC) services across Northern Rivers Local Government Areas in 2002-2003. In 2004 Tweed Byron Ballina Community Transport closed their books to new clients as they were working at capacity with no ability to service increased numbers of people.

**Table 3.2.4**  
**Service Recipients of Home and Community Care (HACC), by service type, by Northern Rivers LGAs, 2002-2003**

Source: NSW Dept. of Ageing, Disability and Home Care, Home and Community Care (HACC) Minimum Dataset, 2002-2003 (in 2004 ABS NSW Regional Profile)

LGA	Allied health care and Nursing care No	Assessment, case management and case planning, review No	Centre-based day care No	Counselling No	Domestic assistance No	Home maintenance and Home modification No	Meals No	Personal care No	Respite care No	Social support No	Transport No
Tweed	1,210	1,228	113	n.p.	824	265	345	242	94	423	418
Byron	270	194	53	n.p.	186	138	205	71	23	25	180
Ballina	450	477	25	7	298	185	287	141	70	136	256
Grafton	239	187	36	n.p.	108	63	134	35	n.p.	55	21
Lismore	322	767	232	17	354	194	348	123	52	163	433
Kyogle	134	103	37	13	76	18	102	19	13	70	191
Richmond Valley	287	409	68	26	210	76	243	82	39	45	411
Maclean	279	415	79	8	153	55	246	49	13	46	55
Copmanhurst	58	46	8	n.p.	26	15	31	8	n.p.	13	6
Pristine Waters	154	120	21	8	68	35	73	16	5	31	26

- (a) Counts are of services received. A person may receive more than one type of service.

## **Mental Disorders**

Under the National Mental Health Strategy there have been efforts to develop percentages specific to persons with a mental illness. In the NSW Adult Survey, 2002 they estimated that each year approximately 18% of Australian adults experience mental illness and 38% of these people use a health service for mental health related problems. Based on this in Tweed Shire in 2001 there would have been 13,390 persons who would have experienced a mental disorder. It also surmised that children (under the age of 18 years) suffer from mental disorders at an estimated rate of somewhere between 10% and 15%. Based on a 2001 population of 18,061 persons under the age of 18 years, Tweed Shire would expect to have had between 1,806 and 2,710 children and young people experiencing a mental disorder at any one time in that year. In the NSW Adult

Survey, 2002 it states that 'Mental health disorders account for nearly 30% of the non-fatal burden of disease in Australia. Affective disorders (including depression) are the most common, followed by substance abuse and anxiety disorders. 'The Kessler 10 (or K10) measure was included in the Survey as a measure of 'psychological distress', based on questions about the level of anxiety and depressive symptoms in the most recent four-week period. The resulting scores are then classified into four categories; low, moderate, high and very high psychological distress. The Northern Rivers Area Health Service area rated 12.6%, slightly higher than NSW (12.2%) in the high and very high psychological distress level for persons aged 16 years and over.

### 3.3 Centrelink Payments

Data on Centrelink payments indicate that as at June 2002 27,512 persons in Tweed Shire were in receipt of payments, excluding family payment. The largest categories were Aged Pensions (11,731), Disability Support (4,239) and other (3,823).

Within the Far North East Region (DOTARS Regional Profile) as at June 2001 Tweed (A) – Part A (ie. the Tweed Heads urban area and immediate surrounds) had the highest proportion (45.0%) of people aged 15 years and over receiving income support payments. Tweed (A) – Part B (the remainder of the Shire) had 41.8%. High rates of income support (for example, more than 40% of the population aged 15 years and over) may indicate that an area is likely to be economically stressed. A high proportion of aged persons in an area may contribute to a high rate but will also indicate the level of financial resources available from such people in a region. At June 2001 this region had an overall rate of 41.1% of persons aged 15 years

and over receiving an income support payment from Centrelink compared with New South Wales (27.2%). The Region's older age profile and high unemployment rate are contributing factors to this very high rate.

Data on the numbers of persons in receipt of payments from Centrelink is included in Table 3.3.1 with comparisons to other Local Government Areas in the Northern Rivers. Tweed Shire has the second highest proportion of people on an Age Pension (42.64%) next to Maclean LGA with 43.35%. Tweed's proportion is higher than both the Richmond-Tweed proportion of 35.62% and NSW (40.79%). Tweed also has a higher proportion of people on a Disability Support Pension (15.41%) compared with NSW (14.73%) and those on Newstart Allowance 12.66% to 12.12%. Taken as separate statistical areas, the proportions change significantly with Tweed Pt A having 47.96% of people on pensions on an Aged Pension and a further 16.99% on a Disability Support Pension,

**Table 3.3.1**

***Centrelink income support customers (a) selected main payment type, by selected Statistical Local Area, June 2002 – Number and Percentage -***

***Department of Family and Community Services, June 2002***

Source: ABS Regional Profile 2004

SLA	Age Pension	Disability Support Pension	Newstart Allowance	Parenting Payment Single	Youth Allowance	Other (b)	Total
Tweed (A) – Pt A	8664	2634	2023	1381	1000	2362	18,064
Tweed (A) – Pt B	3067	1605	1459	1065	791	1461	9,448
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,731</b> <b>42.64%</b>	<b>4,239</b> <b>15.41%</b>	<b>3,482</b> <b>12.66%</b>	<b>2,446</b> <b>8.89%</b>	<b>1,791</b> <b>6.51%</b>	<b>3,823</b> <b>13.90%</b>	<b>27,512</b> <b>100%</b>
Byron	2279 22.24%	1607 15.68%	2402 23.44%	1390 13.56%	1051 10.26%	1518 14.81%	10247 100%
Ballina	4595 40.55%	1607 14.18%	1484 13.10%	1130 9.97%	1010 8.91%	1505 13.28%	11331 100%
Kyogle	1099 31.80%	539 15.60%	591 17.10%	366 10.59%	290 8.39%	571 16.52%	3456 100%
Lismore	3917 27.80%	2287 16.23%	2569 18.23%	1515 10.75%	1832 13.00%	1972 13.99%	14092 100%
Grafton	1917 36.23%	886 16.75%	744 14.06%	538 10.17%	423 7.99%	783 14.80%	5291 100%
Maclean	2730 43.35%	844 13.40%	837 13.29%	492 7.81%	396 6.29%	998 15.85%	6297 100%
Richmond Valley	2425 37.34%	1114 17.15%	874 13.46%	653 10.06%	492 7.58%	936 14.41%	6494 100%
Copmanhurst	594 34.08%	304 17.44%	267 15.32%	173 9.93%	135 7.75%	270 15.49%	1743 100%
Pristine Waters	1399 34.19%	681 16.64%	640 15.64%	398 9.73%	329 8.04%	645 15.76%	4092 100%
Richmond-Tweed	26046 35.62%	11393 15.58%	11402 15.59%	7500 10.26%	6466 8.84%	10325 14.12%	73132 100%
NSW	601465 40.79%	217165 14.73%	178699 12.12%	141472 9.60%	124441 8.44%	211170 14.32%	1474412 100%

- a) Includes both customers receiving a payment and those customers temporarily suspended or zero paid due to income/assets test provisions or other administrative procedures.
- b) Includes: Austudy, Carer Payment, Double Orphan pension, Exceptional circumstances, Mobility Allowance, Newstart Mature Age Allowance, Parenting Payment Partnered, Partner Allowance, Sickness Allowance, Special Benefit, Widow Allowance, Wife Pension & Widow Class B. Does not include Family Tax Benefits.

The ABS Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) have been derived to measure different aspects of social and economic conditions in Australia by geographic areas. They are indicators that can identify areas of relative socio-economic advantage or disadvantage. Data on SEIFA is taken from the Far North East NSW Region Profile by DOTARS, June 2003. The index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage, the most commonly used SEIFA Index, was derived from attributes such as low income, low educational attainment, high unemployment and jobs in relatively unskilled occupations. The mean score for the Index for this is 1,000. A score exceeding 1,000 indicates that an area is less disadvantaged than the Australian average, while a score of less than 1,000 indicates that an area is more disadvantaged than the Australian average. Using the SEIFA based on the 1996 Census data the score for the Far North East NSW Region was 964. This compares with a score of 1,006 for NSW as a whole. For the SLAs within the Region, scores ranged between 933 and 988. Tweed (A) – Pt A (ie. the Tweed Heads urban area and immediate surrounds) had the lowest score (933). Of the three largest urban centres, the score for Tweed Heads was 924, for Lismore 972 and for Ballina it was 938. Tweed (A) – Pt. B had a score of 957.87. Of the nine urban centres/localities for Tweed, Tyalgum had the lowest score with 908.00 and Hastings Point had the highest with 972.04.

In the frequency of appearance of postcode areas in top 30 rankings on indicators Tweed Heads gets a specific mention listed in the section with Northern Rivers as it is mentioned four times. Tweed is in the top 30 of rankings on disadvantage factor

Another document that provides some overall information about the Northern Rivers Region, in terms of its socio-economic situation is Tony Vinson's Report, *Unequal in Life (August 1999)*. It looks at the distribution of social disadvantage in Victoria and NSW. The Northern Rivers came up fourth in the list of the 30 most disadvantaged areas in Victoria and NSW. The indicators used were: Unemployment, Low Income, Low Birth Weight, Child Abuse, Education Leave School less than 15 years, Emergency assistance, Psychiatric Hospital admissions, Court Convictions, Child Injuries, Mortality, Long-Term Unemployment, Unskilled Workers, Court Defendants, Concentration of disadvantage.

## 3.4 Law and Justice

Information in this section is sourced from the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research through the ABS NSW Regional Profile 2004 and the Northern Rivers Regional Profile, June 2003. The Bureau calculated that over the 24 month period to end December 2002 there was a statistically significant increase in the Tweed Heads SSD in: Break and Enter – dwelling (up by an average of 15 % in each year); Stealing from a motor vehicle (13%). There were no offences for which there was a significant downward trend in the Tweed Heads SSD or Richmond-Tweed (Balance) SSD. For the category of assault within the Northern Rivers

Tweed LGA had the lowest rate of 757 per 100,000.population

### Adults

Table 3.4.1 shows the recorded criminal incidents for Tweed Shire, compared with other Local Government Areas within the Richmond-Tweed Statistical Division and NSW. Of criminal incidents recorded as at 2002 the highest proportions were in: Theft (70.68%), Malicious damage to property (13.27%) and Assault (10.9%).

**Table 3.4.1**

**Recorded criminal incidents, by Northern Rivers LGAs, Richmond-Tweed SD and NSW, 2002**

Source: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, 2002 ( in ABS NSW Regional Profile 2004)

	Assault			Sexual offences	Robbery			Total no.
	Domestic violence related	Not domestic violence related	Total		Without a weapon	With a firearm	With a weapon not a firearm	
Ballina	178	203	381	68	n.p.	0	0	n.p.
Byron	88	325	413	77	n.p.	0	n.p.	8
Copmanhurst	16	38	54	13	0	0	n.p.	n.p.
Kyogle	42	61	103	22	n.p.	0	0	n.p.
Maclean	78	165	243	37	n.p.	0	0	n.p.
Lismore	255	476	731	127	25	0	3	28
Pristine Waters	47	66	113	24	4	0	0	4
Grafton	63	141	204	38	3	0	n.p.	n.p.
Richmond Valley	118	197	315	38	n.p.	0	n.p.	5
Tweed	214	338	552	104	19	n.p.	n.p.	23
Richmond-Tweed	895	1600	2495	436	60	n.p.	n.p.	70
NSW	24892	45771	70663	9067	6639	714	2749	10102

	Theft				Arson no	Malicious damage to property no	Possession and/or use of drugs no
	Break and enter dwelling no	Break and enter non-dwelling no	Motor vehicle theft no	Total (a) no			
Ballina	307	332	64	2000	22	631	79
Byron	252	336	135	2837	n.p.	351	379
Copmanhurst	32	32	12	214	9	70	23
Kyogle	67	80	23	359	n.p.	131	55
Maclean	109	110	32	825	10	321	86
Lismore	461	407	221	2843	25	717	250
Pristine Waters	54	56	25	448	7	154	46
Grafton	117	108	50	819	10	274	72
Richmond Valley	208	169	62	1065	16	357	62
Tweed	509	390	260	3580	21	677	212
Richmond-Tweed	1804	1714	765	12684	96	2864	1037
NSW	69795	41367	41937	408545	6749	93041	15068

a) Includes all other theft categories

b) Includes recorded incidents where the offence occurred in a custodial institution

c) Includes prisons

Table 3.4.2 shows the rate of criminal incidents of assault in the Northern Rivers Local Government Areas as compared with the Richmond-Tweed SD and NSW. Tweed has an overall rate higher than both the Richmond-Tweed and NSW.

**Table 3.4.2**

***Rate of criminal incidents (a) assault by Northern Rivers LGA, 2002***

Source: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, 2002 (in ABS NSW Regional Profile 2004)

LGA	Domestic		Personal		Total	
	No.	Rate (a)	No	Rate (a)	No	Rate (a)
Ballina	100	399	91	206.8	267	606.7
Byron	65	218.9	44	148.2	109	367.1
Copmanhurst	15	328.0	13	284.3	28	612.3
Grafton	45	258.1	21	120.5	66	378.6
Kyogle	34	346.3	34	346.3	68	692.7
Lismore	96	472.6	57	280.6	153	753.2
Maclean	43	252.3	26	152.5	69	404.8
Pristine Waters	40	362.5	21	190.3	61	552.8
Richmond Valley	114	542.1	88	418.5	202	960.6
Tweed	285	382.2	170	228.0	455	610.1
Richmond Tweed	776	358.7	488	225.6	1264	584.3
NSW	18926	287.8	7173	109.1	26099	369.9

- a) rate per 100,000 population, Based on 2001 Estimated Resident Population
- b) includes recorded incidents where the offence occurred in a custodial institution
- c) includes prisons
- d) \*The rate is considered unreliable where the base population is less than 3,000 persons

**Juveniles**

In 2001-2002, for Tweed Shire there were 38 children in a final court appearance where the offence occurred in a NSW Department of Juvenile Justice Detention Centre. The most common offence was theft and related offences and Road traffic and motor vehicle regulatory. Trends across NSW indicate that there is a decline in children's court appearances. The data is based on the most serious offence for finalised appearances in the children's court and since 2000-01 the court data includes records relating to outcomes in higher courts from the Dept of Juvenile Justice's records system. In April 1998 a formal legislated police warning and cautioning procedure and youth conferencing were introduced under the Young Offenders Act 1997 in NSW. The operation of this Act since 1998 has contributed to a decrease in appearances in the Children's Courts of almost 40%. (Dept. of Juvenile Justice Annual Report 2002-03).

**Table 3.4.3****Finalised court appearances (a) of juveniles (b), by most serious, by LGA of residence, Richmond-Tweed SD and NSW**

Source: NSW Department of Juvenile Justice, 2001-2002 (in ABS NSW Regional Profile 2004)

	Acts intended to cause injury	Robbery extortion & related offences	Unlawful entry with intent / burglary break & enter	Theft & related offences	Illicit drug offences	Property damage & environmental pollution	Public Order offences	Road traffic & motor vehicle regulatory offences	Offences Against justice procedures gov't security & gov't operations	Other Offences	Total
Ballina	8	n.p.	4	12	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	4	4	n.p.	40
Byron	14	n.p.	6	10	4	4	7	n.p.	4	np.	54
Copmanhurst	0	0	n.p.	0	0	n.p.	0	0	0	0	3
Grafton	10	3	n.p.	8	0	n.p.	10	0	0	5	41
Kyogle	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	6	n.p.	4	4	n.p.	0	3	24
Lismore	19	n.p.	11	31	3	11	13	10	n.p.	n.p.	104
Macleay	16	0	5	8	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	0	3	n.p.	40
Pristine Waters	8	n.p.	3	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	6	n.p.	4	n.p.	34
Richmond Valley	n.p.	n.p.	10	12	3	n.p.	6	n.p.	n.p.	3	45
Tweed	11	0	n.p.	11	3	0	n.p.	8	0	n.p.	38
Richmond-Tweed	58	6	35	82	16	23	33	29	11	12	305
NSW	1,574	744	830	2,339	227	499	858	343	492	442	8,348

- a) Includes final court appearances where the offence occurred in a NSW Dept. of Juvenile Detention Centre  
b) Persons aged 10-17 at the time the offence was committed





**Part Four: Tweed Shire  
– Planning District  
Profiles**

## 4.1 District one: Tweed Heads

### Tweed Heads, Tweed Heads West, Tweed Heads South, Banora Point, Bilambil Heights, Bilambil/Piggabeen, Terranora Rural

*Information on the background of this area is sourced from the Tweed Community Profile 1999 as the information has not changed since that time.*

**T**he Tweed Heads area was first settled around 1865 although not significantly until after the arrival of Captain William McGregor in the early 1970's. The early name for Tweed Heads was Cooloon. This name was chosen by Edwin H Johnson when he surveyed the village site in June 1884 and is believed to be a local Aboriginal word for the native fig or quandong. Colloon was gazetted as a village on January 8, 1887 and in 1900 its population stood at 298. The first train from Nerang arrived in Tweed Heads on September 14<sup>th</sup>, 1903 and connected up with ferry services travelling to the settlements up river including Murwillumbah. As of May 2004 the State Government discontinued the train line between Casino and Murwillumbah although a healthy community campaign has been lobbying for its reinstatement.

Today, Tweed Heads lies on the New South Wales side of the Queensland border and is one town of the 'twin towns', the other being Coolangatta on the Queensland side. Given the significant work traffic between the two 'towns' and further to the Gold Coast, during daylight saving time there is some disruption to life on both sides of the border. Residents utilise services in NSW and Qld each having different access requirements and systems. A number of reports have been written addressing the social and business issues, as each side of the border is experiencing large population growth. Given that Coolangatta in the 1996 census was a highly disadvantaged area in the Gold Coast City Council Local Government Area this compounds pressure on services in the Tweed Heads area. Tourism is an important industry for the area but there is a substantial, and growing, residential area attracting particularly retirees.

### Age and Sex

Not counting overseas visitors, Tweed Heads Planning District had a population count of 38,492 persons on Census night 2001. There were more females (20,075) than males (18,749). This particularly applied in the 60 and over age groups. Table 4.1.1 shows the proportion of the population by five year age cohorts.

Tweed Heads had a lower proportion of persons in the under 50 age cohorts than Tweed Shire and higher proportions in the older age cohorts. For example, 5-9 year olds made up 6% of the District's population compared with 6.6% at Shire level. The 70-74 age cohort made up 7.83% of the population compared with 6.3% at the Shire level. These proportions are not to be confused with numbers. Tweed Heads has a significantly higher population than any of the other Planning Districts so in the 5-9 year age cohort there are 2,311 persons or 46.88% of all persons in this age cohort in the Shire.

**Table 4.1.1**

Age, Tweed Heads, Tweed Shire 2001

Source: ABS census 2001

Age	Persons	Prop %
0 to 4	2012	5.23%
5 to 9	2311	6.00%
10 to 14	2315	6.01%
15 to 19	2038	5.29%
20 to 24	1357	3.53%
25 to 29	1612	4.19%
30 to 34	1880	4.88%
35 to 39	2172	5.64%
40 to 44	2452	6.37%
45 to 49	2401	6.24%
50 to 54	2443	6.35%
55 to 59	2283	5.93%
60 to 64	2496	6.48%
65 to 69	2836	7.37%
70 to 74	3014	7.83%
75 to 79	2578	6.70%
80 to 84	1441	3.74%
85 to 89	607	1.58%
90 to 94	204	0.53%
95 to 99	34	0.09%
100 years +	6	0.02%
Total	38,492	100.00%

### **Persons Born Overseas**

In the 2001 Census 6,689 persons (17.16%) in the Tweed Heads Planning District reported that they had been born overseas. This is a slight increase from 1996 when it was 16.28%. The greater proportion were born in one of the main English speaking countries, 4,976 (12.76% of the population) with 1,713 persons or 4.39% born in an 'other country' or one where English is not the main language. This has increased from 1996 when it was 3.68%. This was the third highest proportion of the seven Planning Districts. In 1996 Tweed had the second highest proportion. The main countries from which people born overseas had come were: the United Kingdom (3,392); New Zealand (1,223); Federal Republic of Germany (208); Netherlands (197); the Philippines (142) and Italy (140).

In the Census in 2001 1,157 persons (3.23%) indicated that they spoke a language other than English. This figure compares with 3.01% at Shire level and was the third highest proportion of the Planning Districts. These figures compare with 1996 when there were 712 persons or 2.27% speaking a language other than English and the Shire level then was 2.47%. Numerically, the District had 56% of the Shire's population who spoke a language other than English, up from 46.2% in 1996. The most commonly spoken languages identified in the standard ABS Table B08 in numbers of persons were: Italian (160); German (155); Chinese languages (106); Netherlandic (96); Tagalog (73). This is a similar order to 1996 but Chinese languages were second most common to Italian, with German third.

Of those born overseas 66 persons indicated that they could speak English 'not well' or 'not at all'.

### **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Persons**

At the 2001 Census, Tweed Heads Planning District had the highest number of persons who identified as Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander or both across Planning Districts. There were 934 persons or 51.95% of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons in the Shire in the District and they made up 2.43% of the District's population. The greater proportion were Aboriginal (684 persons or 1.9%). There were 26 persons (0.7%) who identified as Torres Strait Islander and 144 persons who identified as both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 144 persons (0.4%).

It is recognised that this population is subject to significant undercounting in Census and these numbers should be seen as indicative only.

### **Religious Affiliation**

In the 2001 Census 29,635 persons in the Tweed Heads Planning District identified themselves as belonging to a Christian religion. The largest group within this category were Anglicans (12,196), Catholics (9,809), Uniting (2,483). A further 312 persons indicated that they belonged to a non-Christian religion, the largest of those identified Hinduism (21) and Buddhism (191) and Islam (32). Buddhism has grown significantly since 1996 when 45 persons identified as being Buddhist. In total 4,607 identified as having 'no religion' a category that included Agnosticism, Atheism, Humanism and Rationalism.

### **Education**

At the 2001 Census this area had the highest proportion of persons not attending any form of educational institution (78.05%) which probably reflects its older age structure. It had lower proportions of persons - than the Shire - attending: (1.19%); Infants/Primary (8.02%); Secondary (5.59%) and Technical or Further Education (1.71%). Numerically, there were 3,097 Primary students, 2,158 Secondary students and 503 Tertiary students in the District.

Still reflecting the older age profile of the area, this District had the second highest proportion of persons who left school at 15 years or below (11.5%).

With respect to the level of qualification achieved by persons in this District, the largest proportion of people aged 15 years and over (18.13%) described their qualification as 'Certificate'. The next largest categories were: Advanced Diploma (4.76%) and Bachelor Degree (4.19%). Across the Planning Districts the Tweed Planning District had the lowest proportion of people with a Bachelor Degree and a 'Graduate Diploma and Graduate Certificate' and second lowest with a Post Graduate Degree.

The most common area in which people held qualifications in 2001 were: 'Engineering and Related Technologies' (8.13%), Management and Commerce (5.55%), Architecture and Building (3.55%) and Health (3.49%).

## Employment Patterns

At the 2001 Census, 13,666 persons (42.7%) aged 15 years and over in this District indicated that they were in the Labour Force. This was the second lowest of all the Planning Districts and reflects the age profile. Of those in the Labour Force:

- 88.14% were employed, 55.24% full-time and 40.98% part-time
- 11.86% were unemployed, 76.31% looking for full-time and 23.69% looking for part-time work.

Unemployment rates (proportion of persons in Labour Force unemployed) were highest for persons aged 35-44 (20.6%), followed by 25-34 (19.43%), 45-54 (18.32%) and 15-19 (14.31%). In the two youngest age cohorts unemployment rates were higher for males than females. The overall unemployment rate for the Planning District was 11.86%, the third highest of the seven Planning Districts.

The occupation in which most persons were employed in the Tweed Heads District in 2001 was 'Intermediate Clerical, Sales and Service Workers' 2,234 persons (18.52%). This was followed by; 'Tradespersons and Related Workers' 1,724 persons (14.29%), 'Elementary Clerical, Sales and Service Workers', 1,644 persons (13.63%) and 'Associate Professionals', 1,560 persons (12.93%).

The major industries in which people were employed were: the 'Retail Trade', 2,489 persons, 'Health and Community Services', 1,381 persons 'Accommodation, Cafes and Restaurant', 1,244 persons and 'Construction', 1,093 persons.

## Income

The highest proportions of individuals in Tweed Heads Planning District in 2001 had incomes in the \$120-\$400 range (16,894 persons or 52.15%). A comparison of persons with very low incomes (less than \$160 per week) across Planning Districts indicated that Tweed Heads had 4,845 persons or 15.09% with incomes of less than \$160 per week. This was the lowest proportion of any of the Planning Districts. There were 14,978 persons (46.64%) with an individual income of between \$160-\$399. This was the highest proportion across the Planning Districts. This District had the lowest proportion of individuals with a weekly income of over \$1,000 (1,340 persons or 4.17%).

A similar comparison of households with incomes of less than \$300 per week shows that Tweed Heads had the fourth highest proportion of households (17.23%) in this category (2,647 households). In 1996 this area had the second highest proportion of households with 27.27%. A comparison of high income households - \$1,000 or more per week – indicated that Tweed Heads had the highest proportion of these households, 4,374 or 28.47% of all households in the District. This has risen since 1996 when this District had the third highest proportion with 11.41%.

Comparison of Weekly Family Income, which is calculated differently to household income using the same benchmarks, shows that this District had 353 families (3.3%) who had an income of less than \$300 per week and 2,462 (23.02%) had incomes of \$1,000 and over. This has changed significantly since 1996 when 17.85% of families had incomes of less than \$300 per week. The proportion of families with incomes of less than \$300 per week is significantly lower than the Rural South West Planning District with the highest proportion (23.96%).

## Marital Status

At the 2001 Census persons aged 15 years and over in Tweed Heads reported their marital status as follows:

Married (17,893 persons)	55.48%
Separated (1,177 persons)	3.65%
Divorced (3,153 persons)	9.78%
Widowed (3,155 persons)	9.78%
Never married (6,873 persons)	21.31%

The difference between males and females were most pronounced in the 'widowed' category where 2,476 females were widowed compared with 679 males. Compared with the other Planning Districts the Tweed Heads Planning District had the highest proportion of persons married and the second highest proportion of persons widowed. Family and Household Characteristics

In the Tweed Heads Planning District in 2001 there were the following number of families in occupied private dwellings:

- 3,449 couple families with children (32.31%)
- 1,717 one parent families (16.09%)
- 5,385 couple family without children (50.45%)
- 123 Other family (.15%)

There were 4,337 persons living in a 'lone person' household. Significantly, 2,610 of these were females compared with 1,727 males. Of the females, 900 were aged 75 years and over, with a further 770 aged 65-74 years of age. Comparisons with other Planning Districts show that Tweed Heads had the third highest proportion of lone person households.

The most common household size as reported at the 2001 Census was two persons, 43.20% (6,489 family households) followed by one person households, 4,313 persons (28.05%) and three person households (11.84%). The Tweed Heads Planning District had the highest proportion of 2 person households across the Planning Districts and the lowest proportion of three, four, five and six person households.

### **Housing**

The most common housing structure in which people lived in this District in 2001 was a 'separate house' in which 64.52% of all persons lived. Across Planning Districts, this was the lowest proportion. In 1996 63.14% of persons lived in a 'separate house' which was then the second lowest proportion. In comparison with other Districts, Tweed Heads had the highest proportion of persons living in semi-detached housing (18.8%) and the second highest proportion of persons living in flats or apartments (10.18%). It had the second highest proportion of persons living in a 'caravan, cabin or houseboat' (2,243 persons or 6%) compared with Rural North Coast with 6.65%.

There was a relatively high level of home ownership, 50.09% of all private dwellings at the 2001 Census. This has decreased slightly since 1996 when it was 51.03%. A further 17.93% of private dwellings were being purchased and 25.56% were being rented. This District had the highest proportion of fully owned dwellings across the Planning Districts and the third highest proportion of dwellings being rented.

For persons purchasing their home, 63.91% were making a monthly housing loan repayment in the \$400 to \$1,200 range. This has decreased since 1996 when it was 68.2%. The proportion paying \$1,200 and more is 22.03%. Across the Planning Districts the Tweed Heads Planning District had the highest proportion of households with monthly loan repayment of between \$800-\$999 (21.02%) and \$1,200-\$1,399 (10.61%) per month.

The highest proportion of renting households (62.81%) were paying a weekly rent of between \$100 and \$199. This has decreased since 1996 when 66.02% paid this amount. The proportion paying less than \$100 per week rent has decreased from 20.7% in 1996 to 14.45% in 2001. More people are paying higher weekly rent with 16.74% paying between \$200 and \$299 per week compared with 9.6% in 1996.

### **Transportation**

In the Tweed Heads Planning District in the 2001 Census the largest proportion of households (51.45%) owned one motor vehicle. Just under a quarter (24.4%) owned two vehicles and 11.46% owned no motor vehicle. This represented the second highest proportion of households without a motor vehicle across the Planning Districts and compared with 10.2% in the Shire overall.

The most common way employed persons travelled to work was by car as a driver with 62.65% of all employed persons travelling this way as at the 2001 Census. A further 7.49% travelled as a passenger in a car, 15 persons took the train and 107 took the bus to work. There were 575 persons (4.79%) who stated that they worked from home.

## 4.2 District two: Rural North Coast

### Chinderah, Fingal, Kingscliff, Cudgen Village, Cabarita Beach, Rural North Coast Balance

The Rural North Coast Planning District takes in the small villages immediately to the south and west of Tweed Heads.

*Information on the background of this area is sourced from the Tweed Community Profile 1999 as the information has not changed since that time.*

**I**n the early 1900's Cudgen Village was a thriving community and as the timber getting industry started to disappear farmers moved in and began to clear the land for cultivation. Cudgen became the centre of the fledgling sugar industry and large numbers of South Sea Islanders were brought to the region where they worked to clear land and work in that industry. Some of their ancestors remain today with Tweed Shire having the fourth largest South Sea Islander Community in Australia (Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission 1992).

There are some high growth population areas in this District, both proposed and existing; West Kingscliff, Casuarina Beach, Kings Forest and Salt (located to the north of Casuarina), and are mainly on the coast.

**Table 4.2.1**  
Age, Rural North Coast, Tweed Shire 2001  
Source: ABS census 2001

Age	Persons	Prop %
0 to 4	711	5.33%
5 to 9	812	5.70%
10 to 14	863	6.59%
15 to 19	767	5.88%
20 to 24	487	3.90%
25 to 29	571	4.87%
30 to 34	622	4.83%
35 to 39	841	6.69%
40 to 44	928	6.75%
45 to 49	851	6.90%
50 to 54	750	6.36%
55 to 59	687	6.15%
60 to 64	683	5.95%
65 to 69	757	6.75%
70 to 74	804	7.16%

75 to 79	559	5.10%
80 to 84	333	3.06%
85 to 89	128	1.32%
90 to 94	60	0.66%
95 to 99	4	0.04%
100 years +	0	0.00%
Total	12,276	100.00%

### Age and Sex

Not counting overseas visitors, the Rural North Coast Planning District had a population count of 12,276 persons as at the 2001 Census of Population and Housing. There were slightly more females (6,240) than males (6,029). In the 60 and over age cohorts females (1,751) outnumbered males (1,577), slightly which has changed since 1996 when females almost doubled that of males. Table 4.2.1 shows the proportion of the population in each 5 years age cohort.

Rural North Coast had a slightly higher proportion of its population in the age cohorts 20 to 44 (27.75%) than for the Shire generally (26.7%). In the 1996 Census the 65-69 year age cohort (7.79%) stood out as being higher than the Shire (7.03%) but this is no longer as in the 2001 Census the 65-69 year age cohort is 6.75% for this District and 6.3% in Tweed.

### Persons Born Overseas

In the 2001 Census 1,432 persons (11.69%) in the Rural North Coast reported that they had been born overseas. The greater proportion were born in one of the 'Main English speaking Countries' (1,083 or 8.64%) with 349 persons or 2.85% being born in an 'other country' or one where English is not the main language. Across the Planning Districts, this was the lowest proportion of persons born in an 'other country' and lower than the Shire proportion of 5.27%. The main countries from which people born overseas came in 2001 were; the United Kingdom (736 persons), New Zealand (256), the Netherlands (54 persons), Germany (47) and South Africa (27).

At the 2001 Census, 225 persons spoke a language 'other than English' (1.96%). This compares with 2.7% at the Shire level and was the lowest proportion of all the Planning Districts. Numerically, the Rural North Coast had 10.89% of all persons in the Shire who

spoke a language 'other than English'. The most commonly spoken languages identified in the standard ABS Table B08 were: Netherlandic (33 persons), Italian (32 persons), French and Chinese languages each with 15 persons. In the 1996 Census the most commonly spoken languages were Netherlandic, followed by German, Greek and French.

Of those born overseas and aged 5 years and over, 3 persons (0.21%) indicated that they spoke English 'not well' or 'not at all'.

### **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Persons**

At the 2001 Census, Rural North Coast 934 persons or 3.82% indicated that they were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander or both. In total, 317 persons (2.58%) identified as Aboriginal, 72 persons (0.59%) as Torres Strait Islander and 144 persons (0.40%) as both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander. They made up 26.08% of the entire Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in the Tweed Shire. Across Planning Districts the proportion 3.82% was the highest of all the districts and compares with the overall Shire figure of 2.45%.

It is recognised that this population group is subject to significant undercounting in the Census and there fore recommended that these numbers be used with caution.

### **Religious Affiliation**

In the 2001 Census 8,843 persons identified themselves as belonging to a Christian religion. The largest groups within this category were: Anglican (3,562 persons), Catholics (3,106 persons), Uniting Church (749 persons) and Presbyterian and Reformed (637 persons). One hundred and sixty-nine persons reported that they belonged to a non-Christian religion and 1,730 reported that they had 'no religion' a category that included Agnosticism, Atheism, Humanism and Rationalism. Of the non-Christian religions, there were: Buddhism (102 persons), Hinduism (25 persons), Islam (16 persons) and Judaism (6 persons).

### **Education**

At the 2001 Census the Rural North Coast had the second highest proportion of persons not engaged in education (74.44%) of all the Planning Districts. Compared with the Shire as

a whole, it had lower proportions of children and young people in pre-school (1.26%, Primary School (8.79%) and Secondary School (6.65%). This District had higher proportions of people attending TAFE (2.83%) and Tertiary Institutions (1.6%) than for the Shire.

Across Planning Districts, the Rural North Coast had the second highest proportion of people who had left school at 14 years of age or younger, 1,259 persons or 12.8%. Twenty-three persons had never attended school.

A profile of the level of qualification held by persons aged 15 years and over in the Rural North Coast shows that 1.12% hold a 'Graduate Diploma and Graduate Certificate', 5.94% hold a 'Bachelor Degree', 4.88% have an 'Advanced Diploma and Diploma', and 17.7% have Certificate.

The most common areas in which persons in the Rural North Coast held qualifications were:

- 'Engineering and Related Technologies' (17.53%)
- 'Management and Commerce' (4.83%)
- 'Education' (4.57%)
- 'Health' (4.10%)

### **Employment Patterns**

At the 2001 Census 4,607 persons or 46.61% of those aged 15 years and over in Rural North Coast reported that they were part of the Labour Force. This was the third lowest proportion of persons in the Labour Force across the Planning Districts but is higher than the Shire proportion of 45.91%. Of those in the Labour Force:

- 85.63% (3,945 persons) were employed, 56.25% full-time and 40.96% were part-time.
- 14.37% (662 persons) were unemployed, 10.48% looking for full-time work and 3.89% looking for part-time work

Unemployment rates (proportion of persons in the Labour Force unemployed) were the highest in the 35-44 year (25.98%) and 25-34 year age (24.47%) cohorts. There was also relatively high unemployment in the 45-54 year age cohort (15.11%). The overall unemployment rate (14.37% was the third highest across the Planning Districts.

The occupation in which most persons were employed in the Rural North Coast in 2001 were 'Professional' providing 687 persons with

jobs. This was followed by; ‘Intermediate Clerical, Sales and Service Workers’ providing 584 jobs, ‘Tradespersons and Related Workers’ (513 persons), and ‘Associate Professionals’ (502 persons).

The major industries in which people were employed were: ‘Retail Trade’ (630 persons), ‘Health and Community Services’ (440 persons), ‘Construction’ (402 persons) and ‘Property and Business Services’ (373 persons). This has changed since 1996 when the major industries in order of employment of people were: Retail Trade Accommodation Cafes and Restaurants, Construction, Health and Community Services and Education.

### Income

In the Rural North Coast at Census night, 1,617 persons aged 15 years or over (16.35%) had weekly individual incomes of less than \$160. A further 4,418 persons or 44.40% had incomes in the \$160 to \$399 per week range. The proportion of persons with an income of less than \$160 was second lowest of all the Planning Districts in the Shire and compares with 16.5% for the Shire overall.

A comparison of weekly household income across Planning Districts looking at households with a weekly income of less than \$300 shows that 853 households (18.56%) in this District were in this category. This was the second highest proportion across the Planning Districts. At the other extreme, households earning more than \$1,000 per week comprised 863 or 18.78% of all households. This was the third highest proportion across the Planning Districts. In 1996 the proportion of households with incomes less than \$300 was 29.12% and over \$1,000 was 11.08%.

Analysis of Weekly family income – which is calculated differently to household income - indicated that on Census night 2001, 151 families or 4.79% of families in this District had incomes of less than \$300 per week. This number comprised 9.66% of all families in this income category in the Tweed Shire. Across Planning Districts, the Rural North Coast had the second lowest proportion of households in this category. There were 737 families (23.37%) with a weekly income in excess of \$1,000. This has changed significantly since the 1996 Census when there were 515 families or 18.92% of families with incomes of less than \$300 per week and 397 families (14.58%) with a weekly income in excess of \$1,000.

### Marital Status

At the 2001 Census persons aged 15 years and over reported their marital status as follows:

Married (4,930 persons)	49.55%
Separated (495 persons)	4.97%
Divorced (1,067 persons)	10.72%
Widowed (835 persons)	8.39%
Never Married (2,623 persons)	26.36%

The difference in marital status between males and females was most marked in the ‘Widowed’ category where there were 615 females and 220 males. In the ‘never married’ category there were 1,450 males to 1,173 females. This District had the highest proportion of persons separated and the second highest proportion of persons divorced across all the Planning Districts.

### Family and Household Characteristics

In the Rural North Coast Planning District in 2001 there were the following number of families in occupied private dwellings:

- ❑ 1,043 couple families with children (33.21%)
- ❑ 1,379 couple families without children (43.90%)
- ❑ 673 one parent family (21.43%)
- ❑ 46 other family (1.45%)

There were 1,333 persons living in a ‘lone person’ household as defined by relationship in a household. There were similar numbers of males (655) and females (678). Of the females, 195 were aged 75 years and over, with a further 181 aged 65-74 years of age. Comparisons with other Planning Districts show that this District had the highest proportion of lone person households.

The most common household size as reported at the 2001 Census was two persons, 38.74% (1,797 persons in a household) followed by one-person households, 1,345 persons (28.99%) and 591 (12.74%) three person households. This District had the highest proportion of one-person households and the second highest proportion of 2 person households. Compared with the 1996 Census 66.09% of all households in this District were one and two person households, in 2001 it has increased slightly to 67.73%.



## **Housing**

The most common housing structure in which people lived in the Rural North Coast District in 2001 was a 'separate house'. A total of 67.69% of persons lived in this type of housing which was the second lowest proportion of all the Planning Districts next to the Tweed Heads District (64.52%). This is significantly lower than the overall Shire proportion of 76.37%. A high proportion of persons lived in semi-detached housing (11.71%). This District had the highest proportion of people living in flats, units or apartments (16.48%). This has increased since 1996 when it was 13.22%. The proportion of people living in caravans, cabins/houseboats (3.66% or 1,294 persons) has decreased significantly from 1996 when it was 12.86% and was the third highest proportion of all the Districts.

The proportion of private dwellings in this District that were fully owned was 44.80%, the second lowest proportion of all the Planning Districts and compared with 48.08% across the Shire. This area had the lowest proportion of private dwellings being purchased (15.35%). Conversely, 34.22% of dwellings were being rented, a proportion significantly higher than other Planning Districts in the Shire, in the Shire as a whole (26.42%) and compared with NSW (27.53%).

For Households purchasing their home, the highest proportions of persons were paying between \$800-\$999 per month (21.38%), the second highest of all the Planning Districts and higher than in 1996 when the highest proportion of monthly loan repayments were between \$600-\$799 per month. The next highest proportions of repayments is between \$600-\$799 (15.60%) and \$1,000-\$1,199 (15.09%). This District had the second highest proportion of households (6.16%) across the Planning Districts with a monthly loan repayment of \$2,000 or more.

The highest proportion of renting households (36.44%) were paying between \$150-\$199 per week rent, second highest of all the Districts. This District has the highest proportion of households paying \$250-\$299 (4.69%) and \$300-\$349 (1.51%) weekly rent. In 1996 7.37% of households were paying rent between \$200-\$299 per week compared with 2001 when it was 15.93%.

## **Transportation**

The greatest proportion of households in the Rural North Coast District (51.08% or 2,594 households) owned one motor vehicle, slightly higher than the Shire percentage of 48.15%. There were 540 (10.63%) households without a motor vehicle, a decrease from 1996 when it was 12.32%. For the Shire in 2001 there were 10.2% of households without a vehicle. There were 1,263 households (24.87%) with two vehicles and 6.91% with three. This District had the second highest proportion of households with one motor vehicle and the lowest proportion with three or more vehicles.

As reported in the 2001 Census, 2,319 (59.08%) of all employed persons drove themselves to work in a car. A further 285 persons (7.26%) travelled in a car as a passenger. This District had the highest proportion of people using a bus (1.58% or 62 persons) to get to work. A total of 564 persons (14.37%) said they worked from home.

## 4.3 District three: Rural South Coast

### Hastings Point, Bogangar, Pottsville, Burringbar

Information on the background of this area is sourced from the Tweed Community Profile 1999 as the information has not changed since that time.

**Burringbar** is derived from the Aboriginal place name for the area and is thought to mean 'The Place of the Burring'. The Burring was a weapon used for striking. The first public school opened in 1894. Today, the area is a popular destination for holiday makers. Pottsville is a growing, seaside community.

#### Age and Sex

Not counting overseas visitors, the Rural South Coast Planning District had a population count of 6,045 persons at the 2001 Census of Population and Housing. There were very even numbers of males (3,025) to females (3,020). Table 4.3.1 shows the proportion of the population in each five year age cohort. The highest proportion of age cohorts is 40-44 years with 9.15%, higher than the Shire rate of 7.4%. This District had a higher proportion of 0-19 year olds (29.1%) compared with the Shire (25.2%). The second highest age cohort is the 10-14 year olds (8.64%), higher than the Shire (7.0%). This District had a lower proportion of persons aged 70 years and over (9.63%) compared with the Shire (16.5%).

**Table 4.3.1**

Age, Rural South Coast, Tweed Shire 2001  
Source: ABS Census 2001

Age	Persons	Prop %
0 to 4	378	0.86
5 to 9	466	1.07
10 to 14	522	1.19
15 to 19	393	0.90
20 to 24	197	0.45
25 to 29	239	3.95
30 to 34	343	5.67
35 to 39	453	7.49
40 to 44	553	9.15
45 to 49	404	6.68
50 to 54	382	6.32

55 to 59	329	5.44
60 to 64	395	6.53
65 to 69	393	6.50
70 to 74	272	4.50
75 to 79	206	3.41
80 to 84	69	1.14
85 to 89	23	0.38
90 to 94	9	0.15
95 to 99	3	0.05
100 years +	0	0.00
Total	6,045	100.00%

#### Persons Born Overseas

In the 2001 Census 696 persons (11.73%) of the Rural South Coast population indicated that they had been born overseas. The greater proportion were born in one of the 'Main English' speaking countries (484 persons or 7.97%) with 212 persons or 3.49% being born in an 'other country' or one where English is not the main language. This was lower than the Shire (5.27%). The main countries from which people born overseas came from as identified in the 2001 were: the United Kingdom (327), New Zealand (126), Germany (47) and the Netherlands (27).

At the 2001 Census, 148 persons aged 5 years and over (2.59%) indicated that they spoke a language 'other than English'. This compares with 2.47% at the Shire level. The Rural South Coast had 10.89% of all persons in the Shire who spoke a language 'other than English'. The most commonly spoken languages identified in the standard ABS Table BO8 were: German (39 persons), Italian (33 persons), Tagalog (6 persons), Chinese languages (5).

Of those born overseas 16 persons (2.32%), indicated that they spoke English 'not well' or 'not at all'.

#### Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Persons

At the 2001 Census, Rural South Coast 105 persons, or 1.72% indicated that they were Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander or both. The largest proportion, 63 persons (1.03%) identified as Aboriginal, 33 (0.54%) as Torres Strait Islander and 9 persons (0.15%) as both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander. They made up 5.84% of the entire ATSI community in the Tweed Shire. This District had the

second lowest proportion of ATSI people across the Planning Districts and compares with the overall Shire figure of 2.51%. Bogangar had the highest proportion of Indigenous people with Pottsville Beach second highest.

### **Religious Affiliation**

In the 2001 Census 4,125 persons identified themselves as belonging to a Christian religion. The largest groups within this category were: Anglican (1,592 persons), Catholic (1,407), Uniting Church (412) and Presbyterian and Reformed (341). Sixty-five persons reported that they belonged to a non-Christian faith; Buddhism (41 persons) and Hinduism (24), and 1,077 indicated that they had 'no religion' a category that includes Agnosticism, Atheism, Humanism and Rationalism.

### **Education**

At the 2001 Census the Rural South Coast had 4,399 persons (72.32%) of persons not engaged in education. Compared with the shire as a whole, (75.09%) it had a higher proportion of children in pre-school (1.6%), Primary school (10.62%) and Secondary school (7.99%). This is consistent with the 1996 Census.

Across the Planning Districts the Rural South Coast had the fourth highest proportion of people who had left school at 14 years of age or younger, 552 persons (11.79%). Fifteen persons had never attended school.

A profile of the level of qualifications held by persons aged 15 years of age and over in this District shows that 18.83% held a 'Certificate', 5.6% had a Bachelor Degree, 4.99% held an Advanced Diploma and Diploma, .88% had a Graduate Diploma and Graduate Certificate and .77% held a Postgraduate Degree. The proportion with a Bachelor Degree is slightly higher than in the Shire as a whole (4.97%).

The most common areas (proportionally) in which persons in the Rural South Coast held qualifications were: 'Engineering and Related Technologies' (8.91%), 'Management and Commerce' (5.33%), 'Health' (3.77%), 'Architecture and Building' (3.55%) 'Education' (3.49%).

### **Employment Patterns**

In the 2001 Census, 2,273 persons or (42.12%) of those aged 15 years and over in the Rural South Coast reported that they were part of the Labour Force. This is lower than the Shire proportion of 45.91% and the lowest proportion across the Planning Districts. Of those in the Labour Force:

- 86.27% (1,961 persons) were employed, 48.92% full-time and 34.45% part-time;
- 13.73% (312 persons) were unemployed, 10.34% looking for full-time work and 3.39% for part-time work.

Unemployment rates (proportion of persons in the Labour Force unemployed) were the highest in the 45-54 year age cohort (25.64%) and the 35-44 year age cohort (24.04%). These were both the highest proportions for these age groups across all the Planning Districts. The 15-19 year age cohort had the second lowest proportion (7.69%) of all the Planning Districts. The overall unemployment rate (13.73%) was the fourth highest across the Planning Districts.

The occupation in which most persons were employed in this District in 2001 was: 'Tradespersons and Related Workers' (288 persons), 'Associated Professionals' (261), 'Professionals' (255 persons), 'Labourers and Related Workers' (247).

The major industries in which people were employed were: 'Retail Trade' (328 persons), 'Construction' (249 persons), 'Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing' (238 persons) and 'Health and Community Services' (203 persons).

### **Income**

On Census night 2001, 851 persons aged 15 years and over (18.02%) had individual weekly incomes of less than \$160. A further 2,075 persons or (43.94%) had individual incomes in the \$160-\$399 range. The proportion of persons with an income of less than \$160 per week was the third lowest in the Shire and compares with 16.56% for Tweed Shire overall. There were 213 persons (4.51%) with an individual weekly income over \$1,000.

A comparison of weekly household income across Planning Districts looking at households with a weekly income of less than \$300 or greater shows that 14.57% or 319 households in this District were in this category. At the

other extreme, households earning more than \$1,000 per week numbered 379 or 17.31% of all households. This was the second lowest proportion across the Planning Districts. In 1996 the proportion of households with weekly incomes of less than \$300 were 25.78% and those with incomes of \$1,000 or more per week were 9.17%.

Weekly family income – which is calculated differently to household income - indicated that on Census night 2001, 266 families or 16.02% of families in this District had incomes of less than \$300 per week. This number comprised 17.02% of all families in this income category in the Tweed Shire. Across Planning Districts, the Rural South Coast had the third lowest proportion of households in this category. There were 342 families (20.60%) with a weekly income in excess of \$1,000. This has doubled since the 1996 Census when there were 135 families or 9.61% in this category.

### Marital Status

At the 2001 Census, persons aged 15 years and over reported their marital status as follows:

Married (2,575 persons)	54.49%
Separated (187 persons)	3.96%
Divorced (426 persons)	9.01%
Widowed (282 persons)	5.97%
Never Married (1,256 persons)	26.58%

The difference in marital status between males and females was most marked in the 'Widowed' category where there were 219 females and 63 males.

### Family and Household Characteristics

In the Rural South Coast Planning District in 2001 there were the following number of families in occupied private dwellings:

- 674 couple families with children (40.70%)
- 288 one parent families (17.39%)
- 678 couple family without children (40.94%)
- 16 other family (0.97%)

There were 522 persons living in a 'lone person' household as defined by relationship in a household. In comparison with other Planning Districts, the Rural South Coast this was the fourth highest proportion.

The most common household size as reported at the 2001 Census was two persons, 37.75%

(832 persons) followed by one person households, 522 (23.68%) and 292 (13.25%) three person households. The combined number of one and two person households (61.43%) is higher than in 1996 when it was 59.55% of all households. Across the Planning Districts this District had the third highest proportion of two person, five person and six person households.

### Housing

The most common housing for persons in the Rural South Coast Planning District in 2001 was a 'separate house'. A total of 79.42% of persons lived in this type of housing which was higher than the Shire proportion of 76.37%, but the third lowest proportion of all the Planning Districts. A high proportion of persons (10.03%) lived in 'semi-detached housing' which was third highest of all the Planning Districts. Those people living in 'flats, units or apartments' comprised 3.01%. This District had the highest proportion of persons living in a 'caravan, cabin/houseboat – 6.65% (or 402 persons). However, this is a substantial decrease since 1996 when the proportion was 11.10%. Less people generally in the Shire are living in caravans / cabins / houseboat.

The proportion of private dwellings in the Rural South Coast that were fully owned was 46.69%, which is lower than for the Shire (48.08%) and from 1996 when it was 50.07%. This District had the fourth highest proportion of dwellings being rented (24.85%). The proportion of dwellings being purchased is 17.97%.

For households purchasing their home, the highest proportion of persons were paying between \$600-\$799 (21.35%) and \$800-\$899 (18.52%) per month. This has increased since 1996 when it was between \$400-\$599 (20.56%) and \$600-\$799 (18.22%). Across the Planning Districts this District had the second highest proportion of households paying between \$600-\$799 and \$1,200-\$1,399 and the third highest proportion of households paying between \$1,000-\$1,199.

The highest proportion of renting households (38.16%) were paying between \$150-\$199 per week with a further 26.57% paying between \$100-\$149. This District had the highest proportion of households paying rent between \$200-\$249 per week. In 1996 6.5% were paying rent between \$200 and \$299 compared

with 2001 when 16.58% were paying this amount.

### **Transportation**

The greatest proportion of households in the Rural South Coast (48.15%) or 1,166 households, owned one motor vehicle, a rate similar to the Shire proportion of 48.15%. There were 171 households (7.12%) without any motor vehicle, 750 households (31.22%) with two motor vehicles and 201 (8.37%) with three or more motor vehicles. This District had the third highest proportion of households with one vehicle.

As reported in the 2001 Census 1,152 persons (58.46% of all employed persons) drove themselves to work in a car. A further 83 persons (4.21%) travelled in a car as a passenger. There were 158 persons who worked at home.

## 4.4 District four: Tumbulgum / Dulguigan

### North Tumbulgum, Tumbulgum, Dulguigan, Carool

*Information on the background of this area is sourced from the Tweed Community Profile 1999 as the information has not changed since that time.*

**T**he name **Tumbulgum** is derived from the Aboriginal name for the place where the north and the south arms of the Tweed River meet. It is thought to mean 'a large fig' or 'a wild fig tree'. It became the official name for the area previously known as Tweed Junction on March 1, 1881 following a petition to the Postal Department from local residents. The first settlement in the area occurred in the 1860's and by 1872 the population had increased enough to warrant the opening of the Tweed Junction Post Office. The Tweed River Junction School, the first in what is now Tweed Shire, was opened in 1871. It was closed briefly between 1873 and 1875 before re-opening. In 1889 it became the Tumbulgum School at a time when Tumbulgum was reaching its peak. The township was badly affected by the economic crisis of the 1890's and its influence declined.

#### Age and Sex

Not counting overseas visitors, the Tumbulgum / Dulguigan District had a population count of 1,750 persons at the 2001 Census of Population and Housing. There were slightly more males (910) than females (856). Table 4.3.1 shows the proportion of the population in each five year age cohort. Tumbulgum / Dulguigan had higher proportions of its population in the age cohort 5-19 years (24.52%) than the Shire generally (19.6%). It also had significantly lower proportions (6.05%) – in comparison with the Shire (16.5%) – of persons aged 70 years and over.

**Table 4.4.1**

Age, Tumbulgum/Dulguigan, Tweed Shire 2001

Source: ABS Census 2001

Age	Persons	Prop %
0 to 4	81	4.63%
5 to 9	122	6.97%
10 to 14	159	9.09%
15 to 19	148	8.46%
20 to 24	56	3.20%
25 to 29	84	4.80%
30 to 34	96	5.49%
35 to 39	126	7.20%
40 to 44	172	9.83%
45 to 49	170	9.71%
50 to 54	153	8.74%
55 to 59	109	6.23%
60 to 64	84	4.80%
65 to 69	84	4.80%
70 to 74	48	2.74%
75 to 79	23	1.31%
80 to 84	20	1.14%
85 to 89	12	0.69%
90 to 94	3	0.17%
95 to 99	0	0.00%
100 years +	0	0.00%
Total	1,750	100.00%

#### Persons Born Overseas

At the 2001 Census, Tumbulgum / Dulguigan 201 persons (11.79%) of the Tumbulgum / Dulguigan population indicated that they had been born overseas. The greater proportion were born in one of the 'Main English speaking countries' (151 persons or 8.86%) with 50 persons (2.93%) being born in an 'other country' or one where English is not the main language. Across the Planning Districts, this was the second lowest proportion of persons born in an 'other country' and lower than the Shire proportion of 5.27%. The main countries which people born overseas came in 2001 were the United Kingdom (103 persons), New Zealand (32 persons) and six persons from Germany. This has barely changed since 1996.

At the 2001 Census 47 persons aged 5 years and over (2.93%) indicated that they spoke a language 'other than English'. This compares with 3.01% at the Shire level. The most commonly spoken languages identified in the standard ABS Table BO8 were: Japanese (17 persons), Italian (6 persons). A further 3 persons spoke the following languages:

French, German, Greek, Hindi, Hungarian, Spanish and Tagalog.

Of those born overseas and aged 5 years and over, 3 persons (1.33%) indicated that they spoke English 'not well' or 'not at all'.

### **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Persons**

At the 2001 Census, 24 persons or 1.39% indicated that they were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander or both. The largest proportion, 17 persons (0.98%) identified as Aboriginal and 7 persons (0.40%) as Torres Strait Islander. This was the lowest proportion across the Planning Districts and compares with the Shire proportion of 2.51%. They made up 1.33% of the entire Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in the Tweed Shire.

### **Religious Affiliation**

In the 2001 Census 1,156 persons identified themselves as belonging to a Christian religion. The largest groups within this category were: Catholic (455), Anglican (402), the Presbyterian and Reformed (100) and Uniting Church (75). Sixteen persons reported that they belonged to a non-Christian religion; Buddhism (10), Hinduism (3), Judaism (3). A further 290 persons indicated that they had 'no religion', a category that includes Agnosticism, Atheism, Humanism and Rationalism.

### **Education**

In the 2001 Census, Tumbulgum / Dulguigan had 1,195 persons or 70.84% of persons not engaged in education, compared with 75.09% for the Shire as a whole. In 1996 the figure was 63.71% for this District. Also compared with the Shire as a whole, this District had higher proportions of children in Primary (11.44%) and Secondary school (9.07%) while those persons at TAFE (2.19%) and University (1.19%) had lower proportions. The proportions of children at Primary school has significantly decreased from 1996 when it was 16.7%.

Across Planning Districts, the Tumbulgum / Dulguigan District had the second lowest proportion of people who had left school at 14 years of age or younger, 123 persons or 9.17%. This is the only Planning District where no persons had not attended school.

A profile of the level of qualifications held by persons aged 15 years and over in Tumbulgum

/ Dulguigan shows that 18.09% held a Certificate, 6.7% held a Bachelor Degree, 5.96% held an 'Advanced Diploma and Diploma' while .97% had a Postgraduate Degree and .82% had a Graduate Diploma and Graduate Certificate'. Those holding a Bachelor Degree is a higher proportion than that of the Shire (4.97%).

The most common areas (proportionally) in which persons in Tumbulgum / Dulguigan held qualifications were: 'Engineering and Related Technologies' (7.69%), 'Architecture and Building' (4.66%), 'Health' (4.51%) and 'Management and Commerce' (4.22%).

### **Employment Patterns**

At the 2001 Census 821 persons or 62.06% of those aged 15 years and over in Tumbulgum / Dulguigan reported that they were part of the Labour Force. This was the highest proportion of persons in the Labour Force across Planning Districts and significantly higher than the Shire proportion of 45.91%. Of those in the Labour Force:

- 89.28% were employed (733 persons), 57.84% full-time and 40.11% part-time;
- 10.72% (88 persons) were unemployed, (8.53% looking for full-time work and 2.19% looking for part-time work).

Unemployment rates (proportion of persons in the Labour Force) unemployed) were highest in the 35-44 year age cohort (27.27%) and the 25-24 year age cohort (18.18%). The rate for 15-19 year olds (13.64%) was third highest across the Planning Districts. The overall unemployment rate (10.72%) was the lowest across the Planning Districts and was significantly lower than the 12.65% in the Shire overall.

The occupation in which most persons were employed in Tumbulgum / Dulguigan in 2001 was: 'Tradespersons and Related Workers' (113 persons or 15.37%), 'Professionals' (111 persons or 15.10%), 'Labourers and Related Workers' (94 persons or 12.79%), 'Managers and Administrators (93 persons or 12.65%).

The major industries in which people were employed were: 'Retail Trade' (104 persons), 'Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing' (91 persons), 'Health and Community Services' (74 persons), 'Property and Business' (63 persons).

## Income

On Census night 2001 257 persons aged 15 years or over (19.2%) had individual weekly incomes of less than \$160. A further 467 persons or 34.83% had incomes in the \$160 - \$399 range. The proportion of those individuals earning \$1,000 and over is 6.94%.

A comparison of weekly household income across Planning Districts and looking at households with a weekly income of less than \$300 shows that 14.90% or 90 households in this District were in this category, the second lowest proportion of any of the Planning Districts. In 1996 the proportion of households earning \$300 or less was 23.23%. At the other extreme, households earning more than \$1,000 numbered 135 or 22.35% of all households. This was the second highest of all the Planning Districts. This has increased significantly since 1996 when it was 14.16% of all households.

Weekly family income – which is calculated differently to household income – indicated that on Census night 2001, 76 families or 16.63% of families in Tumbulgum / Dulguigan had incomes of less than \$300 per week. Across Planning Districts This District had the fourth highest proportion of households in this category. There were 124 families or 27.13% with a weekly income in excess of \$1,000. This is a significant increase from 1996 when it was 16.42%. This was the highest proportion in this category of all Planning Districts.

## Marital Status

At the 2001 Census, persons aged 15 years and over reported their marital status as follows:

Married (716 persons)	52.26%
Separated (48 persons)	3.5%
Divorced (121 persons)	8.83%
Widowed (54 persons)	3.94%
Never Married (431 persons)	31.46%

The difference in marital status between males and females was most marked in the 'Widowed' and 'Never Married' categories. There were 39 widowed females compared with 15 males. There were 255 males who had never married compared with 176 males. This District had the second highest proportion of people who had 'Never Married' across the Planning Districts, and the second lowest proportions of people divorced and widowed.

## Family and Household Characteristics

In the Tumbulgum / Dulguigan Planning District in 2001 there were the following number of families in occupied private dwellings:

- ❑ 219 couple families with children (48.03%)
- ❑ 161 couple family without children (35.31%)
- ❑ 70 one parent families (15.35%)
- ❑ 6 other families (1.32%)

In comparison with other Planning Districts, Tumbulgum / Dulguigan had the highest proportion of couple family with children and the second lowest proportion of one parent and couple family with children households.

There were 130 persons (21.24%) living in a 'lone person' household as defined by relationship in a household. In comparison with other Planning Districts this was the third lowest proportion.

The most common household size as reported at the 2001 Census was two person households, 187 persons (30.56%) followed by lone person households and then three person households (98 or 16.01%). This District had the highest proportion of four and five person households and the second highest proportion of three person households.

## Housing

The most common housing structure in which people lived in the Tumbulgum / Dulguigan Planning District in 2001 was a 'separate house' A total of 97.52 of persons lived in this type of housing which was a significantly higher proportion than 76.37% for Tweed Shire and the highest proportion of all the Planning Districts. There were no persons living in a caravan, cabin/houseboat and just 0.47% living in a flat, unit or apartment. This was the second lowest proportion of all the Planning Districts.

The proportion of private dwellings in the Tumbulgum / Dulguigan Planning District that were fully owned was 46.28% which compares with 48.08% for the Shire and with 51.71% in 1996 for the District. Across the Planning Districts Tumbulgum / Dulguigan had the highest proportion of private dwellings being purchased (27.73%) and the second lowest being rented (17.12%).

For households purchasing their home, the highest proportion of persons were paying



between \$800-\$999 per month (15.76%) and \$600-\$799 per month (13.59%). A further 12.50% were paying between \$1,000-\$1,199 per month. This District had the highest proportion of monthly housing repayments of between \$1,400-\$1,599 (7.07%) and the third highest proportion of households paying between \$1,200-\$1,399 (8.15%). In 1996 the highest proportions of persons (24.54%) were paying between \$400-\$599 per month and a further 15.95% were paying between \$800-\$999 per month.

The highest proportion of renting households (36.19%) were paying between \$150-\$199 per week, which was also the highest proportion of all the Planning Districts. A further (2.86%) were paying \$500 or more per week, also the highest proportion of all the Planning Districts. There were 29.52% of households paying between \$100-\$149 per week and 17.14% paying between \$50 and \$99. There were no households paying rent of between \$300-\$499. In 1996 there were 55.37% of households paying between \$100-\$199 compared with 2001 when it was 65.71%.

### **Transportation**

The greatest proportion of households in the Tumbulgum / Dulguigan Planning District (38.14% or 23 households) owned two motor vehicles compared to the Shire (27.71%). Almost as many households owned one motor vehicle (230 or 36.86%). There were 28 households (4.49%) without any motor vehicle, lower than the Shire rate of 10.2%. Across the Planning Districts this District had the highest proportion of households with two and three motor vehicles and conversely the lowest proportion of households with no or one vehicle.

As reported in the 2001 Census 420 persons (57.53% of all employed persons) drove themselves to work in a car. A further 51 persons (6.99%) travelled in a car as a passenger. Ninety-one persons (10.68%) of those employed indicated that they worked at home, the third highest proportion across the Planning Districts. No households took a bus or a train to work.

## 4.5 District five: Murwillumbah District

### Murwillumbah, Condong, Wardrop Valley

*Information on the background of this area is sourced from the Tweed Community Profile 1999 as the information has not changed since that time.*

**T**he name **Murwillumbah** is derived from what is thought to have been the Aboriginal name for the area. Interpretations of its meaning include 'The Place of Many Possums' and 'The Camping Place of the People'. The name Murwillumbah was adopted for the settlement by Joshua Bray, a prominent settler. The Wollumbin Post Office was opened in 1866 and the Tweed River School in 1873 but it wasn't until 1879 that the Government Gazette carried a notice saying that 'portions of Crown Lands are declared to be set aside for the village of Murwillumbah and of suburban lands to be attached thereto.' (quoted in Denning HW 1988:42). In 1888, a regular ferry service was established between the settlements along the river and the first local newspaper appeared – 'The Tweed and Brunswick Advocate and South Queensland Record'. The first train from Lismore arrived in town on Christmas Eve 1894. About the same time (1902) Murwillumbah and surrounds became a local government municipality. The creation of the Tweed Shire came in 1906 but it wasn't until 1947 that the Shire and the municipal government merged into one Local Government Area.

### Age and Sex

Not counting overseas visitors, the Murwillumbah District had a population count of 9,252 persons at the 2001 Census Population and Housing. There were slightly more females (4802) than males (4450). Table 4.5.1 shows the proportion of the population in each five year age cohort.

Murwillumbah had higher proportions of its population in the age cohorts 0-19 years (29.82%) and 30-54 years (33.49%) than the Shire generally (25.2% and 32% respectively). It had significantly lower proportions – in comparison with the Shire – of persons in the

age cohorts 55-79 years (21.96% compared with 29.3%), but the highest proportion of all Planning Districts in the 80 years and over age cohorts. (6.22%).

**Table 4.5.1**

Age, Murwillumbah District, Tweed Shire 2001  
Source: ABS Census 2001

Age	Persons	Prop %
0 to 4	572	6.18%
5 to 9	698	7.54%
10 to 14	761	8.23%
15 to 19	728	7.87%
20 to 24	416	4.50%
25 to 29	372	4.02%
30 to 34	501	5.42%
35 to 39	660	7.13%
40 to 44	730	7.89%
45 to 49	618	6.68%
50 to 54	589	6.37%
55 to 59	480	5.19%
60 to 64	401	4.33%
65 to 69	355	3.84%
70 to 74	388	4.19%
75 to 79	408	4.41%
80 to 84	292	3.16%
85 to 89	197	2.13%
90 to 94	67	0.72%
95 to 99	19	0.21%
100 years +	0	0.00%
Total	9,252	100.00%

### Persons Born Overseas

In the 2001 Census 825 persons (8.83%) of the Murwillumbah population indicated that they had been born overseas. The greater proportion were born in one of the 'Main English speaking countries' (532 persons or 5.69%) with 294 persons or 3.15% being born in an 'other country' or one where English is not the main language. Across the Planning Districts, this was the third lowest proportion of persons born in 'other country' and lower than the Shire rate of 5.27%. The main countries from which people born overseas came in 2001 were: the United Kingdom (362 persons), New Zealand (121 persons), India (59 persons), the Netherlands (41 persons) and Germany (31 persons).

At the 2001 Census, 267 persons aged five years of age and over, (3.12%) indicated that they spoke a language 'other than English'.

This compares with 3.01% at the Shire level. The most commonly spoken languages identified in the standard ABS Table BO8 were: German (36 persons), Italian (24 persons), French (18 persons), Tagalog (13), and Chinese languages (12). A total 131 persons spoke a language not identified separately on the standard ABS table.

Of those born overseas and aged five years and over, 47 persons (5.54%) indicated that they spoke English 'not well' or 'not at all'.

### **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Persons**

At the 2001 Census, Murwillumbah District 147 persons (1.57%) indicated that they were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander or both. The largest proportion, 123 persons (1.31%) identified as Aboriginal, 9 persons (0.10%) as Torres Strait Islander and 15 (0.16%) as both. They made up 8.18% of the entire Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in the Tweed Shire. Across the Planning Districts the proportion, 1.57% was the second lowest proportion of all the Districts and compares with the overall Shire figure of 2.51%.

It is recognised that this population is subject to significant undercounting in the Census and these numbers should be seen as indicative only.

### **Religious Affiliation**

In the 2001 Census 6,816 persons identified themselves as belonging to a Christian religion. The largest religious groups within this category were: Catholic (2,588 persons), Anglican (2,485 persons), Presbyterian and Reformed (565 persons) and Uniting Church (464 persons). One hundred and seventy nine persons reported that they belonged to a non-Christian religion; Buddhism (57), Hinduism (113), and Islam (9). There were 1,126 persons who identified as having 'no religion' a category that includes Agnosticism, Atheism, Humanism and Rationalism.

### **Education**

At the 2001 Census the Murwillumbah Planning District had the third lowest proportion of persons not engaged in education (70.54%) of all Planning Districts. Compared with the Shire as a whole, it had higher proportions of children and young people in pre-school (1.58%), Primary School (10.54%) and

Secondary School (8.31%). It also had a higher proportion of persons attending Technical or Further Education (2.64%) compared with the Shire (2.15%). This has increased slightly since 1996 when it was 2.41% in this District.

Across the Planning Districts Murwillumbah had the highest proportion of people who had left school at 14 years of age or younger, 1,005 persons or 13.85%. Thirty two persons had never attended school, the second highest numerically of all the Planning Districts but the highest proportionally (0.44%).

A profile of the level of qualifications held by persons aged 15 years and over in Murwillumbah shows that 5.19% held a Bachelor Degree, 16.46% held a 'Certificate', 4.49% held an 'Advanced Diploma and Diploma' and 1.17% held a 'Graduate Diploma and Graduate Certificate'. The proportion of people holding a Bachelor Degree and a Higher Degree is higher than the Shire as a whole.

The most common areas (proportionally in which persons in Murwillumbah held qualifications were: 'Engineering and Related Technologies' (607%), 'Health' (4.49%), 'Management and Commerce' (4.92%), 'Education (3.27%) and 'Architecture and Building' (3.26%).

### **Employment Patterns**

In the 2001 Census 3,544 persons or 49.13% of those aged 15 years and over in Murwillumbah reported that they were part of the Labour Force. This was the fourth highest proportion of persons in the Labour Force across the Planning Districts and higher than the overall Shire proportion of 45.91%. Of those in the Labour Force:

- 88.54% (3,138 persons) were employed, 52.06% full-time and 34.11% part-time;
- 11.46% (406 persons) were unemployed, 8.41% looking for full-time work and 3.05% for part-time work.

Unemployment rates (proportion of persons in the Labour Force unemployed) were highest in the 15-19 year age cohort (21.18%) and 25-34 years (20.69%). The overall unemployment rate (11.46%) was the second lowest across the Planning Districts after Tumbulgum / Dulguigan and was lower than the 12.65% in the Shire overall.

The occupation in which most persons were employed in Murwillumbah in 2001 were; 'Intermediate Clerical Sales and Service Workers' (461 persons), 'Professionals' (428 persons), 'Tradespersons' (422 persons), 'Labourers and Related Workers' (395 persons).

The major industries in which people were employed were: the 'Retail Trade' (556 persons), 'Health and Community Services' (385 persons), 'Property and Business Services' (287), 'Manufacturing' (286 persons) and 'Education' (242 persons).

### Income

On Census night 2001, 1,355 persons aged 15 years or over (18.79% had individual weekly incomes of less than \$160. A further 2,989 persons or 41.45% had incomes in the \$160-\$399 range. In 2001 29.99% had individual weekly incomes of less than \$160 and 38.68% in the \$160-\$399 range. The proportion of persons with an income of less than \$160 per week was the third lowest of all Planning Districts and compares with 16.56% for Tweed Shire overall.

A comparison of weekly household income across Planning Districts looking at households with a weekly income of less than \$300 shows that in the Murwillumbah Planning District 655 households or 18.61% were in this category. This was the highest proportion across all the Planning Districts. In 1996 there were 26.56% of households with a weekly income of \$300 or less per week. At the other extreme, households earning more than \$1,000 numbered 642 or 18.24% of all households. This has increased since 1996 when it was 12.01%.

An analysis of weekly family income – which is calculated differently to household income – indicated that on Census night 2001, 469 families or 19.44% in Murwillumbah had incomes of less than \$300 per week. This has increased since 1996 when it was 15.64% and is the third highest proportion across the Planning Districts in 2001. There were 550 or 22.79% of families with incomes of over \$1,000 per week. In 1996 there were 15.4% of families in this category.

### Marital Status

At the 2001 Census, persons aged 15 years and over reported their marital status as follows:

Married (3,695 persons)	50.56%
Separated (252 persons)	3.45%
Divorced (630 persons)	8.62%
Widowed (733 persons)	10.03%
Never Married (1,998 persons)	27.34%

The difference in marital status between males and females was most marked in the 'Widowed' and 'Never Married' categories. There were 592 widowed females compared with 141 males. There were 1,104 males who had never married compared with 894 females. Females also outnumbered males in the married, separated and divorced categories. The Murwillumbah Planning District had the highest proportion of persons widowed across all the Planning Districts and the lowest proportion of persons separated.

### Family and Household Characteristics

In the Murwillumbah Planning District in 2001 there were the following number of families in occupied private dwellings:

- 1,040 couple families with children (42.59% of family households)
- 936 couple families without children (38.33% of family households)
- 447 one parent families (18.30% of family households)
- 19 other families (0.78% of family households)

In comparison with other Planning Districts, Murwillumbah had the second highest proportion of lone person households with 28.72% and the second highest proportion of households with six people or more (3.85%). The most common household sizes in Murwillumbah were two-person (1,135) and one person (1,008), which together accounted for 61.06% of all households in this District.

### Housing

The most common housing structure in which people lived in the Murwillumbah Planning District in 2001 was a 'separate house'. A total of 88.05% of persons lived in this type of housing which was a higher proportion than 76.37% for Tweed Shire and the fourth highest proportion of all the Planning Districts. Relatively small proportions of persons lived in

semi-detached housing (2.12%). This District had the third highest proportion of all the Planning Districts living in flats, units or apartments (7.76%), an increase from 1996 when it was 6.15%. It had the highest proportion of people living in a 'house or flat attached to a shop, office, etc', (0.97%).

The proportion of private dwellings in the Murwillumbah Planning District that were fully owned was 44.71% compared with 48.08% for the Shire. This was the lowest proportion across the Planning Districts. Murwillumbah had the third highest proportion of private dwellings being purchased (21.33%) and the second highest proportion of dwellings being rented (26.70%). In 1996 this District had the third lowest proportion of dwellings being purchased (19.28%) and the second highest proportion of dwellings being rented (27.09%).

For households purchasing their home, the highest proportions of persons were paying between \$600-\$799 per month (24.30%) and \$800-\$999 per month (21.50%). Across the Planning Districts these are the highest proportions paying this amount per month. Murwillumbah and the Rural North Coast District are equal with the lowest proportion across the Districts paying \$1800-\$1999 per month (0.38%).

The largest proportion of renting households (70.6%) were paying between \$100-\$199 per week, compared with 58.19% in 1996. A further 21.77% were paying between \$0 and \$99 per week compared with 38.53% in 1996. Those paying between \$200-\$299 were 2.95% of households compared with 1.49% in 1996. This illustrates the rising rental rates. Households paying \$500 a week or more accounted for 0.61% of households that was the second lowest proportion of all the Planning Districts.

### **Transportation**

The greatest proportion of households in the Murwillumbah Planning District (44.94% or 1,607 households) owned one motor vehicle, a rate lower than the Shire proportion of 48.15%. There were 483 households (13.51% without any motor vehicle, a higher proportion than Tweed Shire (10.2%) and the highest proportion across all the Planning Districts. Those households with two vehicles accounted for 27.99% of households and 8.33% had three or more vehicles, the second lowest across the Districts.

As reported in the 2001 Census 1,764 persons (55.47% of all employed persons) drove themselves to work in a car. A further 240 persons (7.55%) travelled in a car as a passenger. Of employed persons, 6.04% reported that they worked at home, the third lowest proportion for Planning Districts in the Shire.

## 4.6 District six: Rural South West

### Uki, Stokers Siding, Dunbible, Rural South West

*Information on the background of this area is sourced from the Tweed Community Profile 1999 as the information has not changed since that time*

**T**he area now known as Uki was originally called Rowland's Creek. One of the first settlers in the area was David Marshall in 1855 who initially cut cedar before establishing a dairy farm. The first school opened in 1895 with the teacher shared with the nearby Byangum School. In 1906 it became a public school and the name was changed from Rowland's Creek to Uki. Uki was never officially proclaimed a village and there is a dispute over whether the name means 'edible root, a small lagoon, or a bandicoot.' A butter factory was opened in 1910 to service the local dairy industry. It was closed as part of a rationalisation of the industry in 1947.

#### Age and Sex

Not counting overseas visitors, the Rural South West Planning District had a population count of 3,221 at the 2001 Census of Population and Housing. There were slightly more males (1,626) than females (1,595). Table 4.6.1 shows the proportion of the population in each five year age cohort.

The Rural South West had higher proportions of its population in the age cohorts 0-19 years (33.56%) and 30-49 years (34.37%) than the Shire generally (25.2% and 25.6% respectively). It had significantly lower proportions – in comparison with the Shire (28.6%) – of persons in the age cohorts 60 years and over (12.7%). The single highest proportion of age cohort in this District is the 40-44 year age group with 11.58%, followed by the 10-14 year olds (10.09%). This District has the lowest proportion of persons aged 80 year of age and over (1.09%).

**Table 4.6.1**

Age, Rural South West District, Tweed Shire 2001

Source: ABS Census 2001

Age	Persons	Prop %
0 to 4	216	6.71%
5 to 9	289	8.97%
10 to 14	325	10.09%
15 to 19	251	7.79%
20 to 24	76	2.36%
25 to 29	115	3.57%
30 to 34	150	4.66%
35 to 39	266	8.26%
40 to 44	373	11.58%
45 to 49	318	9.87%
50 to 54	258	8.01%
55 to 59	175	5.43%
60 to 64	127	3.94%
65 to 69	103	3.20%
70 to 74	84	2.61%
75 to 79	60	1.86%
80 to 84	29	0.90%
85 to 89	6	0.19%
90 to 94	0	0.00%
95 to 99	0	0.00%
100 years +	0	0.00%
Total	3,221	100.00%

#### Persons Born Overseas

In the 2001 Census 474 persons (14.55%) of the Rural South West population indicated that they had been born overseas. The greater proportion were born in one of the 'Main English Speaking countries' (307 persons or 9.42%) with 167 person or 5.13% being born in an 'Other country' or one where English is not the main language. Across the Planning Districts, this was the second highest proportion of persons born in an 'Other country' and compares with 14.3% in the Shire overall. The main countries from which people came as at 2001 were: the United Kingdom (189 persons), New Zealand (79 persons), Germany (37 persons), the Netherlands (31 persons) and Canada (21 persons).

At the 2001 Census, 119 persons aged five years and over (4.07%) indicated that they spoke a language 'other than English'. This compares with 3.01% at a Shire level. The Rural South West Planning District had 5.76% of all persons in the Shire who spoke a language 'other than English'. The most commonly spoken languages identified in the

standard ABS Table BO8 were: German (28 persons), Netherlandic (12 persons), French (10 persons) and Serbian (3 persons). Fifty-four (54) persons spoke a language not identified separately on the standard ABS table. Of those born overseas and aged five years and over, 12 persons (2.60%) indicated that they spoke English 'not well' or 'not well at all'.

### **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Persons**

At the 2001 Census, the Rural South West District 75 persons or 2.31% indicated that they were Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander or both. The largest proportion, 63 persons (1.94%) identified as Aboriginal, nine persons (0.28%) as Torres Strait Islander and three persons (0.09%) as both. They made up 4.17% of the entire Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in the Tweed Shire. The proportion 2.31% compares with an overall Shire figure of 2.51%.

It is recognised that this population is subject to significant undercounting in Census and these numbers should be seen as indicative only.

### **Religious Affiliation**

In the 2001 Census 1,583 persons identified themselves as belonging to a Christian religion. The largest religious groups within this category were: Catholics (506), Anglican (562), Presbyterian and Reformed (142), and the Uniting Church (117). One hundred and eighty five persons (185) reported that they belonged to a non-Christian religion, 45 with Buddhism, 86 with Hinduism. A further 808 persons indicated that they had 'no religion' a category that includes Agnosticism, Atheism, Humanism and Rationalism.

### **Education**

At the 2001 Census, the Rural South West Planning District had the lowest proportion of persons not engaged in education (67.02%) of all the Planning Districts. It was also the lowest proportion in 1996 (63.24%). Compared with the Shire as a whole, it had higher proportions of children and young people in Pre-school (1.5%), Primary school (12.66%), and Secondary school (8.76%). However, each of these proportions has decreased since 1996. The District also had a higher proportion of persons attending Technical and Further

Education Institutions (2.77%) compared with the Shire (2.15%).

Across Planning Districts, the Rural South West had the lowest proportion of people who had left school at 14 years of age or younger, 8.15% or 196 persons. Being the District with the lowest proportion hasn't changed since the 1996 Census. Six (6) people (0.25%) had never attended school.

A profile of the level of qualifications held by persons aged 15 years and over in the Rural South West shows that 17.77% held a 'Certificate', 7.77% had a Bachelor Degree, 6.56% had an 'Advanced Diploma and Diploma'. A further 1.74% had a 'Graduate Diploma and Graduate Certificate' and 1.12% had a Postgraduate Degree. Across Planning Districts the Rural South West had the highest proportions of people in each category except for the 'Certificate'.

The most common areas (proportionally) in which persons in the Rural South West held qualifications were: 'Engineering and Related Technologies' (7.44%), 'Management and Commerce' (5.19%), 'Health' (5.15%), 'Education' (3.95%).

### **Employment Patterns**

In the 2001 Census, 1,251 persons or 52.81% of those aged 15 years and over in the Rural South West reported that they were part of the Labour Force. This was the third highest proportion of persons in the Labour Force across Planning Districts and higher than the overall Shire proportion of 45.91%. Of those in the Labour Force:

- 80.98% (1,013 persons) were employed, 54.49% full-time and 42.14% part-time;
- 19.02% (238 persons) were unemployed, 14.79% looking for full-time work and 4.24% for part-time work.

Unemployment rates (proportion of persons in the Labour Force unemployed) were highest in the 35-44 year age cohort (28.99%) and the 45-54 cohort (27.73%). This has changed from 1996 when the highest proportions of unemployed in this District were in the 20-24, 25-34 and 15-19 year age cohorts. Across the Planning Districts in 2001 the rate for the 35-44 cohort was the second highest and the 45-54 was the highest proportion. The overall unemployment rate (19.02%) was the highest

across the Planning Districts and significantly higher than the 12.65% for the Shire overall.

The occupation in which most persons were employed in this District in 2001 were: 'Professionals' (185 persons), 'Managers and Administrators' (152 persons), 'Labourers and Related Workers' (123 persons), 'Intermediate Clerical, Sales and Service Workers' (119 persons), 'Tradespersons and Related Workers' (118 persons).

The major industries in which people were employed were: 'Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing' (150 persons), 'Health and Community Services' (124 persons), 'Retail Trade' (118 persons) 'Education' (107 persons), and 'Manufacturing' (83 persons).

### Income

On Census night 2001, 560 persons (23.86%) had individual weekly incomes of less than \$160. A further 913 persons or 38.90% had incomes in the \$160-\$399 range. The proportion of persons with an income of less than \$160 per week was the highest of all the Planning Districts and compares with 16.56% for Tweed Shire overall.

A comparison of weekly household income across the Planning Districts looking at households with a weekly income of less than \$300 or greater than \$1,000 shows that 200 households or 17.50% in the Rural South West had a weekly income of less than \$300. This represented 4.06% of all households in this income category in Tweed Shire. At the other extreme, households earning more than \$1,000 numbered 203 or 17.76% of all households. This was the third lowest proportion across Planning Districts and comprised 4.12% of all households in this income category in Tweed Shire.

An analysis of weekly family income – calculated differently to household income – indicated that on Census night 2001, 230 families or 23.96% of families in the Rural South West had incomes of less than \$300 per week. This number comprised 14.72% of all families in this income category in Tweed Shire. There were 190 families (19.79%) with a weekly income in excess of \$1,000 compared with 20.30% of all families in Tweed Shire in this income category. Across Planning Districts this was the lowest proportion of families in this high income bracket.

### Marital Status

At the 2001 Census persons aged 15 years and over reported their marital status as follows:

Married (1,176 persons)	48.34%
Separated (117 persons)	4.81%
Divorced (273 persons)	11.22%
Widowed (76 persons)	3.12%
Never Married (791 persons)	35.51%

The difference in marital status between males and females was most marked in the 'Widowed' and 'Never Married' categories. There were 67 widowed females compared with 9 males. There were 347 females who had never married compared with 444 males.

### Family and Household Characteristics

In the Rural South West Planning District in 2001 there were the following number of families in occupied private dwellings:

- ❑ 389 couple families with children (43.91% of households)
- ❑ 294 couple families without children (33.18% of households)
- ❑ 194 one parent families (21.9% of households)
- ❑ 9 other families (1.02% of households)

In comparison with other Planning Districts, the Rural South West had: the highest proportion of 'one parent' households and the third highest proportion of 'couple family with children'.

The most common household sizes in this District were two person (397) and one person (237) which together accounted for 55.61% of all households. The Rural South West District had the highest proportion of three person households (16.93%), the second highest proportion of four person households (15.53%) and five person households (8.42%).

### Housing

The most common housing structure in which people lived in the Rural South West Planning District in 2001 was a 'separate house'. A total of 94.82% of persons lived in this type of housing which was a higher proportion than Tweed Shire (76.37%) and the second highest proportion of all the Planning Districts. Relatively small proportions of persons lived in semi-detached housing (0.19%) and 'flats,



units, or apartments' (0.16%). This District had the fourth highest proportion of people living in a caravan, cabin or houseboat (2.84%).

The proportion of private dwellings in the Rural South West that were fully owned was 47.61% and compares with 48.08% for the Shire. Across Planning Districts the Rural South West had the second highest proportion of private dwellings being purchased (23.18%) and the lowest proportion being rented 16.83%).

For households purchasing their home, the highest proportion of persons were paying between \$600-\$799 per month (18.21%) and \$400-\$599 per month (17.87%) closely followed by \$800-\$999 per month (17.18%). Across the Planning Districts the Rural South West had the highest proportions of households paying between \$400-\$599 per month and \$200-\$399 per month. In the 1996 Census the highest proportion of households in this District were paying between \$400-\$599 per month (21.55%).

The largest proportion of renting households (69.86%) were paying between \$100 and \$199 per week. In 1996 48.52% of households paid this amount. A further 18.66% paid \$50-\$99 per week rent. In 1996 45.93% of households were paying between \$0 and \$99 per week compared with 2001 where it is 22.97%.

### **Transportation**

The greatest proportion of households in the Rural South West (41.54% or 511 households) owned one motor vehicle, a rate lower than the Shire percentage of 48.15%. There were 60 households or 4.88% without any motor vehicle, lower than Tweed Shire overall (10.2%). There are 440 households (35.77%) with two vehicles and 116 households (9.43%) with 3 or more vehicles.

As reported in the 2001 Census 566 persons (55.22% of all employed persons) drove themselves to work in a car. A further 53 persons (5.17%) travelled in a car as a passenger. Of employed persons, 14.24% reported that they worked at home, the highest proportion across Planning Districts in the Shire.

## 4.7 District seven: Rural North West

### Tyalgum, Rural North West, Chillingham

*Information on the background of this area is sourced from the Tweed Community Profile 1999 as the information has not changed since that time.*

**T**he name **Tyalgum** is believed to be derived from the Aboriginal word for 'tall trees'. The land in the Tyalgum and Hopping Dick Valleys was made available for selection in 1904 and the village of Tyalgum was gazetted on December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1906. The first school was opened in September 1907. A small butter factory was opened in 1923 by the North Coast Fresh Food and Cold Storage Co-operative Company – NORCO today.

#### Age and Sex

Not counting overseas visitors, the Rural North West District had a population count of 2,743 persons at the 2001 Census of Population and Housing. There were less males (1,332) than females (1,411). Table 4.2.1 shows the proportion of the population in each 5 year age cohort.

The Rural North West District had higher proportions of its population in the age cohorts 0-19 years (31.06%) and 25-59 years (50.95%) than the Shire Generally (25.2% and 41.9% respectively). It had significantly lower proportions – in comparison with the Shire – of persons in the age cohorts 60 years and over (14.95% to 28.6%).

**Table 4.2.1**

Age, Rural North West District, Tweed Shire 2001

Source: ABS Census 2001

Age	Persons	Prop %
0 to 4	193	7.04%
5 to 9	222	8.09%
10 to 14	249	9.08%
15 to 19	188	6.85%
20 to 24	87	3.17%
25 to 29	111	4.05%
30 to 34	179	6.53%
35 to 39	230	8.38%
40 to 44	278	10.13%
45 to 49	245	8.93%
50 to 54	196	7.15%
55 to 59	155	5.65%
60 to 64	147	5.36%
65 to 69	105	3.83%
70 to 74	66	2.41%
75 to 79	43	1.57%
80 to 84	30	1.09%
85 to 89	16	0.58%
90 to 94	3	0.11%
95 to 99	0	0.00%
100 years +	0	0.00%
Total	2,743	100.00%

#### Persons Born Overseas

In the 2001 Census 320 persons (11.58%) of the Rural North West population indicated that they had been born overseas. The greater proportion were born in one of the 'Main English speaking countries' (184 persons or 6.66%) with 136 persons or 4.92% being born in an 'other country' or one where English is not the main language. Across the Planning Districts, this was the second highest proportion of persons born in an 'other country'. The main countries from which people born overseas came in 2001 were: the United Kingdom (112 person), New Zealand (51 persons), Germany (23 persons), the Netherlands (18 persons) and Italy (15 persons).

At the 2001 Census 103 persons aged 5 years and over (4.11%) indicated that they spoke a language 'other than English'. This compares with 3.01% at the Shire level. The Rural North West Planning District had 4.97% of all persons in the Shire who spoke a language 'other than English'. The most commonly spoken languages identified in the standard

ABS Table BO8 were: German (21 persons), French and Italian (12 persons each), Netherlandic and Spanish (6 persons each), Greek and Tagalog (3 persons each). Forty (40) persons spoke a language not identified separately on the standard ABS table.

Of those born overseas and aged 5 years and over, no persons indicated that they spoke English 'not well' or 'not at all'.

### **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Persons**

At the 2001 Census, 44 persons or 1.59% indicated that they were Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander or both. The largest proportion, 41 persons or 1.49% identified as Aboriginal, and 3 persons (0.11%) identified as Torres Strait Islander. They made up 2.45% of the entire Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in the Tweed Shire. The proportion 1.59% compares with the overall Shire figure of 2.51%.

It is recognised that this population is subject to significant undercounting in Census and these numbers should be seen as indicative only.

### **Religious Affiliation**

In the 2001 Census 1,630 persons identified themselves as belonging to a Christian religion. The largest religious groups within this category were: Anglican (575 persons), Catholic (535 persons), Presbyterian and Reformed (182 persons) and Uniting Church (149). Seventy-eight (78) persons reported that they belonged to a non-Christian religion, these being Hinduism (40) and Buddhism (38) and 550 persons indicated that they had 'no religion' a category that includes Agnosticism, Atheism, Humanism and Rationalism.

### **Education**

At the 2001 Census the Rural North West had the second lowest proportion of persons not engaged in education (70.21%) of all the Planning Districts. Compared with the Shire as a whole, it had higher proportions of children and young people in Pre-school (1.55%), Primary school (11.58%) and Secondary school (8.67%). It had lower proportions of persons attending Technical and Further Education (2.14%) and University or other Tertiary Institutions (1.14%) as compared with the Shire (2.15% and 1.32% respectively).

Across Planning Districts the Rural North West had the third lowest proportion of people who had left school at 14 years of age or younger, 9.38% (194 persons). Six (6) persons had never attended school, equal second lowest across the Planning Districts.

A profile of the level of qualifications held by persons aged 15 years and over in the Rural North West shows that 18.13% held a Certificate, 5.87% held a Bachelor Degree, 4.86% held an 'Advanced Diploma and Diploma'. A further 1.39% held a 'Graduate Diploma and Graduate Certificate', while 1.11% held a 'Postgraduate Degree', the second highest proportion in both categories across all the Planning Districts.

The most common areas (proportionally) in which persons in this District held qualifications were: 'Engineering and Related Technologies' (7.57%), 'Management and Commerce' (5.01%), 'Health' (4.43%) and 'Architecture and Building' (3.66%).

### **Employment Patterns**

In the 2001 Census 1,180 persons or 55.82% of those aged 15 years and over in the Rural North West District reported that they were part of the Labour Force. This was the second highest proportion of persons in the Labour Force across the Planning Districts and higher than the overall Shire proportion of 45.91%. Of those in the Labour Force:

- 88.31% (1,042 persons) were employed, 51.19% full-time and 33.47% part-time;
- 11.69% (138 persons) were unemployed, 8.56% looking for full-time work and 3.14% looking for part-time work.

Unemployment rates (proportion of persons in the Labour Force unemployed) were highest in the 35-44 year age cohort (37.68%), 25-34 cohort (28.99%) and the 45-54 cohort (13.77%). This has changed from 1996 when the 20-24 year age cohort (34.09%) had the highest proportion of persons unemployed followed by the 25-34 year age cohort (18.72%) and the 15-19 cohort (17.33%). The overall unemployment rate (11.69%) was the second lowest proportion across the Planning Districts and lower than the rate in the Shire overall (12.65%).

The occupation in which most persons were employed in the Rural North West in 2001 were: 'Managers and Administrators' (183 persons), 'Professionals' (155 persons), 'Tradespersons and Related Workers' (142 persons) and 'Intermediate Clerical, Sales and Service Workers' (130 persons).

The major industries in which people were employed were: 'Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing' (182 persons), 'Retail Trade' (155 persons), 'Manufacturing' (104 persons) and 'Health and Community Services' (85 persons). These are the same industries as in 1996 except in different proportions and Manufacturing employed less than 'Health and Community Services'.

### Income

On Census night 2001, 446 persons aged 15 years and over (21.55%) had individual weekly incomes of less than \$160. A further 832 persons or 40.19% had incomes in the \$160 to \$399 range. The proportion of persons with an income of less than \$160 per week was second highest proportion of all the Planning Districts and compares with 16.56% for Tweed Shire overall. Incomes have increased in this District since 1996 when those individuals with weekly incomes of less than \$160 comprised 35.15% and those between \$160-\$399 were 36.59%.

A comparison of weekly household income across the Planning Districts looking at households with a weekly income of less than \$300 or greater than \$1,000 shows that 16.55% or 167 households had a weekly income of less than \$300. This compares with 1996 when it was 26.62% of households. At the other extreme, households earning more than \$1,000 numbered 167 (16.55%) of all households. This was the lowest proportion across the Planning Districts.

An analysis of weekly family income-calculated differently to household income – indicated that on Census night 2001, 162 families or 20.51% of families in the Rural North West had incomes of less than \$300 per week. This number comprised 10.36% of all families in this income category in Tweed Shire. There were 159 families (20.13%) with a weekly income in excess of \$1,000. Across the Planning Districts the Rural North West had the second lowest proportion of families in this high income category.

### Marital Status

At the 2001 Census, persons aged 15 years and over reported their marital status as follows:

Married (1,138 persons)	54.66%
Separated (88 persons)	4.23%
Divorced (175 persons)	8.41%
Widowed (97 persons)	4.66%
Never married (584 persons)	28.05%

The difference in marital status between males and females was most marked in the 'Widowed' and 'Never Married' categories. There were 79 widowed females compared with 18 widowed males. There were 271 females who had never married compared with 313 males.

### Family and Household Characteristics

In the Rural North West Planning District in 2001 there were the following number of families in occupied private dwellings:

- ❑ 347 couple families with children (45.96%)
- ❑ 296 couple families without children (39.21%)
- ❑ 103 one parent families (13.64%)
- ❑ 9 'other family' (1.19%)

In comparison with other Planning Districts, the Rural North West had: the lowest proportion of 'one parent families' and the second highest proportion of 'couple families with children'.

The most common household sizes in this District were two person (369 persons or 36.68%) and one person (210 or 20.87%) which together accounted for 57.55% of all households in this District. Across the Planning Districts this area had the highest proportion of households with six or more people (3.88%), the third highest proportion of households with 4 or more persons and the second lowest proportion of one-person households.

### Housing

The most common type of housing for persons in the Rural North West Planning District in 2001 was a 'separate house'. A total of 94.37% of persons lived in this type of housing which was a higher proportion than the 76.37% for Tweed Shire and the third highest proportion of all the Planning Districts. A relatively small proportion of persons lived in semi-detached housing (1.02%) and only 1.94% in a flat, unit

or apartment. The proportion of people living in an apartment, flat or unit has increased from 1996 when it was .22%. Those persons living in a 'caravan/cabin/houseboat (18 persons or 0.66%) has decreased from 1996 when it was 1.70%. Overall in the Shire there were 6.08% in this category.

The proportion of private dwellings in the Rural North West that were fully owned was 49.47%, the second highest across the Planning Districts and compares with 48.08% for the Shire. Across Planning Districts the Rural North West had the fourth highest proportion of private dwellings being purchased (20.42%) and the third lowest proportion being rented (18.41%).

For households purchasing their home, the highest proportions of persons were paying between \$600-\$799 and \$800-\$999 (18.26% each) per month. The next highest were paying between \$400-\$599 (17.39%) per month. In 1996 the highest proportion of persons (21.59%) were paying between \$400-\$599 per month and 15.86% were paying between \$600-\$799 per month. Across the Districts this area had the second highest proportion of people (1.30%) paying \$1,800-\$1,999 per month, paying \$200-\$399 (8.70%) and \$400-\$599 per month.

The highest proportion of renting households (50.28%) were paying between \$100-\$149 per week and \$150-\$199 (28.73%). The Rural North West District had the highest proportion of households paying \$300-\$349 weekly rent and the lowest proportion paying between \$200-\$249 and \$1-\$49.

### **Transportation**

The greatest proportion of households in the Rural North West (40.61% or 426 households) owned one motor vehicle, a rate lower than the Shire percentage of 48.15%. There were 60 households (5.72%) without any motor vehicle, much lower than Tweed Shire overall (10.2%). There are 362 households (34.5%) with two vehicles and 143 households (13.63%) with three or more vehicles, the second highest proportion in the Shire. The proportion of households with two vehicles was third highest across the Planning Districts.

As reported in the 2001 Census, 536 persons (52.55% of all employed persons) drove themselves to work in a car. A further 46 persons (4.51%) travelled in a car as a

passenger. Of employed persons, 13.82% reported that they worked from home, the second highest proportion across Planning Districts in the Shire.

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