

# 9 COOKTOWN TRC

The Cooktown TRC consists of the main towns of Cooktown and Bloomfield located on the north Queensland Coast.

## BUSINESS PROFILES

### Location and Use of Ports

Table 9.1 shows the number of license holders within the Cooktown TRC and the number of survey respondents who reported having homeports within the TRC. On the basis of the sample count it is estimated that there are 6 commercial charter operators within this TRC and a 95% certainty that the correct population count of commercial charter operators within the TRC is between 1 and 11. Most respondents used Cooktown as their homeport (83.3%) and Bloomfield was also used (16.7%). Figure 1 shows the geographic location of the Cooktown TRC.

Table 9.1 Location of Homeports

Town	Adj. Database Count	Sample Count	Estimated Count	Percent within TRC
Cooktown	5	4	5	83.3
Bloomfield	0	1	1	16.7
Total TRC	5	5	6	100.0

95% Confidence Interval for Estimated TRC Count 1-11  
Percent of Total Active License Holders in QLD 2.5%

*Note: Adjusted database count is based on the postal address as recorded in the licensing information, which may not be the homeport of the charter business. The count is adjusted for latent license holders (8.6%).  
The estimated count adjusts the sample count by the sampling fraction of 1.32*

### Fishing Activity

Table 9.2 shows the types of fishing activities that were chartered from the Cooktown TRC over the previous year. On day trips the main fishing that was chartered was reef fishing (52%) and estuary fishing (40%). There was also some game fishing (7%). On overnight trips, the only fishing activity was reef fishing, and on extended trips, fishing was divided between estuarine (50%), game (25%) and reef fishing (25%).

Table 9.2 Type of Fishing Activity (during the last 12 months)

Fishing Type	Day trips		Overnight trips		Extended trips	
	Mean % Time within TRC	Mean % Time QLD	Mean % Time within TRC	Mean % Time QLD	Mean % Time within TRC	Mean % Time QLD
Reef (bottom fishing)	52.0	47.5	100.0	66.0	25.0	51.2
Game (pelagic)	7.0	18.8	0.0	20.3	25.0	31.1
Estuary	40.0	26.8	0.0	11.6	50.0	12.5
Crabbing	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.5
Other	1.0	6.4	0.0	2.0	0.0	4.6
Total Sample	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0



Figure 9.1 Location of the Cooktown TRC

Table 9.3 shows the number of trips from the Cooktown TRC and the percentage of trips that were predominately fishing charters. Most trips from the TRC were day trips (405 days) and 78% of day trips were fishing-only trips. Although there were 30 days chartered on overnight trips over the previous year, no overnight trips were chartered especially for fishing. Seventy-five percent of extended trips were chartered for fishing. On average, businesses in the Cooktown TRC were out on the water for fewer days (89) than the Queensland average (121), and nearly 73% of charters from the TRC were predominately for fishing purposes.

Table 9.4 shows the percentage of time spent fishing and doing other activities such as diving and cruising, for trips where fishing was not the only activity. On day trips, fishing was the predominant activity (65%), and nearly 20% of the time available was spent cruising and sightseeing, and nearly 15% of time was spent diving and snorkeling. On overnight trips, fishing was also the main activity (85%), and diving and snorkeling was the other reported activity (15%). Similarly, on extended trips, fishing was the major activity (90%), and 10% of time was spent diving and snorkeling.

Table 9.5 shows that the peak months for charter activity within the Cooktown TRC were July to November, similar to the peak months for the average Queensland industry.

Table 9.3 Number of Charter Trips (during the last 12 months)

Type	Mean within TRC	QLD Mean
<b>Day Trips</b>		
Mean number of day-trips (per business)	81.0	85.3
Mean number of fishing-only day-trips	63.2	59.9
Total number of day-trips	405	16,976
Total number of fishing-only day-trips	316	11,919
Percentage fishing-only trips	78.0%	70.2%
<b>Overnight Trips</b>		
Mean number of overnight trips (per business)	3.0	5.39
Mean number of fishing-only overnight-trips	0.0	3.34
Total number of days on overnight trips	30.0	1,072
Total number of fishing-only days on overnight trips	0.0	665
Percentage fishing-only trips	0.0%	62.0%
<b>Extended Trips</b>		
Mean number of extended-trips	1.6	6.9
Mean number of fishing-only extended-trips	1.2	4.49
Total number of days on extended trips	8.0	6,881
Total number of fishing-only days on extended trips	6.0	4,385
Percentage fishing-only trips	75.0%	66.1%
Mean number of days away (per business)	89.2	121.3
TOTAL days charter	443	16,969
Percentage charter- fishing only	72.7%	68.1%

Table 9.4 Percent of Time Spent on Each Activity (during the last 12 months)

Type	Within TRC	QLD mean
<b>Day Trips</b>		
% time spent fishing	65.0	52.9
% time spent diving/snorkeling	14.5	13.1
% time spent cruising/sightseeing	19.3	17.5
% time spent sailing	0.0	0.4
% time spent whale & dolphin watching	0.0	4.2
% time spent doing other activities	0.0	11.9
<b>Overnight Trips</b>		
% time spent fishing	85.0	51.2
% time spent diving/snorkeling	15.0	22.9
% time spent cruising/sightseeing	0.0	15.9
% time spent sailing	0.0	0.0
% time spent whale & dolphin watching	0.0	0.0
% time spent doing other activities	0.0	10.0
<b>Extended Trips</b>		
% time spent fishing	90.0	51.2
% time spent diving/snorkeling	10.0	31.1
% time spent cruising/sightseeing	0.0	12.5
% time spent sailing	0.0	0.6
% time spent whale & dolphin watching	0.0	0.0
% time spent doing other activities	0.0	4.6

Table 9.5 Peak Charter Months During Past 12 Months

Months	Sample Count	Percent within TRC	Percent of QLD Fishery
January	0	0.0	21.8
February	0	0.0	6.2
March	0	0.0	8.8
April	0	0.0	16.6
May	0	0.0	17.6
June	0	0.0	26.9
July	3	60.0	37.3
August	4	80.0	37.3
September	4	80.0	44.0
October	3	60.0	48.7
November	2	40.0	35.2
December	0	0.0	25.9

### Location of Resource Use

Figure 2 shows the location of resource use by commercial charter operators in the Cooktown TRC. The location of resource use is predominately localised to the reefs closest to Cooktown. The primary resource catchment is concentrated to the marine area adjacent to Cooktown.

### Charter Industry Businesses

Table 9.6 identifies the number of employees within the Cooktown TRC. The majority of businesses had 1-3 employees that were either fulltime (60%) or casual (80%). There was an average of 1 fulltime equivalent person per business. In summary it is estimated that there were 24 people employed in the charter industry within the Cooktown TRC over the previous year.

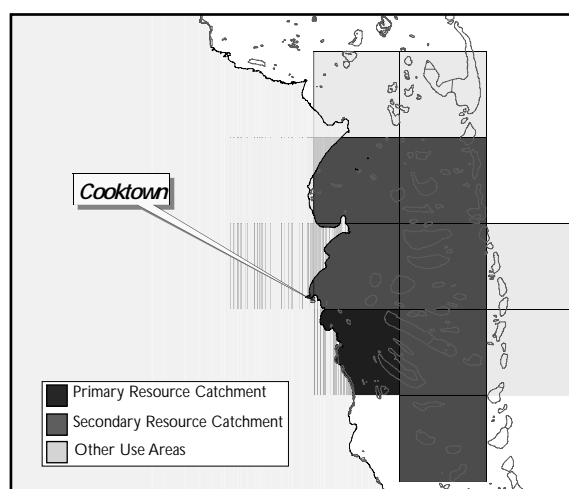


Figure 9.2 Cooktown TRC: Location of Resource Use

Table 9.6 Number of Employees

Number of Charter Employees	Full-Time Count	Full-Time Percent	Part-Time Count	Part-Time Percent	Casual Count	Casual Percent
Nil	2	40.0	4	80.0	1	20.0
1	1	20.0	1	20.0	3	60.0
2-3	2	40.0	0	0.0	1	20.0
4-5	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total Businesses	5	100.0	5	0.0	5	100.0
Total Employees	5		1		18	
Mean Number of Employees per Business				3.0		
Mean Number of Full-time Employees per Business				1.0		
Mean Number of Part-time & Casual Employees per Business				3.8		
Estimated Number Employed within the TRC				24		

Note: Part-time and casual employment was recorded as 0.5 when contributing to total employment.  
Total number of employees includes the respondent.

## Business Ownership and Size

Table 9.7 shows the number of years of current ownership of the charter business. Eighty percent of businesses were owned for less than five years, and on average, businesses had been owned for 3.6 years, which is 3.4 years less than the average Queensland charter business (7 years).

Table 9.7 Number of Years of Current Ownership of the Charter Business

Number of Years	Sample Count	Percent within TRC	Cumulative Percent
1-5	4	80.0	80.0
6-10	1	20.0	100.0
11-15	0	0.0	0.0
15+	0	0.0	0.0
Total	5	100.0	100.0

Mean Number of Years owned or operated 3.6  
Difference of TRC Mean to QLD Population Mean (7.0) -3.4

Note: Standard errors for number of years ownership (sample = 1.2; QLD population = 0.5).

Table 9.8 shows the number of years of operation for charter businesses in the TRC. Most businesses had been operating for less than five years, and for an average 4.8 number of years, some 3.5 years less than the average Queensland charter business.

Table 9.8 Number of Years Business has been Operating

Number of Years	Sample Count	Percent within TRC	Cumulative Percent
1-5	3	60.0	60.0
6-10	1	20.0	80.0
11-15	1	20.0	100.0
15+	0	0.0	0.0
Total	5	100.0	100.0

Mean Number of Years owned or operated 4.8  
Difference of Mean to Population Mean (8.3) -3.5

Note: Standard errors for number of years operated (sample = 1.9; QLD population = 0.6)

Table 9.9 displays the number of boats operated by each charter business in the Cooktown TRC. The majority of businesses operated one boat (80.0%), and 20% operated two boats. The average number of boats owned (1.2 boats) was similar to the Queensland average (1.3 boats).

Table 9.9 Number of Boats Operated by Charter Businesses

Number of Boats	Sample Count	Percent TRC
1	4	80.0
2	1	20.0
3	0	0.0
4+	0	0.0
Total Number of Businesses	5	100.0

Mean Number of Boats Operated 1.2  
Difference of Mean to QLD Population Mean (1.3) -0.1

Note: Standard errors for number of boats operated (sample = 0.2; QLD population = 0.06)

Table 9.10 shows the frequency distribution of the length of boats within the Cooktown TRC. All vessels ranged between 2-14 metres. The mean length of boats was 7.5m, which was 3.9m less than the Queensland average.

Table 9.10 Length of Vessels Operated by Charter Businesses

Length of Boat (metres)	Sample Count	Percent TRC
2-6	2	33.3
7-10	2	33.3
11-14	2	33.3
15-18	0	0.0
18-24	0	0.0
24+	0	0.0
Total Number of Boats	6	100.0

Mean Length of Boats Operated (metres) 7.5  
Difference of Mean to QLD Population Mean (11.4) -3.9  
Mean Length of Largest Boat Operated (metres) 7.5  
Difference of Mean to QLD Population Mean (11.7) -4.2

Note: Standard errors for mean length of boats (sample = 1.4; QLD population=0.4) and mean length of largest boats (sample = 1.4; QLD population=0.5).

## Value of Production and Location of Sales

Table 9.11 shows the value of charter operations within the Cooktown TRC for the twelve months prior to the survey. The majority of businesses in this TRC produced less than \$100,000 (80%), and the remaining 20% earned between \$100-200,000. The estimated Gross Value of Production for the Cooktown TRC is \$429,000, representing 1.2% of the Queensland business.

Table 9.11 Business Income (Annual value)

Value (\$,000)	Sample Count	Sample Percent	Queensland Percent
Less than \$100	4	80.0	65.8
\$101 - \$200	1	20.0	11.5
\$201 - \$300	0	0.0	7.5
\$301 - \$400	0	0.0	4.0
\$401 - \$500	0	0.0	6.0
\$501 - \$600	0	0.0	2.0
\$601 - \$700	0	0.0	2.5
\$701 - \$800	0	0.0	0.0
\$801 - \$900	0	0.0	0.0
\$901 - \$1,000	0	0.0	0.0
Over \$1,000	0	0.0	0.5
Total	5	100.0	100.0
Mean GVP for TRC			\$65,000
Estimated Total GVP for TRC			\$429,000
Estimated Total GVP for QLD	\$34,419,000		
Percent of Total Queensland Production			1.2%

Note: Estimated GVP is based on the sample GVP total multiplied by the sampling fraction of 1.32

Table 9.12 shows the number of customers chartering trips in the Cooktown TRC. It is estimated that 1,741 people chartered trips from the TRC over the previous year, representing 0.5% of the Queensland business.

Table 9.12 Number of Customers per Year

	Mean Customers per Business	Sample Count	Estimated Total
Cooktown TRC	290.2	1,451	1,741
QLD	1,335	259,930	343,100

Percent of Queensland 0.5%

Note: Sample count=5. The estimated value is based on estimated 6 businesses (table 8.1)  
The estimated QLD count is based on an estimated 257 businesses.

Table 9.13 shows the value and the origin of customers visiting the Cooktown TRC. It is estimated that \$429,000 was generated by the industry in the TRC. Most customers were from Queensland (37.4%) and other parts of Australia (37.6%). Ten percent of customers were from the local area, and 15% were visitors from overseas.

Table 9.13 Origin and Value of Customers

	Sample Value of Sales	Mean Percent of of Sample	Est. Value of all Sales
Local area	32,500	10.0	42,900
Queensland area	121,550	37.4	160,446
Australians	122,200	37.6	161,304
Overseas	48,750	15.0	64,350
Total Sales	\$325,000	100.0	\$429,000

Note: The sample value of sales is based on GVP as reported by businesses in the survey

## Business Expenditure

Table 9.14 shows the location of expenditure on business goods and services (excluding salaries and wages) in the previous year from the Cooktown TRC. It is estimated that \$223,500 was spent. The majority of expenditure occurred in Cooktown (60.6% or \$135,000) and Cairns (28.6% or \$64,000).

Table 9.14 Town Location of Business Expenditure (All costs, excluding salaries and wages)

Location of Expenditure	Sample Value of Expenditure	Percent of Sample	Est. Value Expenditure
Cooktown	102,611	60.6	135,441
Cairns	48,427	28.6	63,921
Brisbane	7,620	4.5	10,058
Victoria	4,233	2.5	5,588
New South Wales	4,064	2.4	5,364
Mossman	1,185	0.7	1,565
Overseas	1,185	0.7	1,565
Total Expenditure	\$169,325	100.0	\$223,500

Note: Business expenditure includes all non-labour expenditure (ie. fuel, equipment, repairs etc)  
Coefficients from the QLD input-output table for 1992-1993 indicate that expenditure on local intermediate purchases and imports, accounted for 52.1% of total revenue. The amount of business expenditure occurring within specific locations is based on 52.1% of the estimated GVP for the business.

## CHARTER-OPERATOR PROFILES

### Town of Residence

Table 9.15 shows the primary towns of residence for charter-owners in the Cooktown TRC. Most charter-owners lived in Cooktown (80.0%) and 20% lived in Bloomfield.

Table 9.15 Town of Residence

Town of Residence	Sample Count	Percent of Sample
Cooktown	4	80.0
Bloomfield	1	20.0
Total	10	100.0

### Months employed in the Charter industry

Table 8.16 indicates that all owner-operators within the TRC were employed throughout all months of the previous year.

Table 8.16 Months Employed in the Charter Industry

Months	Owner Operators (%)	All QLD operators
January	100.0	81.0
February	100.0	81.5
March	100.0	85.7
April	100.0	89.4
May	100.0	92.6
June	100.0	92.6
July	100.0	92.6
August	100.0	93.7
September	100.0	95.2
October	100.0	93.7
November	100.0	91.5
December	100.0	86.8

## Location of Household Expenditure

Table 9.17 shows the location of household expenditure from employment in the charter industry. It is estimated that \$147,000 was spent on household items by charter operators and their families. The majority of this amount was spent in Cooktown (56.2%) and Cairns (34.5%). There was also some seepage to several other locations around Australia.

Table 9.17 Town Location of Household Expenditure (All commodities and services)

Location of Household Expenditure	Sample Value of Expenditure	Percent of Sample	Est. Value Expenditure
Cooktown	62,551	56.2	82,558
Cairns	38,510	34.6	50,827
Brisbane	3,450	3.1	4,554
VIC	1,892	1.7	2,497
Bloomfield	1,892	1.7	2,497
NSW	1,113	1.0	1,469
Mossman	1,002	0.9	1,322
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>\$111,300</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>\$146,900</b>

*Note:* The sample total personal income for the Cooktown TRC was \$183,000. The Household Expenditure Survey for Queensland: 1993-1994 (ABS, 1996) indicates that for households in non-metropolitan areas 79% of gross weekly income was related to commodity and service purchases. Furthermore, of the total expenditure on commodities and services purchased by households, Queensland Input-Output tables indicate that 77% of expenditure occurs within Queensland, with the balance contributing to taxes and imports from outside Queensland. The sample value of expenditure was therefore calculated to be \$111,300. Estimated value of expenditure was calculated by multiplying the sample value of expenditure by 1.32

*Source:* CRC Reef (2000).

## School and Employment Locations of Family Members

The town locations in which family members attended school or were employed are shown in Table 9.18. Cooktown (53.8%) and Bloomfield (30.8%) were the main towns for school and employment of family members.

Table 9.18 School and Employment Locations of Family Members

Location of Employment or School	Sample Count	Percent of Sample
Cooktown	7	53.8
Bloomfield	4	30.8
Cairns	1	7.7
St. George	1	7.7
<b>Total Family Members</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Note:* Counts and percentages based on all immediate family members.

## Social and Demographic Profiles

Table 9.19 provides owner-operator profile information for the Cooktown TRC. Charter operators from this TRC were newer to the area and industry, worked less hours per week, were employed in another industry, were more likely to have completed a trade, were more likely to own their own home, were married, had higher ratios of dependents, no family members in the industry, and earned considerably less than the Queensland average.

Table 9.19. Owner-Operator Profiles for the Cooktown TRC

Profile	Owner-Operators	All QLD Charter operators
Estimated Number of Charter-owners	6	199
Mean age of operators	45.6	45.4
Age range	36-54	20-76
Percent males	100.0	93.8
Mean years resident in town	8.7	19.1
Mean number of years in charter industry	6.0	11.0
Mean hours per week in charter industry	31.0	50.7
Percent moved town to retain employment	20.0	14.0
Percent currently employed in other industry	100.0	46.1
Percent previously employed in other industry	100.0	93.7
Housing tenure (%)		
Rent	0.0	14.1
Mortgage	20.0	33.0
Own home	80.0	50.8
Other (eg, live with parents, on boat)	0.0	2.0
Educational		
Year completed school (%)		
Primary school	0.0	3.2
Year 8	0.0	3.2
Year 9	0.0	4.7
Year 10	40.0	32.6
Year 11	0.0	10.5
Year 12	60.0	45.8
Percent completed trade or TAFE certificate	100.0	52.2
Percent completed industry or business course	40.0	55.6
Percent with business plan	20.0	53.4
Marital Status		
Percent married or relationship	100.0	88.1
Partner's Income*		
Full-time employment	50.0	52.2
Part-time employment	25.0	23.3
Casual employment	0.0	8.8
Not employed	25.0	15.7
Family Composition		
Mean family size	3.4	3.2
Estimated number of total family members	17	596
Dependency Ratios		
Age Dependency Ratio**	29.4	21.7
Elderly Dependency Ratio	0.0	1.2
Child Dependency Ratio	29.4	20.6
Family Member Industry Dependency Ratio**	0.0	20.4
Gross Individual Income (%)		
Less than \$16,000	50.0	39.2
\$16,000 - \$26,000	25.0	22.2
\$26,000 - \$36,000	0.0	9.5
\$36,000 - \$52,000	0.0	13.3
\$52,000 - \$78,000	25.0	9.5
Over \$78,000	0.0	6.3
Average Income (\$)	5,500	28,000

Note: \* Percentage based on those charter operators with partners. Includes partners income from all sources.

\*\*The age dependency ratio is the number of children (below 15 years) and elderly persons (above 65 years) to every 100 persons in the population

\*\*\* The industry dependency ratio is the number of persons in the family who are over 15 years of age and working in the charter industry as a proportion of all family members over 15 years of age.