

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 653**  
**Asked on Tuesday 15 June 2004**

MR LAWLOR asked the Minister for Local Government, Planning and Women (MS DESLEY BOYLE)–

**QUESTION:**

With reference to Gold Coast City which is one of the fastest growing areas in Australia–

How does this population growth compare to that of other areas of Queensland?

**ANSWER:**

Gold Coast City is the second largest growing local government area in Australia after Brisbane City. In the year to 30 June 2003, Gold Coast City increased by 16,099 people and Brisbane City by 20,808 people.

Other Queensland local government areas with large population increases over the same period included Pine Rivers Shire (6,208 people and 6th largest increase in Australia) and Maroochy Shire (4,931 people and 8th in Australia). A further four Queensland local government areas were in the top 20 in Australia for large population increases: Redland Shire (4,189 people in 12th position), Caloundra City (4,026 people in 14th position), Caboolture Shire (3,839 people in 15th position) and Cairns City (2,814 people in 19th position).

Outside South-east Queensland, the largest growing local government areas were the major centres along the coast such as Cairns City and Hervey Bay City. Toowoomba City and Crow's Nest Shire also had relatively large population increases.

In terms of growth rates, Queensland grew at 2.3% in the year to 30 June 2003 and 24 Queensland local government areas equalled or exceeded this rate. Caloundra City (5.1% a year) had the fastest growing population in the State followed by Hervey Bay City (5.0%) and Pine Rivers Shire (4.9%). Gold Coast City's population grew by 3.7% in the same period, making it the 7th fastest growing local government area in Queensland.

Queensland is currently Australia's fastest growing state in both percentage terms and numerically, accounting for more than one-quarter (28.6%) of the nation's population growth in the year to 30 June 2003.