Mackay’s economic outlook has been meagre for many years since the mining bust. We can put that pessimism behind us now as Mackay boasts the lowest unemployment rate in Queensland. The ongoing recovery is anticipated to be experienced across all sectors over the medium term, which will be met by a healthy surplus of workers ready to take up tools.

### Mackay Whitsundays

- **1.5%** expected annual population growth
- **173,000** population
- **4%** unemployment rate
- **8,000** employed in construction
- **520** construction apprentices
- **3%** of QLD construction apprentices are in the Mackay Whitsundays region

#### Construction Apprentice Intake Rate

*Apprentice commencements per 100 workers*

#### Construction Apprentice Training Rate

*Apprentices in-training per 100 workers*

#### Construction Workforce Outlook

- **16K** workers required
- **8K** workers available

#### Trade Availability

- **Shortage**
- **Balanced**
- **Surplus**

*Source: NIEIR

NB: These figures reflect the overall balance of supply and demand for trades labour across all industries for 2019.
Sectors in Focus for Mackay Whitsundays 2018-19

Activity - Residential

Source: NIEIR

Activity - Commercial

Source: NIEIR

Activity - Engineering

Source: NIEIR

RESIDENTIAL - 18% of overall activity in Mackay Whitsundays

COMMERCIAL - 6% of overall activity in Mackay Whitsundays

ENGINEERING - 76% of overall activity in Mackay Whitsundays

3% of QLD construction businesses are located in this region

2,300 construction businesses

53% Sole traders
45% SMEs (1-20)
2% Large (over 20)