

Greenhouse Gas Emissions in the Wet Tropics

Audit outcomes

- In 2005 greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the Wet Tropics are estimated to have been **5,145 kilotonnes** (CO_{2-e}), including indirect emissions from purchased electricity.
- In 2005 per capita emissions in the Wet Tropics were **23.6 tonnes** (CO_{2-e}). This is less than the average per capita Australian emissions of **28.2 tonnes** and substantially below per capita emissions in Queensland of **38.9 tonnes**.
- Low stationary energy emissions in the Wet Tropics are due primarily to the use of hydro, wind and bagasse power and the absence of energy intensive industries.
- High transport emissions are partly due to use of aviation fuel (35%).
- However, per capita emissions in the Wet Tropics are almost 70% greater than average per capita emissions for industrialised countries subject to emissions targets under the Kyoto Protocol. Australians are now the highest producers of GHGs per capita in the world.
- Transport; stationary energy; land use change; and agriculture are responsible for 96% of the region's emissions.
- Carbon dioxide is responsible for 74% of the region's emissions, followed by methane (17%) and nitrous oxide (8%).

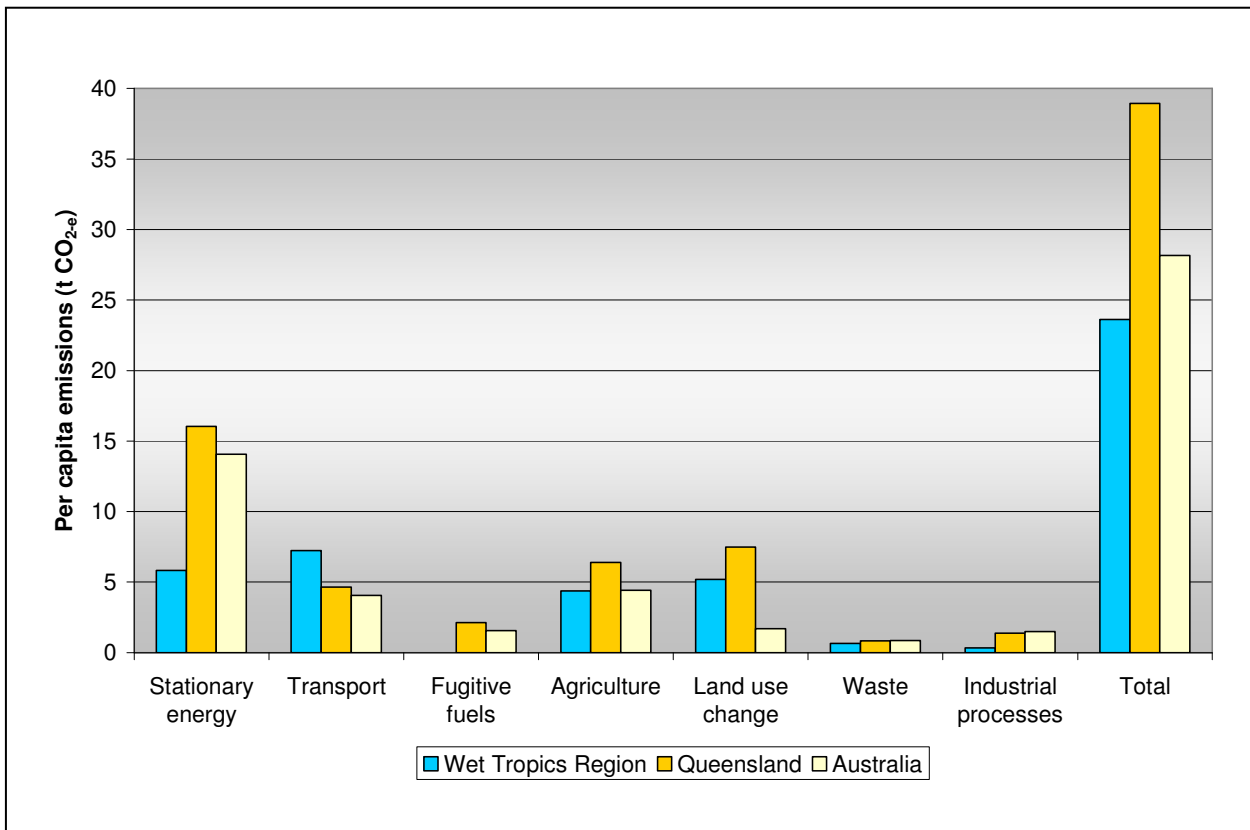
About the data

- The Wet Tropics region comprises the local government areas of: Atherton Shire; Cairns City; Cardwell Shire; Douglas Shire; Eacham Shire; Herberton Shire; Hinchinbrook Shire; Johnstone Shire; and Mareeba Shire.
- GHG emissions are calculated for 2005 only and emission data is not complete. However, it is estimated that less than 1% of regional emissions are excluded from the inventory.

Wet Tropics Region Greenhouse Gas Emissions 2005

Sector	Emissions (kt CO_{2-e})	Per Capita Emissions (tonnes CO_{2-e})
Stationary energy	1,270	5.8
<i>direct</i>	310	1.4
<i>indirect (purchased electricity)</i>	960	4.4
Transport	1,579	7.2
Fugitive fuels	0	0.0
Agriculture	952	4.4
Land use change & forestry (net)	1,129	5.2
Waste	140	0.6
Industrial processes	74	0.3
Total direct (scope 1)	4,185	19.2
Total direct & indirect (scope 1 & 2)	5,145	23.6

Per Capita GHG Emissions, Wet Tropics, Queensland and Australia



What does it mean for the Wet Tropics?

- This Wet Tropics GHG inventory is, to our knowledge, the first regional inventory in Australia. It highlights the importance of developing and targeting policies to suit specific industries and regions. Governments will need to recognise different local circumstances and to draw on local knowledge when framing emission reduction policies.
- Wet Tropics residents still have to reduce GHG emissions by 70% for emissions to be comparable to the average industrialised countries subject to targets under the Kyoto protocol.
- The further use of cleaner energy such as hydro, wind and bagasse power can help reduce emissions.
- Transport emissions in the Wet Tropics are significantly higher than for Australia. They can be reduced through decreased use of road vehicles and increased provision of public transport. Use of aviation fuel for tourism and local travel is high.
- Carbon trading systems that focus on electricity generators and energy intensive industries are unlikely to have much impact on greenhouse gas emissions in the Wet Tropics Region.
- The Wet Tropics has a capacity to offset emissions through planting of forests.