Redlands Coast

Economic Development Insights

August 2026

Redlands coast

Redland CITY COUNCIL

04037 08/26

Redland City at a glance

Located in south-east Queensland (SEQ), Redlands Coast spans 537 square kilometres with more than 350 kilometres of coastline. The city is a vibrant and distinctive place, encompassing mainland, island and hinterland communities. Its natural assets, connected villages, skilled workforce and growing economy make it a great place to live, visit and invest.

Redlands Coast delivered a strong economic performance in FY2024–25, generating $8.95 billion in headline Gross Regional Product (GRP). The local economy maintained its growth momentum, expanding by 3.78% and outperforming the broader SEQ region.

Despite ongoing inflationary pressures and supply chain disruptions, local industry GRP increased from $6.2 billion in FY2023–24 to $6.4 billion in FY2024–25, demonstrating the resilience and adaptability of the region's business base. While population-serving industries continued to underpin economic growth, emerging and strategic sectors, including advanced manufacturing, high value-added services, construction and the visitor economy are expected to play an increasingly catalytic role in diversifying the economy and strengthening productivity.

Unless otherwise indicated, data is for 2025.

GRP
$8.95 billion

↑ **3.7%** higher compared to previous year

Population
172,831 est. resident population

↑ **2,800+** additional new residents compared to previous year

Registered businesses
12,896

↑ **78** additional registered businesses than last year

Employed residents
91,111

↑ **2.6%** more than the previous year

Local jobs
58,245

↑ Up by **3.8%** from previous year

Value of building approvals
$786 million

Demographic trends shaping Redlands Coast

Population growth and an expanding labour force are reshaping Redlands Coast, while an ageing community will influence future service, housing and workforce needs.

Population

172,831

2025 estimated resident population

↑ **3.7%** higher compared to previous year

Population Forecast

- 2021 – **161,730**
- 2031 – **189,367**
- 2046 – **211,500**

Age structure

in 2025

29,169
0–14 years

105,431
15–64 years

38,231
65 and over

↑ Increasing share of 65 and over to total population

Labour force

98,762

Labour force March quarter 2026

↑ Grew by **4.1%** compared to the previous year

Economic performance

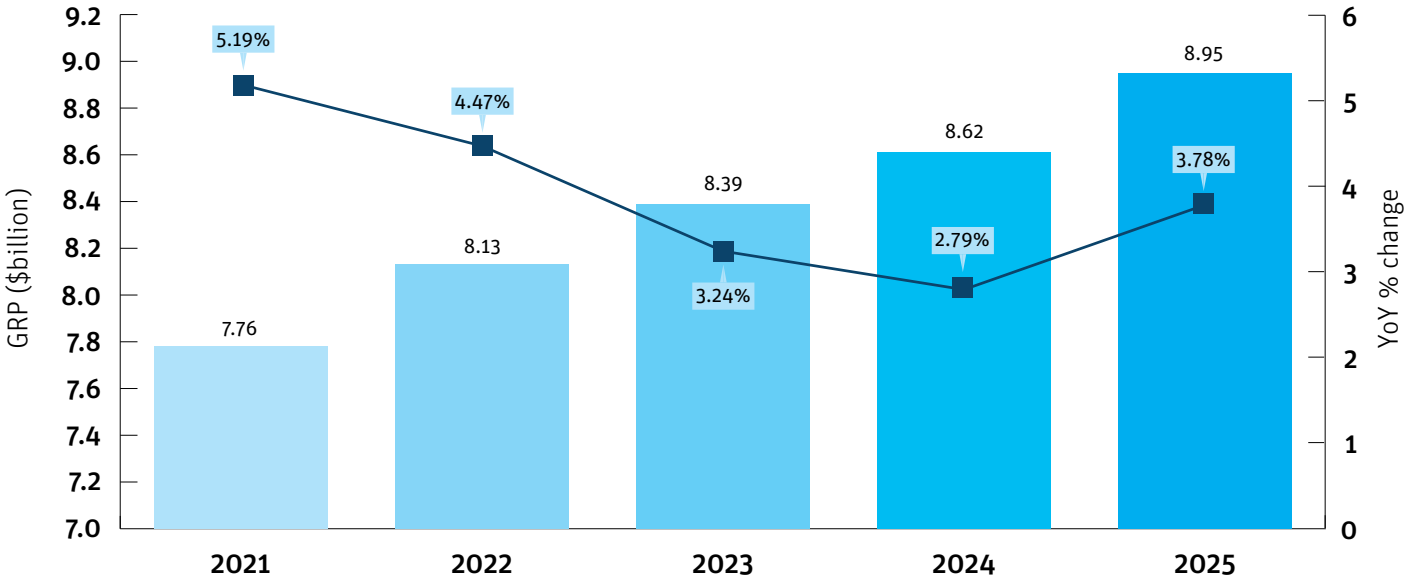
The city continues to experience steady growth, with key sectors driving economic expansion and strengthening the local economy's productive capacity.

Gross Regional Product

$8.95 billion

↑ **3.7%** higher compared to previous year

fig 1. GRP trend for the past 5 years



Value added
$6.4 billion

Health care and social assistance contributed the largest value add

Exports
$2.4 billion

Manufacturing was the largest industry exporter

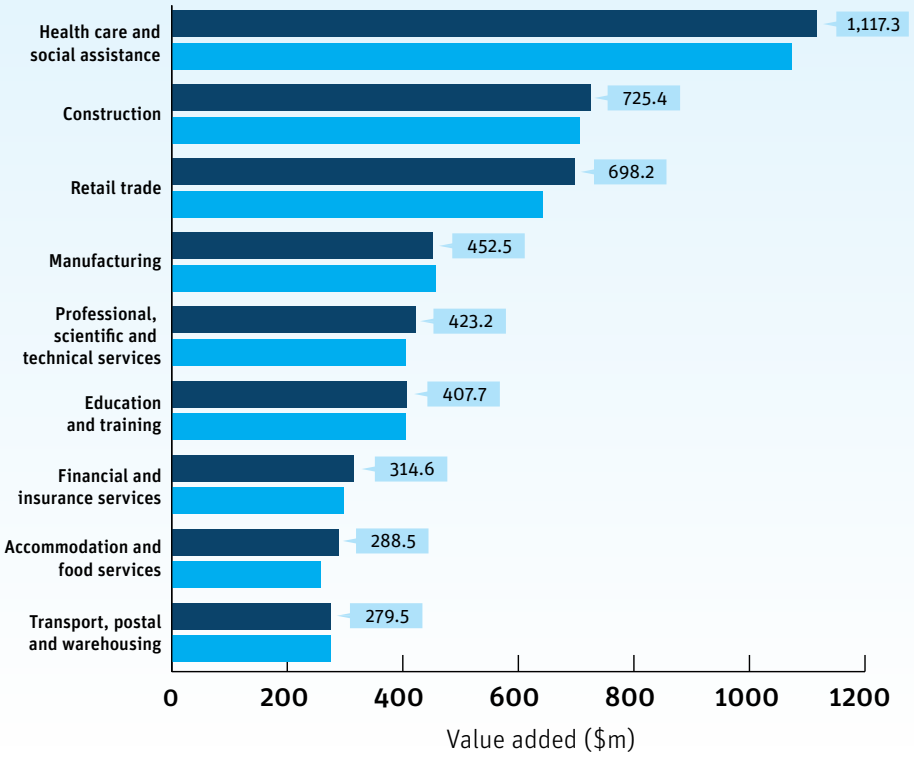
Local sales
$11.1 billion

Construction had the highest local sales

Industry strengths and emerging opportunities

Redlands Coast's economic strength is built on a diverse industry base that drives jobs, productivity and investment, while emerging growth sectors are expanding opportunities for innovation, private investment and higher-value employment, positioning the city for sustained long-term growth.

fig 2. Top industries by value added



The city's top five industries generate more than half of total economic value added, underscoring their critical role in driving economic growth and prosperity.

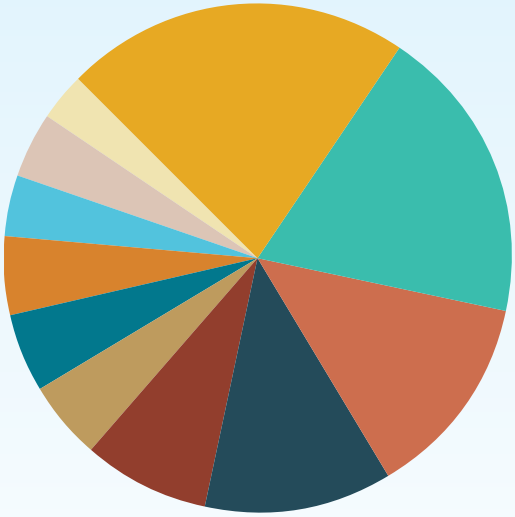
Largest employer by industry (2024–25)

Industry	Employment
Health care and social assistance	12,301
Construction	8,201
Retail trade	7,885
Education and training	5,462
Accom and food services	4,627

Top workforce productivity

Financial and insurance services recorded the highest industry productivity, generating $387,701 per worker.

fig 3. Top industries by output



22%	Total of other industries
19%	Construction
13%	Manufacturing
12%	Health care and social assistance
8%	Retail trade
5%	Professional, scientific and technical services
5%	Rental, hiring and real estate services
5%	Transport, postal and warehousing
4%	Education and training
4%	Financial and insurance services
3%	Public administration and safety

Future growth sectors

Advanced manufacturing

Manufacturing is a key export driver for Redlands Coast, led by food and beverage production, fabricated metals and emerging marine manufacturing. Beyond its direct economic contribution, the sector plays an important multiplier role, supporting local jobs, strengthening supply chains, driving demand for business services and enhancing productivity and resilience across the broader economy.

Construction

Construction is a key driver of Redlands Coast's growth, supporting housing, infrastructure and urban renewal. The sector is forecast to remain strong as Queensland's infrastructure pipeline gains momentum, leveraging State investment and opportunities linked to the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Knowledge economy/High value added

Professional, scientific and technical services and financial and insurance services are knowledge-intensive sectors that rely on highly skilled workers and specialised expertise. Together, they support innovation, investment, business growth and economic productivity. The sectors also have strong future growth potential, driven by rising demand for environment, social and governance advisory services, cybersecurity services, digital transformation and other specialist professional services.

Visitor economy

Redlands Coast continued to welcome more than a million visitors. Supported by its natural and cultural attractions, growing events calendar and Olympic host city status, tourism is expected to make an increasingly important contribution to the local economy.

Labour market and workforce

Local jobs are growing, but employment self-containment remains constrained with fewer jobs than resident workers.

Employed residents

91,111

↑ **2.6%** more than the previous year

Local jobs

58,245

↑ Up **3.8%** from previous year

Unemployment

3.6% **unemployment rate March quarter 2026**

Lower than SEQ's unemployment rate which is at **4%**

Job to resident ratio

The job-to-resident ratio was **0.64**, indicating fewer local jobs than resident workers. The highest ratios were recorded in accommodation and food services, other services, and health care and social assistance.

The job-to-resident ratio improved slightly from 0.63 in the previous year.

Business ecosystem

Local jobs are growing, but employment self-containment remains constrained with fewer jobs than resident workers.

Number of businesses

12,896
Registered businesses

↑ **78** additional businesses than last year

Business by industry

1 in 4
registered businesses are in construction

98%
are micro or small businesses

Enterprise size structure

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Non-employing businesses	6,500	6,853	7,111	7,368	7,495
Employing businesses with 1–4 employees	3,984	4,020	3,953	3,971	3,898
Employing businesses with 5–19 employees	1,164	1,218	1,242	1,217	1,237
Employing businesses with 20 or more employees	200	228	255	262	266
Total businesses	**11,848**	**12,319**	**12,561**	**12,818**	**12,896**

Businesses by turnover

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Businesses with turnover of zero to less than $50k	3,091	2,882	2,751	2,678	2,567
Businesses with turnover of $50k to less than $200k	4,061	4,201	4,284	4,396	4,324
Businesses with turnover of $200k to less than $2m	4,025	4,469	4,705	4,879	5,074
Businesses with turnover of $2m or more	671	767	821	865	931

Visitor economy

Redlands Coast's visitor economy is a growing source of economic value and employment, with strong visitor demand creating opportunities to expand tourism experiences, attract investment and strengthen the region's profile as a destination.

Value added direct contribution (2025)

$211.9 million
Tourism's direct value added contribution to value added

↑ **3.3%** share to value added

Employment (2025)

2,982
directly employed by the sector

5.3 million
total visits (excludes local)

Local spending

June 2025–June 2026

Growing household and visitor spending continues to support local business growth, while reducing spending leakage presents a significant opportunity to strengthen the local economy and create additional jobs.

Total resident spending

$6.1 billion

↑ Up by **7.8%** compared to last year

14%

proportion of resident spending outside of LGA (leakage)

Supermarkets

top spending category by residents

Total visitor spend

$447.6 million

↑ Up by **7.25%** compared to previous year

$2.3 billion

total spend on local businesses compared to previous year

↑ Up by **4.1%** compared to previous year

Property and housing

A strong housing and development market is contributing to economic growth and investment across Redlands Coast, but declining affordability presents a key challenge to sustaining a diverse workforce and inclusive growth.

Number of residential buildings approved
2025

1,375

↑ **11%** more than the previous year

Housing affordability

278 **sales or 7.4% of all sales**

Number of housing sales affordable to low income households (12 months to December 2025)

Rental market

364 **rentals or 13.5% of all rentals**

Number of rentals affordable to low income households (12 months to December 2025)

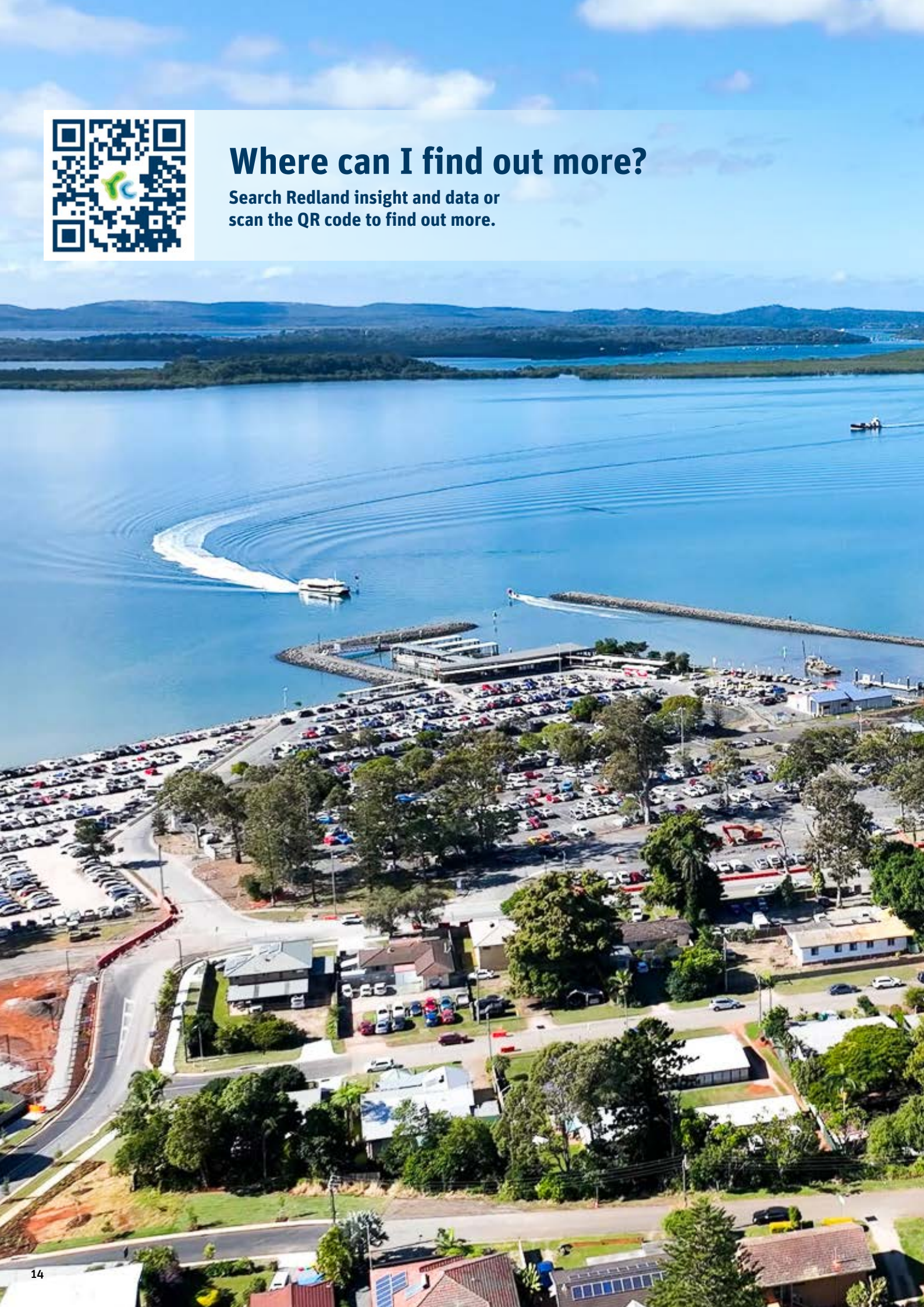
Value of building approvals (2025)

- **$786 million** total value of building approvals
- **$659 million** value of residential buildings
- **$127 million** value of non-residential buildings

Median house price (December 2025)	Median house rental (December 2025)	Median unit rental (December 2025)
$1.1 million	**$750/week**	**$600/week**

Where can I find out more?

Search Redland insight and data or scan the QR code to find out more.



Data Sources: ABS Data by Region, Economy id/NIEIR, Housing monitor, Small Area Labour Market, Bank transaction data, Localis

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