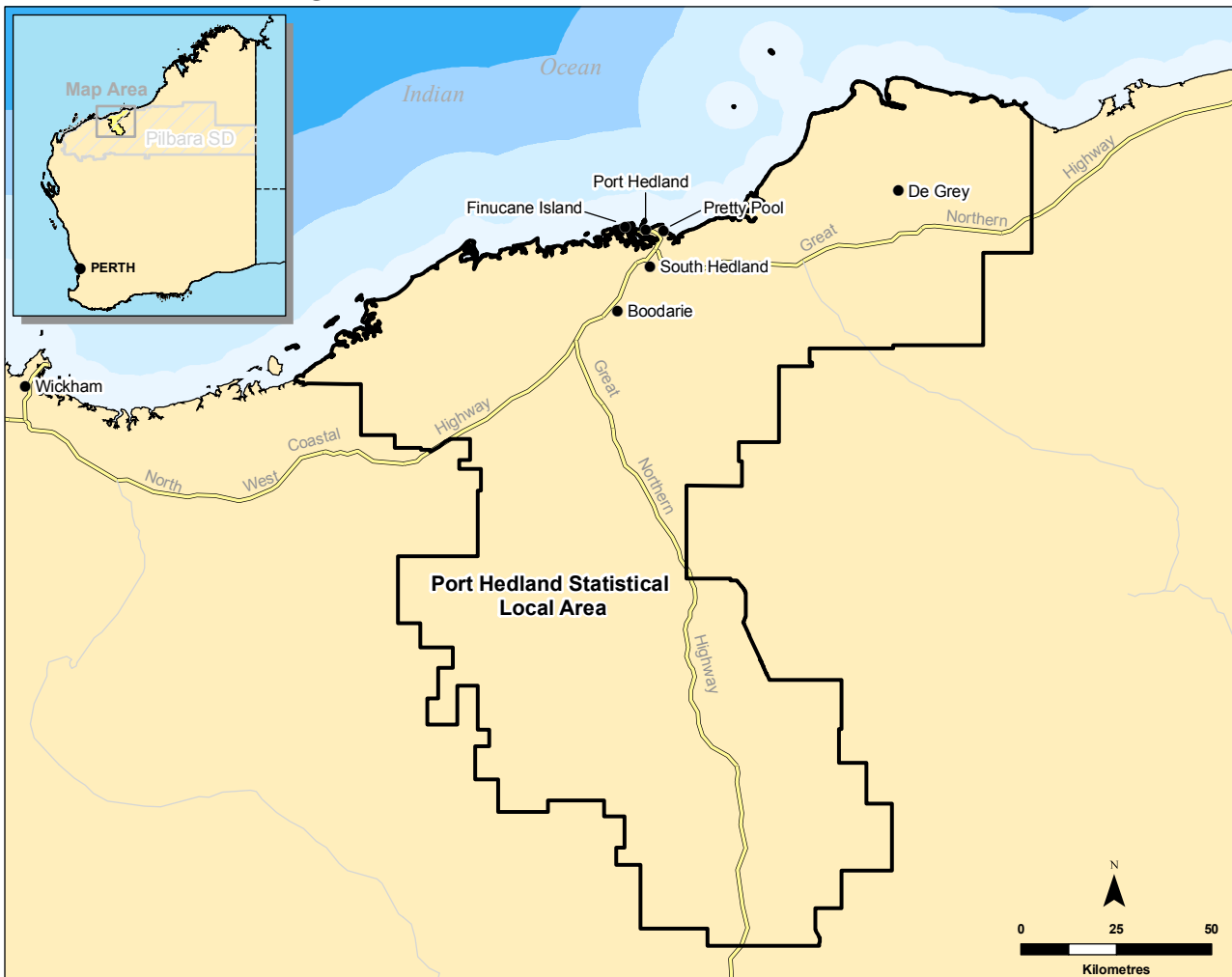


2.5 Port Hedland

Port Hedland Statistical Local Area (as shown in Figure 2.12) is home to one of the world's largest export ports, Port Hedland. The economic activities of the area are centred around the mining industry, which has expanded considerably over the last two decades. Port Hedland's coastline stretches some 300 kilometres and encompasses mangroves, sandy beaches, rocky outcrops and reef systems. Much of the coastal area forms pastoral or mining leases, and traditional owners have been recognised as having non-exclusive native title rights.

Figure 2.12 Port Hedland Statistical Local Area



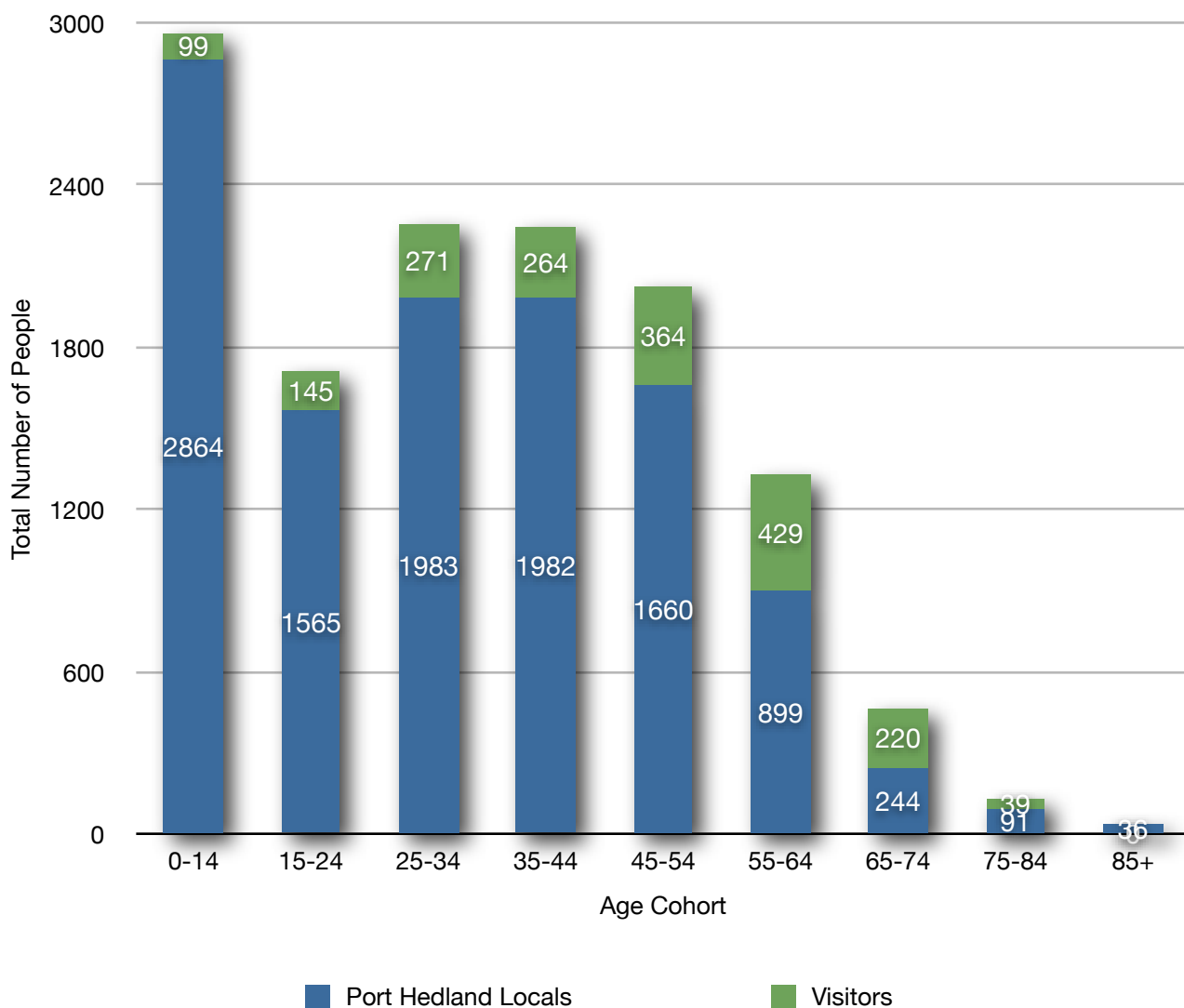
In July 2006, 14% of people in Port Hedland were visitors (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2007). Many of these individuals would have been involved in the mining sector (and associated construction and service sectors) as fly-in-fly-out workers. Estimates suggested that more than 40% of the mining workforce in Port Hedland was fly-in-fly-out. Table 2.7 provides details on where visitors to the region came from, showing that 66% of visitors were from Western Australia. Figure 2.13 illustrates the age profile of the visitors to the region. In Port Hedland there was a greater proportion of visitors aged below 65 years, compared to Carnarvon, Ashburton and Roebourne. Fewer 'grey nomads' were attracted to Port Hedland compared to other parts of the Rangelands coast.

Table 2.7 Port Hedland Visitor Trends, July 2006

	Age Cohort									Total
	0-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	85+	
Port Hedland Residents	2864	1565	1983	1982	1660	899	244	91	36	11324
Visitors from New South Wales	9	5	18	19	25	60	24	6	0	166
Visitors from Victoria	6	5	20	15	38	67	28	3	0	182
Visitors from Queensland	11	9	17	15	21	47	24	3	0	147
Visitors from South Australia	0	3	3	8	10	51	16	0	0	91
Visitors from Western Australia	45	117	201	204	264	261	128	24	0	1244
Visitors from Tasmania	0	3	5	0	3	3	0	0	0	14
Visitors from Northern Territory	0	3	4	3	3	3	0	0	0	16
Visitors from Australian Capital Territory	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Total Visitors	99	145	271	264	364	492	220	39	0	1866
Total Persons	2935	1710	2254	2246	2024	1391	464	130	36	13190
% of Total Population Who Are Visitors	3.4%	8.5%	12%	11.7%	18%	35.4%	47.4%	30%	0%	14%

(Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2007)

Figure 2.13 Proportion of Visitors in Port Hedland, July 2006



(Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2007)

In 2008, there were four caravan parks in Port Hedland, with a total of 877 sites (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2009). 555 of these were powered sites and 106 were unpowered (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2009). 208 cabins were also available, however many of these were permanently occupied (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2009). 34% of sites (including most of the cabins) were permanently occupied (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2009). Many of those who lived permanently in caravan parks were new residents to the region who had been unable to find rental accommodation. Caravan parks also provided semi-permanent homes to many lower paid workers who had been displaced by rapid increases in housing costs over the last decade. Between 2005 and 2008 there was an 85% increase in the number of permanent residents in Port Hedland’s caravan parks (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2009).

Due to the high occupancy rates of Port Hedland’s caravan parks, campers tended to visit small, unserviced sites. There are few coastal camping sites in Port Hedland, with most residents traveling north to Pardoo Station or Cape Keraudren Nature Reserve. Camping outside of designated camping grounds, in the coastal area, occurs very infrequently.