*A problem-solving and modelling task suitable for students working with* ***area (Focus: composite shapes)***

**Modelling Northern Qld**

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**QCAA approach to problem solving and mathematical modelling**

(<https://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/downloads/portal/syllabuses/snr_maths_methods_19_syll.pdf>)

**How big is the Burdekin?**

Australian curriculum content descriptors:

Year 9

Calculate areas of composite shapes (ACMMG216)

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**How big is the Burdekin?**

Modelling Northern Qld

1. Which of the following towns/regions do you think is smaller than the Burdekin Shire?

* Townsville
* Mackay
* Cairns
* Brisbane
* Atherton Tablelands
* Rockhampton
* Charters Towers Region
* Whitsundays Region
* Canberra

Research & Formulate

A close up of a map

Description generated with high confidenceBrittany goes to the Burdekin every year for Christmas with her family. Her friend Jessie thought that the Burdekin was a single town. However, the Burdekin Shire consists of 49 smaller regions such as Fredericksfield, Ayr, and Dalbeg. Because Jessie has never been to the Burdekin Shire, Brittany is trying to explain how big it really is.

2. What combinations of 2D shapes could you use to ‘model’ or represent the general shape of the Burdekin? Choose shapes that cover the Burdekin as accurately as you can.

Reference:

Region Map - <https://www.google.com.au/maps/place/Burdekin,+QLD/@-19.7665909,146.9071502,9z/data=!4m5!3m4!1s0x6bd81f210958bc6b:0x8201f8aac328ae68!8m2!3d-19.5227151!4d147.4627259>

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1. What type of measurement would be the best to describe how big the Burdekin is?

Perimeter Area Volume

1. What formula will be useful in your calculations?

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1. What information do you need to be able to use the formula? Do you have it already or could you figure it out?

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1. The picture is a scaled diagram. How will you get the real size of the Burdekin? [Hint” It is usually easier to do your conversions before using any measurement formula.]

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1. Looking at the shapes you are using to calculate the size of the Burdekin Shire, would you say that your calculations will be too big or too small? How can you tell? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Now that you have a plan…

Solve

1. Using your answers from Q2-6, calculate the area of the Burdekin (approximately).

Evaluate & Verify

1. The actual area for the Burdekin is 5,025 km2. Compare this with your approximation of the area. How could you improve your approximation?

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1. Google some of the areas of the towns and regions from question 1. Compare these areas to the area of the Burdekin – are there any that you weren’t expecting? If so, what key factors influenced your decision making?

* Townsville \_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Mackay \_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Cairns \_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Charters Towers Region \_\_\_\_\_\_
* Atherton Tablelands \_\_\_\_\_\_
* Rockhampton \_\_\_\_\_\_
* Brisbane \_\_\_\_\_\_
* Whitsundays Region \_\_\_\_\_\_
* Canberra \_\_\_\_\_\_

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Communicate

1. If someone else was like Jessie and didn’t realise how big the Burdekin is, how would you explain it to them. Justify your answer using your calculations and your research of other areas in Australia.

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