The 2019 Population Projections indicate that the population of Shellharbour is estimated to increase by 23,550 people between 2016 and 2041, from 70,400 to 93,950. The movement of young families and people around retirement age into Shellharbour, and natural change will both contribute to the area’s population growth.

The working age population (aged 15-64) is estimated to increase by 44,750 in 2016 to 54,500 in 2041 – a change of 9,750.

The number of children aged 14 and under is estimated to change by 2,000 children, from 14,250 in 2016 to 16,250 in 2041.

The number of people aged 65 and over is estimated to increase from 11,350 in 2016 to 23,250 by 2041 - a change of 11,900.

Supporting communities in Shellharbour

The NSW, Federal and local governments are delivering infrastructure and capital works that may change future population patterns and growth beyond what is shown in the projections. For example:

- Improving transport for communities by investing in projects such as the $15.9m Illawarra Regional Airport
- Creating healthy communities by investing $949k in projects such as upgrades to public pools and aquatic facilities
- Growing the local community by investing $6.53m in projects such as the Killalea Regional Tourism Centre and infrastructure

What are the NSW Population Projections?

The NSW Population Projections estimate the future NSW population based on assumptions for fertility, life expectancy and migration. They represent possible demographic futures based on the best assessment of how the NSW population may change over time, including population size, age profile and residential location. These projections are based on assumptions known at the time of publication. These projections are a tool used by the Government in the planning of services and infrastructure such as schools, hospitals, transport and community services.

Future decisions, such as infrastructure investments and land use plans, will change future population patterns including growth and distribution. These projections do not change the vision set out in Regional Plans or affect local plans and strategies such as the Local Strategic Planning Statements and Local Housing Strategies.
Shellharbour City Council  
2019 NSW Population Projections

Information is rounded to the nearest 50, which can introduce discrepancies in totals and differences.