



Hon Tony Kelly MLC  
Minister for Planning  
Minister for Infrastructure  
Minister for Lands  
Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council  
Leader of the House in the Legislative Council

## MEDIA RELEASE

6 April, 2010

### POPULATION FORECASTS TO 2036

Port Macquarie-Hastings and Coffs Harbour will be the fastest-growing local areas on the State's Mid-North Coast, according to population projections released today by the NSW Government.

Minister for Planning, Tony Kelly, said the figures were contained in a new local area population projections report, produced by the Department of Planning, which covers the period from 2006 to 2036.

It presents population projections for both statistical local areas (SLAs) and local government areas (LGAs).

The figures show the local areas with the largest population growth will be:

- Port Macquarie-Hastings (51% growth to 107,600 residents);
- Coffs Harbour (50% growth to 101,800 residents);
- Clarence Valley (14% growth to 57,300 residents);
- Tamworth (13% growth to 63,500 residents); and
- Greater Taree (13% growth to 53,200 residents).

Mr Kelly said these figures are not NSW Government targets but projections based on an analysis of existing demographic trends and informed assumptions about expected future changes.

"These population projections allow all levels of government to know and plan for the challenges facing us over the next 25 years, be it to reverse decline in some rural areas or meet the needs of a booming population in high-growth areas," the Minister said.

Some of the more specific demographic changes expected to happen in NSW, include:

- An increase in the percentage of people aged 65 and above in every local area in NSW;
- Growth in the 0-14 year old population will be limited mostly to the metropolitan, coastal and areas surrounding Canberra; and
- Most local areas with small populations (those under 5,000 people) are projected to experience population decline, including those in remote parts of the State.

The population projections can be found at [www.planning.nsw.gov.au](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au)



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### **Background note:**

Population projections are calculated by examining a range of demographic trends from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, including resident populations and the underlying births, deaths and migration for an area. In metropolitan Sydney, statistics on housing and land availability – such as housing supply and average household size – are also taken into consideration.

The Department also consults with relevant State agencies and local government to discuss any factors which may potentially impact on an area's population.

Projections are then calculated by dividing the population into age and gender groups and projecting them into the future, taking into consideration how the above demographic events may affect each specific group over time.

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