



Hon Tony Kelly MLC
Minister for Planning
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Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council
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MEDIA RELEASE

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POPULATION FORECASTS TO 2036

The NSW Government has today released local area population projections that will help inform discussions about the Government's recently announced Metropolitan Strategy review and Metropolitan Transport Plan.

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.

Whilst the Metropolitan Strategy review discussion paper, Sydney Towards 2036, provides projections for the city's ten subregions, the figures released today cover specific local government areas over the same time period.

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

- Camden (390% growth to 249,800 residents);
- Liverpool (90% growth to 324,400 residents);
- Burwood (73% growth to 56,200 residents);
- Auburn (69% growth to 115,600 residents);
- Wollondilly (62% growth to 66,900 residents);
- Sydney (60% growth to 264,800 residents);
- Wyong (60% growth to 228,200 residents)
- Campbelltown (59% growth to 233,800 residents);
- Baulkham Hills (57% growth to 258,800 residents); and
- Strathfield (51% growth to 50,100 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 enable 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.

"One of the key issues to be examined in the Metropolitan Strategy review is how to plan sustainably for a growing population, and these figures will provide the relevant context to inform and guide discussion on this topic.

"And with the recent release of the Government's new \$50 billion Metropolitan Transport Plan, Metropolitan Sydney is looking well placed to effectively tackle this challenge.



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“In fact, the review of the Metropolitan Strategy coincides with the release of the transport plan, ensuring both land use and transport planning are considered side-by-side in the context of these latest population projections.”

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

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.