Kyogle population projections
Response given to the *Northern Star*

The Kyogle community is unhappy about suggestions that the town's population will fall, based on the Department's latest local area population figures. What methods and assumptions were used to arrive at these figures?

Department response:

There are a number of important factors to take into account when using the Department's local area population projections.

Firstly, it must be emphasised that these figures are projected estimates, not government targets.

The projections are based on assumptions about existing fertility rates, mortality rates and migration patterns. These assumptions ought not to be taken as being precise, for that reason.

Furthermore, the current figures for Kyogle are based on the last census held in 2006, and therefore require updating. There will be a census later this year that will provide more recent information to inform the projections.

The Department revises its figures following each census and this will again be the case this year. It should be noted that at every revision, the Department seeks input from local councils as to how they see the likelihood of growth in their own area. Kyogle Shire Council will have that opportunity during 2012 when the assumptions for the projections are being formed.

The latest Regional Population Growth figures for the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) show a very slight increase in the population of Kyogle. These figures were released in March 2011.

The main reason for the projected decline in population is outward migration in the demographic of 18-39 years. This suggests that retaining school leavers and those starting young families could reverse the downward trend.

In terms of targets, it is important to note that the NSW Government via its Far North Coast regional strategy does in fact consider Kyogle as having the potential to attract additional residents. It also states it has the potential to support additional industrial development, being located on major transport routes with access to inter-state road and rail networks.

This is in line with the strategy's aim to encourage inland housing and employment growth to reduce pressure on the sensitive coastal environment.

The strategy targets an additional 3,000 dwellings from 2006-2031, on top of the 4,110 existing dwellings in 2006.