Dear Editor of the Inverell Times,

We’d like the opportunity to respond to your story about population projections in Inverell Shire (Services in danger if population decreases, Inverell Times, 17/1/2012).

The department’s projections for the Inverell Shire are based on data from the 2006 census. The department will be updating the projections after the 2011 national census data is released, which is expected to be in 2012-13.

The department provides independent, expert population projections based on an established and sound methodology.

The analysis for Inverell found that an ageing population had the potential to contribute to a modest population decline over time.

The department’s role differs to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, which is responsible for reporting actual population changes after they occur, as distinct to providing long-term projections. As such, it is not unusual for these figures to differ.

The department will be liaising with all councils, including Inverell, in preparing its updated projections.

Yours sincerely,

IAN REYNOLDS
Deputy Director General
Strategies and Land Release
NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure