



Brad Hazzard MP

Minister for Planning & Infrastructure

Minister assisting the Premier on Infrastructure NSW

MEDIA RELEASE

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POPULATION GROWTH DEMANDS GOOD PLANNING

Regional population growth figures released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics have illustrated the need for the NSW's Government's ongoing work to better plan for growth across the State.

Yesterday's figures from the ABS found Greater Sydney accounted for 78% of NSW's growth while the Hunter region and Central West lead regional growth.

"ABS figures show NSW's population grew by nearly 80,000 people last year, emphasising the need for good strategic planning," Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, Brad Hazzard said today.

"Our population continues to grow and we need to plan for the jobs and houses and infrastructure required for our current needs and our children's future needs.

"In just two months the NSW Government has:

- Delivered the draft Metropolitan Strategy for Sydney – more homes, more employment lands and infrastructure aligned with growth
- Unveiled one of the biggest ever housing supply programs in NSW's history with 172,000 identified home sites, and
- Released the White Paper – a new planning system for NSW.

"The NSW Government is also focussed on planning for growth in regional areas such as the Hunter Valley, given ABS figures show it had the largest and fastest population increase in regional NSW.

"The Lower Hunter Discussion Paper released in March and Newcastle Urban Renewal Strategy released in December 2012, by the NSW Government, sets out the future for jobs, homes and infrastructure throughout the Hunter.

"We have consulted with the community and Councils for two years and together we have set the direction for how growth will be managed while at the same time protecting our precious environment.

"As we proceed to make NSW number one again, the NSW Government is delivering comprehensive plans for homes, jobs and infrastructure across the State," Mr Hazzard said.

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