Looking back to plan for a growing NSW

The Department of Planning & Environment today released a snapshot of how the population of NSW has evolved over the past two decades to mark World Population Day.

“Looking back at how our State has grown and changed can help us plan for future growth,” Chief Demographer Dr Alison Taylor said.

“This follows the release of the State’s population projections and adds to the comprehensive bank of knowledge that will help us plan for a growing NSW.

“The data we now have shows us where we’ve come from, how our population has changed up to now and what NSW will look like in 2031.

“This gives us the strong evidence we need to make balanced planning decisions for our future.”

The snapshot was prepared by expert demographers in the Centre for Demography and Research and gives an overview of the changes that have accompanied our growing State over two decades.

Highlights include:

- Two-thirds of population growth from 1991-2011 was centred in Sydney
- The baby boomers (born 1946-1964) are still NSW’s largest generation
- There has been a 27 per cent increase in women in the workforce from 1991 to 2011
- Women are waiting longer to have their first child
- Top four nationalities of people moving to NSW
  - 1991: United Kingdom, New Zealand, Italy, Yugoslavia
  - 2011: England, China, New Zealand, India
- In 2011, older women born before 1920 outnumbered men of the same generation by two to one.

The United Nations World Population Day is held on July 11 each year to focus attention on global developmental challenges caused by the world’s growing population.

It is held on 11 July in commemoration of the Day of Five Billion – the day that the world’s fifth billionth person was projected to be born in 1987, symbolically a boy born in Zagreb.

“Since the Day of Five Billion another two billion people are living on the planet, with NSW home to 1.3 million of those additional souls,” Dr Taylor said.

“Sydney is Australia’s only global city and World Population Day gives us a chance to reflect on our place in the world now and how we can plan to make sure we seize the opportunities of the future.”
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<tr>
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<th>1991</th>
<th>2011</th>
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<tr>
<td>5.9 million people living in NSW</td>
<td>7.2 million people living in NSW</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.27 million children (aged under 15)</td>
<td>1.37 million children (aged under 15)</td>
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<td>699,600 people aged 65 and over</td>
<td>1,048,900 people aged 65 and over</td>
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<td>50.22% of the population are women</td>
<td>50.33% of the population are women</td>
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<td>1.8 babies born per woman</td>
<td>1.9 babies born per woman</td>
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