



NEWS RELEASE

The Hon. Kristina Keneally MP

Member for Heffron

Minister for Planning

Minister for Redfern Waterloo

Embargoed until 5.00am Monday 20 October 2008

WELCOME TO NSW IN THE YEAR 2036: POPULATION 9.1 MILLION

By the year 2036, the **NSW population will exceed 9 million and the number of households will top 3.7 million** according to new research released today by the NSW Government.

The projections show an **increase in births and migration** will drive the NSW population about 440,000 people higher than the last forecasts in 2005. By 2036, there will be an extra 2.25 million residents of NSW – a total state population of 9.07 million.

But the data shows the **number of houses needed in Sydney** – an extra 636,000 by 2031, is about the same as the 2005 projections outlined in the metropolitan strategy.

That's because the **number of people per Sydney household will drop** from 2.61 people per dwelling today to 2.51 by 2031, **well above the 2005 projections** of 2.36 people per house by 2031.

NSW Minister for Planning, Kristina Keneally, said the population and household projections for 2036 set a big challenge for local and state planners.

“NSW Government projections such as these help us catch trends like increasing births and declining household size, and put in place plans to meet future requirements,” Ms Keneally said.

“Projections like the ones released today help determine what types of infrastructure and services need to be on the ground in the future and when they will be needed there.

“I’ve instructed the Department of Planning to now prepare population projections for the Statistical Local Areas and Local Government Areas of New South Wales, which will help inform this process.

“It’s clear the increase in the NSW population and decline of our household size will impact on everything from the **location of future housing estates to the type of buildings they include, to the rollout of public transport services, and location of schools.**

“**Our challenge is to keep working with the Federal Government, across the NSW government, with the private housing sector and, in particular, with local councils to build the homes and provide the services for our growing population.**”

The NSW State And Regional Population Projections show that:

- **The NSW population is projected to increase from 6.82 million in 2006 to 9.07 million by 2036** – up 2.25 million or 33%.
- **Sydney’s population is projected to increase from 4.28 million in 2006 to 5.98 million by 2036** – up 1.70 million, or 40%.



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- Between 2006 and 2036 the NSW population:
 - Under 18 years of age will increase by **19%**;
 - Aged 18 to 64 years will increase by **21%**; and
 - Aged 65 years and over will increase by **111%**.
- **The annual number of births is projected to rise by 18% between 2006 and 2036**, surpassing the 100,000 per year mark in the early 2020s.
- **Life expectancy at birth is projected to rise** from 79.1 years for males and 83.9 years for females in 2006, to 85.6 years for males and 89.1 years for females in 2036.

The Household And Dwelling Projections show that:

- The **number of households in NSW is projected to increase** from 2.65 million in 2006 to 3.72 million by 2036 - an increase of 1.08 million, or 41%.
- The number of **Sydney households** will increase from 1.62 million in 2006 to 2.35 million by 2036 - an increase of 740,000 or 46%.
- The average Sydney household size is projected to decline from 2.61 persons per household in 2006, to 2.51 by 2031 and 2.49 by 2036.
- Although population projections for the Sydney region are higher than previously projected, dwelling requirements have changed little because average household sizes are not expected to decline by as much as previously anticipated.
 - The expected increase in the numbers of households and dwellings out to 2031 (636,000) remains close to the figure of 640,000, set out in the 2005 Metropolitan Strategy.
 - The Metropolitan Strategy expected average household size to fall to 2.36 persons per household by 2031, where the new projected average household size for 2031 is 2.51.

“The new projections make it clear that NSW and Sydney will continue to play a pivotal role in the Australian economy,” Ms Keneally said.

“The NSW Government has already established strong links between land-use planning and planning for transport, housing estates and other infrastructure, and we need to continue that.

“Our plans include the Sydney Metropolitan Strategy in 2005, ten subsequent draft subregional strategies, and regional strategies in high-growth coastal regions from the Queensland border to the Victorian border, and along the Sydney to Canberra Corridor,” Ms Keneally said.

The Household And Dwelling Projections and the NSW State And Regional Population Projections will be available at www.planning.nsw.gov.au

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KEY FINDINGS: STATE POPULATION PROJECTIONS

- The population of New South Wales is projected to increase to 9.07 million by 2036, an increase of 2.25 million (or 33%) on the 2006 population of 6.82 million. **Three-fifths of this growth will be driven by natural increase (births minus deaths) and two-fifths by net migration.**
- **The State's population will shortly reach 7 million.** The 8 million milestone is projected to be passed in 2022, with the 9 million milestone reached by 2035.
- Growth will vary by age group. Between 2006 and 2036 the population under 18 years of age is projected to increase by 19%, those aged 18 to 64 years by 21%, and those aged 65 years and over by 111%. Consequently the percentage of the population aged 65 and over is expected to rise from 13.5% in 2006 to 21.5% by 2036.
- The annual number of births is projected to rise by 18% over the 2006-36 period, surpassing the 100,000 per year mark in the early 2020s. The annual number of deaths is expected to rise by 41% over the same period due to population ageing.

Regional population projections

- The population of the Sydney region is projected to grow from 4.3 million in 2006 to 6.0 million by 2036, an increase of 1.7 million or 40% over the period.
- This increase represents about three quarters of the State's projected population growth to 2036. Although Sydney acts as the primary gateway to Australia for overseas migrants, 69% of its projected population growth will actually be driven by natural increase, with net migration comprising the remaining 31%.
- The large contribution from natural increase is facilitated by a Total Fertility Rate of 1.79 babies per Sydney woman (as compared to an average of 1.85 babies per woman across NSW) and a population age structure which includes a large population in the peak childbearing ages.
- The coastal regions outside Sydney are projected to experience strong population growth, primarily due to net migration gains. In addition to Sydney, regions projected to experience growth rates above those of the State as a whole are: South Eastern, Richmond-Tweed and the Illawarra region excluding Wollongong.
- For inland regions there will be either modest population growth (Murrumbidgee, Murray and the Central West) or decline (Northern and North West).
- All regions will experience large percentage increases in their elderly populations as the baby boom generation ages and life expectancy increases.



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The following table presents historical and projected populations for the State's regions. Note that all figures shown in the table are in thousands:

Regional population estimates, 1976-2006, and projections, 2016-2036.

Region	1976 ^a	1986 ^a	1996 ^a	2006	2016	2026	2036	2006-36 change ^b
	<i>Historical</i>				<i>Projected</i>			
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Sydney	3,144	3,472	3,881	4,282	4,822	5,395	5,982	1,700
Newcastle	381	417	463	518	573	627	676	158
Hunter excl. Newcastle	60	77	91	100	110	120	128	28
Wollongong	222	233	256	278	300	320	339	61
Illawarra excl. Wollongong	61	86	117	137	156	174	190	53
Richmond-Tweed	109	152	201	230	260	289	316	85
Mid-North Coast	144	207	262	297	331	362	387	90
Northern	175	182	179	180	179	175	168	-12
North West	136	140	143	139	135	130	123	-16
Central West	162	165	173	179	182	184	183	5
South Eastern	131	153	179	207	235	262	287	80
Murrumbidgee	140	144	149	154	159	163	165	11
Murray	95	105	111	115	120	122	121	6
New South Wales	4,960	5,532	6,205	6,816	7,560	8,323	9,066	2,250

a Population estimates for these years are approximate for some regions due to boundary changes.

b May not be the exact difference between the 2036 and 2006 populations in the table due to rounding.

Source: 1976-2006 estimates – Australian Bureau of Statistics; 2016-2036 projections – Department of Planning.



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KEY FINDINGS: HOUSEHOLD AND DWELLING PROJECTIONS

New South Wales

- The number of households in NSW is projected to increase from 2.65 million in 2006 to 3.72 million by 2036 - an increase of 1.08 million, or 41%.
- This is above the projected population increase of 33% over the 2006–36 period because average household size is projected to fall from 2.53 persons per household in 2006 to 2.38 by 2036.
- The number of **family households** is projected to increase from 1.91 million in 2006 to 2.56 million by 2036, a rise of 649,000 households, or 34%. In 2006 family households comprised 72% of all households. By 2036 their share is projected to fall to 69%. Of those family households:
 - The number of **single parent households** is projected to increase from 295,200 in 2006 to 411,400 by 2036, a rise of 116,100, or 39%.
 - Households containing **couples without children** are expected to increase in number from 654,900 in 2006 to 1 million by 2036, a rise of 348,400 or 53%. The chance of being in a couple household without children is highest in the elderly ages. The significant growth of this type of household is driven to a large extent by the projected growth of the elderly population.
 - The number of **households containing couples with children** is projected to increase from 889,100 in 2006 to 1.05 million by 2036, a rise of 156,900 or 18%. By 2036 households containing couples with children and couples without children will be about equal in number.
- The number of **lone person households** is projected to increase from 646,500 in 2006 to 1.06 million by 2036, a rise of 64%. The share of lone person households is projected to rise from 24% in 2006 to 29% by 2036. Elderly people are most likely to live in lone person households.
- The number of **group households** (ie share houses) is projected to increase from 92,500 in 2006 to 105,600 by 2036, a rise of 13,100 or 14%. Group households are expected to comprise about 3% of all households throughout the 2006–36 period.

Sydney

- The number of Sydney households will increase from 1.62 million in 2006 to 2.35 million by 2036 - an increase of 740,000 or 46%.
- Average household size is projected to decline from 2.61 persons per household in 2006 to 2.49 by 2036.
- Although population projections for the Sydney region are higher than previously projected, dwelling requirements have changed little because average household sizes are not expected to decline by as much as previously anticipated.
- Whereas the Metropolitan Strategy expected average household size to fall to 2.36 persons per household by 2031, the revised projected average household size for 2031 is 2.51.