

The Implications of an Ageing Population for Local Government in NSW

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Disclaimer

This research has been undertaken with assistance from Ageing, Disability and Home Care (ADHC) in the Department of Human Services. However the information and views contained in this study do not necessarily, or at all, reflect the views or information held by ADHC, the NSW Government or the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services.

Local Government and Ageing

- Local Government
- Pilot study in 2 LGAs then in depth with 21 councils
- Workshop process with senior staff
- Identify major impacts on NSW Councils of ageing

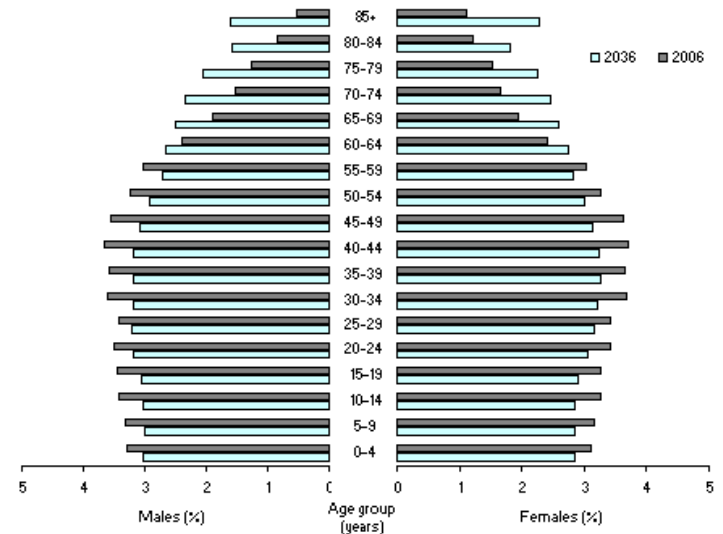


The context - NSW

The most populous state - 6.8 million
By 2036 – 9.1 million

Area – 810,000 km²

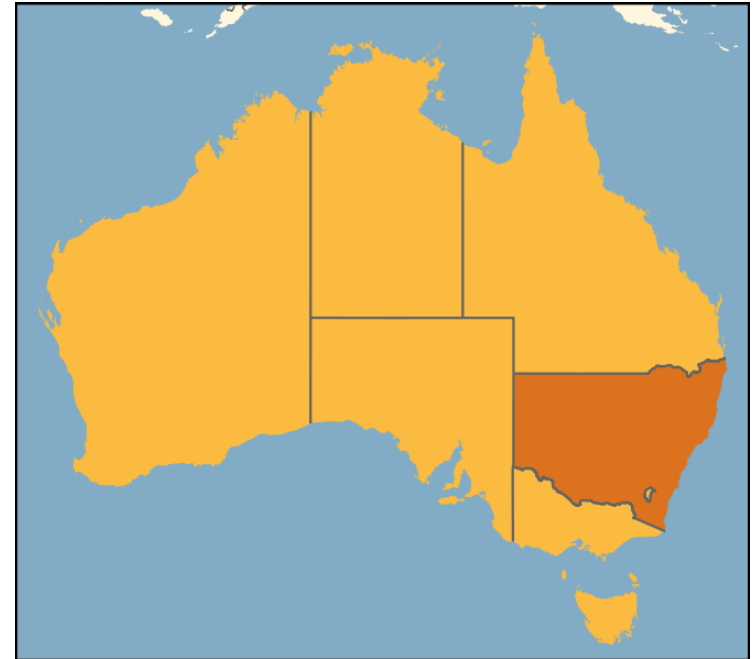
Source: ABS



Source: New South Wales State and Regional Population Projections: 2008 Release, NSW Department of Planning.

NSW Councils

- 152 councils
- Ranging in size from 5 km² to 53,000 km²
- Populations from 1,400 to 284,000
- Staff from 32 to 15,000 (median 195)



Local Government Charter

NSW Local Government Act, 1993
responsibilities:

- To provide directly or on behalf of other levels of government, after due consultation, adequate, equitable and appropriate services and facilities for the community

How does Council provide for older people?

- Service provider



- Planner, regulator, manager of built and natural environment
- Community advocate/strategic planner

Councils as service providers

Councils fund and direct:

- Home and Community Care
- Community transport
- Respite and day care
- Carers' support
- Home modifications
- Social support
- Good neighbour
- Library



Council as strategic planner

- Ageing Strategies and policies
 - Healthy ageing
 - Access
 - Older persons housing strategy
 - Walkability and Wheelability for footpath safety
 - Falls prevention
 - Community safety policy for older people



Pilot study findings

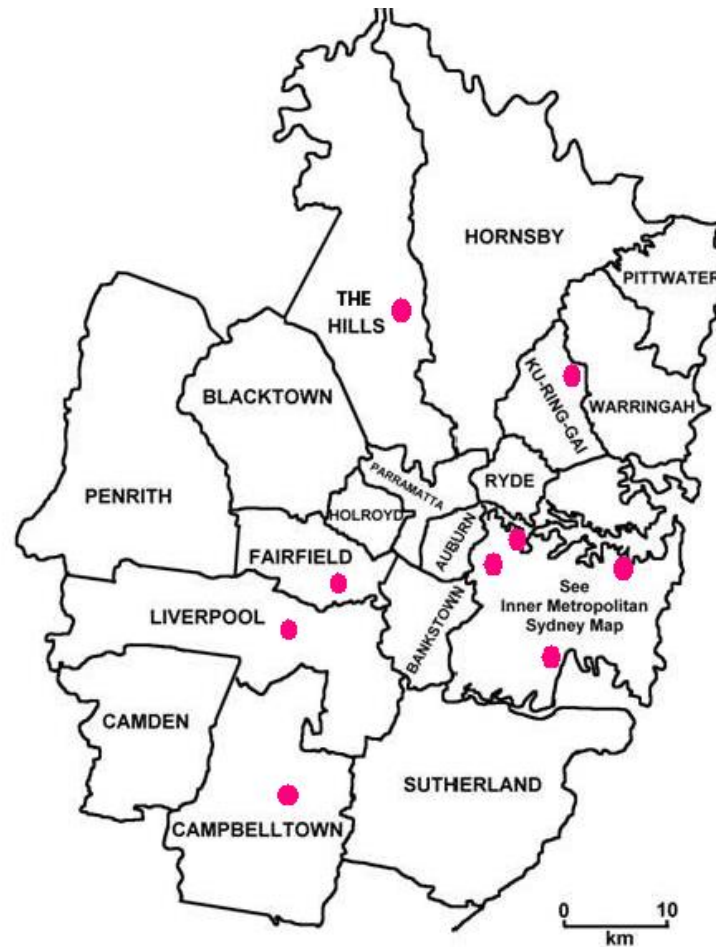
1. Provision of additional Council services to cater for needs of ageing population
2. Increased demands on Council resources especially infrastructure
3. Increased financial pressure due to concessions

Larger study – 12 rural and remote councils



9 metropolitan councils

Sydney Metropolitan Area



Methods

- Case studies
- Surveys of all councils
- Focus groups of all councils
- Review of council finances of selected councils

Issues

- Awareness within council
- Development of 10 year plans
- Resources
- Expectations

Awareness

- Which parts of council know?
- Whole of council approach required



Impact on council resources

Net Council expenditure per capita	2007-08	
	Mean	Median
Recreation & leisure	\$76	\$84
Community services	\$59	\$46
Environmental mngt & health	\$27	\$32
Total	\$162	

Resources

- Capital costs of infrastructure
- Services costs
- Reduced revenue - \$112.50 per pensioner

Expectations of councils

- Transport
- Service proximity
- Visiting populations



- Varied population backgrounds with specific cultural and linguistic needs –
Library

Policy Implications

- Transport
- Social isolation
- Sharing



Status of study

- Field work only recently completed
- Early findings are available from the study
- A full report in the next few months

