

The City of Newcastle


Social Strategy

Demographic Summary

2016-2019



APPENDIX - DEMOGRAPHICS SOCIAL STRATEGY 2016-2019

 <p>We are growing</p> <p>Newcastle in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2006 141,753 people• 2011 148,531 people<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Males 49.2%○ Females 50.8% <p>Forecast for Newcastle¹</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2026 169,205 people• 2036 180,643 people <p>Lower Hunter in 2011:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 541,950 people <p>Lower Hunter 2026² (NSW Planning)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 634,600 people	<p>Of the five Lower Hunter Councils, Newcastle LGA is expected to gain 1/3 of the total Lower Hunter population growth and will remain the regional centre.</p> <p>This is an additional 32,000+ people over the next 25 years in the Newcastle LGA (2011-2036). Over the past 25 years, Newcastle has grown by 19,071 persons³.</p> <p>Voter enrolments have increased 14.2% (14,240 people aged 18+yrs) from 2006 to 2015⁴.</p> <p>The Newcastle Estimated Resident 2014 population was 160,021 people⁵.</p> <p>Continued growth is expected through⁶:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establishment of new households• Movement of young people for tertiary education & employment
---	--

Impacts for Council

Main growth areas will be:

- Significant greenfield growth in the western areas of the LGA eg Fletcher and Minmi are expected to cater mainly for couples and families.
- Resurgence of inner city living across all age and household groups. Significant population growth is occurring in areas just outside the Newcastle LGA eg Stockton - Fullerton Cove and Edgeworth - Cameron Park

Infrastructure planning for population growth will be important for Council. This will include additional recreational and community facilities in the western areas, increased demand on existing Council infrastructure in inner city areas, as well as planning for increased demands on waste management infrastructure.

¹ id profile *City of Newcastle Population and Housing Forecasts 2011-2036* (2013)

² http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/en_au/deliveringhomes/populationandhouseholdprojections/yourarea

³ Newcastle *Snapshot Profile Census 2006*, City of Newcastle

⁴ <http://www.lg.elections.nsw.gov.au/ex35/>

⁵ ABS 3218.0 - *Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2013-14*

⁶ id profile *City of Newcastle Population and Housing Forecasts 2011-2036* (2013)

APPENDIX - DEMOGRAPHICS SOCIAL STRATEGY 2016-2019

<p>The Baby Boomers are starting to retire</p> <p>The number of people aged 65+ is growing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2011 23,492 people (16%) <p>Forecast⁷</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2026 29,735 people (17.5%) • 2036 32,955 people (18.2%) 	<p>There will be 16,494 people aged 75+ by 2036 (an increase from 11,909 persons aged 75+ in 2011), most of whom are expected to stay in their homes ('age in place').</p> <p>The 'Baby Boomers' (born 1946-1964 - the post war baby boom) may require additional assistance across a range of areas to be able to stay home. This will impact on all levels of government and non-government organisations</p> <p>Regional cities and surrounding areas often have a high number of older people as a proportion of their population and will face significant age related challenges around their infrastructure and transport systems in the future⁸. The regional non-capital cities affected include Newcastle - Maitland (5th amongst Sunshine Coast, Wollongong, Geelong, Launceston, Bendigo and Gold Coast–Tweed Heads)</p>
---	---

Issues and Impacts for Council

Key issues for an ageing population include:

- social isolation and wellbeing
- housing
- cost of living
- community facilities and public domain

Some groups are at higher risk of social isolation eg after retirement and aged lone person households. Newcastle already has a higher proportion of lone person and low income households than the State and Australian average households

Research shows that walking by people over 65 increases⁹ - to shops, services and public transport. There will be increased pressure and expectation for appropriate and affordable activities, information provision and connection to activities; good access to public spaces and public buildings; and accessible recreation and sporting facilities such as parks, walking tracks and swimming pools.

Council provision of services and facilities enables social and cultural opportunities which contribute to the social wellbeing and connectedness of our community, promote healthy ageing and decrease the risk of poor mental health and dementia. Council has the opportunity to be proactive and consistent in its approach to meet the changing needs of the community through assessing priorities, planning and capacity for service provision.

⁷ id profile *City of Newcastle Population and Housing Forecasts 2011-2036* (2013)

⁸ State of Australian Cities 2014-15 p.22-24, 2015, <https://infrastructure.gov.au/infrastructure/pab/soac/>

⁹ Garrard J, (2013). *Senior Victorians and walking: obstacles and opportunities: Summary Report*. Melbourne, Victoria Walks

APPENDIX - DEMOGRAPHICS SOCIAL STRATEGY 2016-2019

<p>Children at home</p> <p>A baby boom has been underway over the past decade¹⁰</p> <p>0-4 years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2006 8,261 children • 2011 9,006 children (6% of pop) <p>Forecast 2026 9,628 children</p>	<p>2008¹¹ was the highest number of births ever registered in a calendar year in Australia. The increase in birth rates started in 2004 and is now declining slightly. This pattern of births is also reflected in Newcastle. This age cohort will move through to adulthood over the next twenty years and it is anticipated they will be significant overall users of Councils facilities.</p> <p>A key issue is access to affordable childcare¹², particularly in the 0-2 year age group. The childcare average waiting list in Newcastle for this age group is 18-24 months¹³.</p> <p>The most common reason parents require childcare is for work related purposes. Grandparents provide child care for 30% of children of working parents¹⁴. Formal care types include before and after school care, long day care, family day care and occasional care.</p> <p>Most children will have the opportunity to attend a preschool program under recent Federal funding arrangements.</p>
---	--

Issues and Impacts for Council

Council has 11 childcare centres with 480 places and these are managed in a variety of ways. Council ceased to auspice Family Day Care in 2013-14. Before and after school care providers use two of Council community facilities (Elmore Vale & Tarro).

A community indicator for *Newcastle 2030* (Caring and Inclusive Community) is the **Australian Early Development Index (AEDI)**¹⁵. This is a national assessment tool that measures five areas of early childhood development in kindergarten -physical health & wellbeing; social competence; emotional maturity; language & cognitive skills; communication skills and general knowledge. Results are available down to suburb level.

Overall, Newcastle has a lesser proportion (6.9%) of developmentally vulnerable children compared to NSW (9.2%) or Australia (10.8%). However, there are a number of areas within Newcastle where the proportion of developmentally vulnerable children is higher than the Australian or NSW average.

These areas of increased vulnerability require a collaborative and longer term place based approach (collective impact) to address the needs of these children and families.

¹⁰ ABS 3301.0 - Births, Australia - years 2004-2013

¹¹ ABS 3301.0 - Births, Australia - years 2004-2013

¹² ABS 4402.0 - Childhood Education and Care, Australia, June 2014

¹³ Pers comm Samaritarians Early Childhood Centre, Darby St, Newcastle July 2015.

¹⁴ ABS 4402.0 - Childhood Education and Care, Australia, June 2014

¹⁵ <http://www.aedc.gov.au/resources/detail/aedc-2012-summary-report> AEDC 2012 Summary Report

APPENDIX - DEMOGRAPHICS SOCIAL STRATEGY 2016-2019

<p>Children at school 5-14 years</p> <p>2006 16,058 children in this age group 2011 16,303 children in this age group</p> <p>Forecast¹⁶ 2026 17,931 children</p>	<p>Children born in the early stages of the baby boom (2004 onwards) are now in their late primary school stage. This has placed many local schools under significant pressure with additional demountable classrooms required and a reduction in available playground space.</p> <p>Nationally, in 2012, of this age group¹⁷:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 90% accessed the Internet which has steadily increased from 65% in 2006 and 79% in 2009. Home use was mainly for educational purposes and access increases with age. • 29% had a mobile phone and this increases with age, • 35% participated in at least one organised cultural activity (playing a musical instrument, singing, dancing, drama or organised art and craft) outside of school hours and this is increasing, particularly for females. Children's participation in organised cultural activities outside of school hours was higher in couple families (38%) than one-parent families (27%) • 71% visited a public library, a museum or art gallery; and attended a performing arts event outside of school hours and this has increased from 2006 • Those aged 12 to 14 years were the least likely to have visited a public library (50% attendance rate) or an art gallery (39%) • (60%) participated in at least one organised sport outside of school hours.
--	--

Issues and Impacts for Council:

The implication of increases in this age group is ongoing demand for family oriented spaces, programs and facilities such as playgrounds. Junior sports are currently significant users of Council's sporting and recreational facilities and demand is likely to increase.



There is an anticipated increase demand on programs such as Council's Water Safety Program, with 2014 seeing the largest number of children participating in the program in its history.

Dance schools are a significant user of Council's community facilities in the after school time period.

¹⁶ id profile *City of Newcastle Population and Housing Forecasts 2011-2036* (2013)

¹⁷ ABS 4901.0 - Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities, Australia, Apr 2012

APPENDIX - DEMOGRAPHICS SOCIAL STRATEGY 2016-2019

<p>Young people - 15-24 years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2011 21,978 people¹⁸ <p>Forecasts¹⁹:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2026 25,186 people • 2036 26,561 people <p>Youth unemployment is above state average</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newcastle 12.5% • Hunter 18.5% (HRF, March 2015) • NSW 11.7%  <p>This social media savvy group relies on internet access.</p>	<p>This will be an additional 4,500+ young people in this age group in Newcastle by 2036. Continued growth is expected through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued growth in the higher education sector will attract young people to Newcastle. • Local young people who are part of the current baby boom growing up in place. <p>Adolescence (12-25 years of age) is a time of major transition and negotiation in life. Research recognises that during this important developmental stage biological, cognitive, psychological and social characteristics are defined. This life stage can be a period of high risking and habit forming behaviours which can have long-term ramifications on the health and wellbeing of young people, but also leads to a positive sense of identity and a deeper understanding of themselves and the community²⁰.</p> <p>For young people, lower levels of community participation can lead to social isolation, lack of economic opportunities and increasing disconnectedness²¹. Being unemployed or not engaged in education is a contributor to lower levels of wellbeing. This can impact on the quality of their social interactions and potentially have significant impacts on a young person's health and long-term relationships with other people as well as the community.</p> <p>In 2011, 30.8% of people were attending an educational institution. Newcastle has a significantly higher proportion of students in higher education, predominantly tertiary education with student numbers increasing (up from 28% in 2006)</p>
--	---

Issues and Impacts for Council:

The likely implication of increases in this age group is an ongoing demand for health and fitness opportunities and Council facilities eg cycleways, skate parks. This age group are increasingly engaged in the night time economy as they age and community safety awareness becomes important. The provision of digital information needs to be on a range of platforms and evolving with changing needs and methods of engagement. Council's Youth Council is also a capacity building opportunity for young people.

¹⁸ id profile *City of Newcastle Community Profile* (2013)

¹⁹ id profile *City of Newcastle Population and Housing Forecasts 2011-2036* (2013)

²⁰ Young People's Health: Our Future, NSW Health, 1999

²¹ Key Trends in State of Australian's Young People Report (2009). Especially for disadvantaged households who already have disconnected communities and families such as indigenous, non-English speaking backgrounds, those not in the labour force, and those in remote, isolated rural communities

APPENDIX - DEMOGRAPHICS SOCIAL STRATEGY 2016-2019

<p>Families 2006 36,060 families (101,110 people) 2011 37,907 families (106,102 people)</p> <p>Types of families in 2011</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Newcastle</th> <th>NSW</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Couples without children</td> <td>38.8%</td> <td>36.6%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Couples with children</td> <td>40.5%</td> <td>45.5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Single parent with children</td> <td>18.5%</td> <td>16.3%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Newcastle	NSW	Couples without children	38.8%	36.6%	Couples with children	40.5%	45.5%	Single parent with children	18.5%	16.3%	<p>In Newcastle²², the majority (59%) of family types include children.</p> <p>All household types have increased since 2006, particularly couples with children and couples without children.</p> <p>In Newcastle in 2011:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 77% of couple families with children had a weekly income of \$1,500 or more. • Low income families are vulnerable across a number of indicators and require increased access to accessible services and facilities • 51% of couple families without children had a weekly income under \$1,500. This family type is more likely to be older eg children have left the home. • 29% of all families have an annual income under \$52,000 per annum & are considered to be low income • Socioeconomic disadvantage can play a significant and negative role in the wellbeing of individuals, particularly children, and for the overall community^{23 24 25}.
	Newcastle	NSW											
Couples without children	38.8%	36.6%											
Couples with children	40.5%	45.5%											
Single parent with children	18.5%	16.3%											

Issues and Impacts for Council

Maintaining affordable access to Council services and facilities and opportunities to participate in community life will be important to maintain quality of life, particularly for middle and low income families. This includes equity of access to Council's community, cultural and recreational facilities.

²² id profile *City of Newcastle Community Profile* (2013)

²³ See for example <http://www.equalitytrust.org.uk/> and <http://www.jrf.org.uk/>

²⁴ http://www.hrf.com.au/uploads/2013_Wellbeing_Watch_Scorecard_web.pdf

²⁵ Wilkinson, R., & Pickett, K., 2009, *The Spirit Level: Why More Equal Societies Almost Always Do Better*, London, Allen Lane

APPENDIX - DEMOGRAPHICS SOCIAL STRATEGY 2016-2019

<p>Aboriginal</p> <p>2006 2.1% 3,021 people 2011 2.5% 3,745 people</p> <p>Median age 23</p> <p>Under 14 years - 32% 15 -24 years - 22% Over 65 - 4.4%</p>	<p>The Aboriginal population is increasing consistent with state and national trends.</p> <p>Of those aged over 15 with a qualification²⁶</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18.1% have a degree or post graduate qualification • 12% diploma • 46% certificate <p>In Newcastle, higher proportions of Aboriginal people were employed in the fields of Engineering, Architecture, Health, Society and Culture, Creative Arts and Food/ Hospitality and Personal Services than the NSW and Australian averages²⁷.</p>
--	--

Issues and Impacts for Council

Connection to place and community remain critically important for traditional owners (the Awabakal and Worimi people) as does a focus on *Closing the Gap* and reconciliation. Council has a focus on reconciliation actions, Aboriginal employment and Aboriginal heritage management.

<p>Multicultural</p> <p>Born overseas 2006 - 11.4% 2011 - 12.4%</p>	<p>Multicultural diversity is increasing within the LGA population with 12.4% (18,480 persons) born overseas, an increase from 2006 (11.4% or 16,092 persons).</p> <p>Key trends in the multicultural community include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ageing of the post WWII European migrants • Increasingly diverse communities, including a rise in people from a non-English speaking background • A rising number of people across the migrations streams (2006-2015, 5939 persons) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skilled 51.2% • Family 37% • Humanitarian 11.7%
--	---

Issues and Impacts for Council

Council has recently adopted a Multicultural statement committing to the principles of multiculturalism and reaffirmed its status as a refugee Welcome City. A Multicultural Plan is currently being prepared to further outline Councils role in supporting its multicultural communities through its services and activities.

²⁶ ABS, 2011, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples (Indigenous) Profile Newcastle

²⁷ ABS, 2006, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples (Indigenous) Profile Newcastle

APPENDIX - DEMOGRAPHICS SOCIAL STRATEGY 2016-2019

<p>People with a disability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 in 5 people have a disability^{28, 29} • 1 in 6 Australians are affected by hearing loss • An estimated 1 in 10 Australians of the population has dyslexia <p>In Newcastle, 7% of the population received disability support benefit (compared to NSW - 5%)</p>	<p>A disability is any condition that restricts a person's mental, sensory or mobility functions. Almost 90% of disabilities are not visible.</p> <p>The likelihood of living with disability increases with age.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 31% of 55-64 year olds are living with disability. • Almost nine in ten people aged 90 and over (88%) have a disability. <p>Intellectual disability in children is associated with the presence of intellectual and development disorders and autism spectrum disorders. In adults, it is predominantly associated with Alzheimer's disease and Dementia.</p> <p>In Australia, people aged between 15 and 64 years with disability have both lower participation (53%) and higher unemployment rates (9.4%) than people without disability (83% and 4.9% respectively).</p>
--	--

Issues and Impacts for Council

Promoting the participation and inclusion of people with disability in social and community life is a guiding principle within the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*, and a key policy within the Council of Australian Governments' *National Disability Strategy 2012-2020*.

The *NSW Disability Inclusion Act 2014* mandates that local government prepare and adopt a disability inclusion action plan by 1 July 2017. That plan must meet the requirements of s.12 of the Act and identify strategies to support people with disability, including,

- (i) providing access to buildings, events and facilities,
- (ii) providing access to information,
- (iii) accommodating the specific needs of people with disability,
- (iv) supporting employment of people with disability,
- (v) encouraging and creating opportunities for people with disability to access the full range of services and activities available in the community, and

Council will be preparing an *Access and Inclusion Plan* in 2015-2016 based on best practice principles such as the WHO *Global Age-friendly Cities guidelines*³⁰.

²⁸ <http://www.and.org.au/pages/disability-statistics>

²⁹ ABS, *Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings, 2012*

³⁰ World Health Organisation (WHO), 2007, *Global age-friendly cities : a guide* at http://www.who.int/ageing/publications/Global_age_friendly_cities_Guide_English.pdf

APPENDIX - DEMOGRAPHICS SOCIAL STRATEGY 2016-2019

HOW WE LIVE

<p>HOUSING</p> <p>2011 - 58,451 occupied private dwellings³¹</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 73.5% were separate houses • 12.1% were semi-detached, row or terrace houses, townhouses (medium density), and • 13.9% were flats, units or apartments (higher density). 	<p>The western corridor of the Newcastle LGA (west from Wallsend to the M1 freeway and LGA boundary) has had concept plan approval for 3,300 dwellings centred on Minmi. This will bring significant population growth (approximately 10,000 people) into this greenfield area, made up predominantly of family households</p> <p>Growth is notably in medium density housing with 1,056 new dwellings in 2006-2011, particularly in some local centres such as Wallsend and Mayfield. For higher density dwellings there is only an additional 100 flats, units or apartments 2006-2011</p> <p>The Newcastle urban renewal corridors (along Maitland Road, Tudor Street and Brunner Road) will see increased dwelling densities in the future</p>
---	--

Issues and Impacts for Council

The *Local Planning Strategy* provides a strategic land use planning framework to guide the future growth and development of the Newcastle local government area and underpins local planning and development guidelines.

Additional housing development will increase demand on Council infrastructure and services in all growth areas, including community facilities, parkland and recreation and waste management infrastructure.

<p>HOUSEHOLDS</p> <p>2011 58,451 households in Newcastle³²</p> <p>Single person households Newcastle 29.5% NSW 24.2% Australia 24.3%</p> <p>Family households Newcastle 63.8% NSW 71.9% Australia 71.5%</p> <p>Low income households (under \$600/wk) Newcastle 26.7% NSW 24.2% Australia 23.7%</p>	<p>Key forecast trends³³ are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of households will increase by 6,600 by 2026, with the average number of persons per household falling from 2.35 to 2.31 by 2026. • Newcastle already has a higher proportion of lone person and low income households than the State and Australian average households. There will be an increase in lone person households by 2026 (estimated to be 2,755 households) and will comprise 30.6% of all households,
---	---

³¹ id profile *City of Newcastle Community Profile* (2013)

³² id profile *City of Newcastle Community Profile* (2013)

³³ id profile *City of Newcastle Population and Housing Forecasts 2011-2036* (2013)

APPENDIX - DEMOGRAPHICS SOCIAL STRATEGY 2016-2019

<p>HOUSING STRESS</p> <p>In Newcastle Single person households 76% Single parent families 15%</p> <p>Renters 11.9% Mortgage 7.4%</p>	<p>Housing stress is considered to be when housing costs are more than 30% of household income.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Newcastle households, 11.9% of renters and 7.4% of households paying a mortgage were in housing stress (2011) • For renters, this was higher than the NSW (11.6%) and Australia (10.4%) proportions.
<p>Households in financial stress</p> <p>NSW 2015 44%³⁴ NSW 2010 37%</p>	<p>Financial stress^{35 36} has increased overall from 2010 to 2014 in NSW. The most vulnerable groups are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Households earning under \$52,000 annually. In Newcastle in 2011, this was 39.9% of all households³⁷ • Households reliant on government welfare as main source of income eg aged, people living with a disability • single parents (in Newcastle, 18.5% of families³⁸, higher than NSW 16.3% or Australian 15.9% averages) • women <p>In April, 2015³⁹ in the Hunter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About 10% of private rentals were identified that satisfied the criteria for affordability and appropriateness for people on some type of income support payment • Gosford, Newcastle, Maitland, and Port Stephens areas had no listings appropriate or affordable for single parents receiving any income support payment type • There has been relatively little change compared to previous years •

Issues and Impacts for Council

Low income households are vulnerable to housing stress and general pressure on living costs. Some groups are at higher risk of social isolation eg after retirement and aged lone person households.

Maintaining affordable access to services and facilities and opportunities to participate in community life will be important to maintain quality of life and wellbeing for low income and lone person households

³⁴ The Wesley Report: Facing financial stress, May 2015, at <http://www.wesleymission.org.au/home/our-words/the-wesley-report/facing-financial-stress/>

³⁵ Ibid

³⁶ The Salvation Army, National Economic & Social Impact Survey, 2015, *I can't continue to live like this*

³⁷ ABS, 2011, *Basic Community Profile Newcastle*

³⁸ Ibid

³⁹ Anglicare Australia, 2015, *Anglicare Australia Rental Affordability Snapshot*, Canberra (p.112) at http://www.anglicare.asn.au/site/rental_affordability_snapshot.php

APPENDIX - DEMOGRAPHICS SOCIAL STRATEGY 2016-2019

<p>HOMELESSNESS IN NEWCASTLE</p> <p>2006 450 homeless people ⁴⁰</p> <p>2011 667 homeless people⁴¹</p>	<p>There are a range of complex issues around homelessness including mental health, addiction, income levels, availability of suitable housing and life circumstances.</p> <p>The private rental market in Newcastle is increasingly unaffordable for the needs of lower income households and some single person households. Anecdotal evidence suggesting there is an increase in homelessness or risk of homelessness locally. Local Newcastle homelessness services are reporting significantly increased presentations in 2015.</p> <p>The NSW Government is the primary funder of service provision in this sector</p>
--	--

Issues and Impacts for Council

Council is not a direct or primary service provider of homelessness services. Our role is predominantly strategic advocacy and participation in "collective impact" partnerships.

Council's Section 355 Housing Management and Development Committee (BBC Committee) oversees the implementation of the BBC Demonstration Housing Program. Over the past several years the BBC Committee has successfully funded two major innovative housing projects for Newcastle to the value of \$2.6M including the *This Way Home* Project in partnership with Housing NSW in Mayfield. These projects have improved the quality of life for people that were homeless or at risk of being homeless. The BBC Committee continues to seek opportunities to deliver innovative housing outcomes in Newcastle.

⁴⁰ Hunter Regional Homelessness Action Plan 2010-2014, Housing NSW at <http://www.housing.nsw.gov.au/NR/rdonlyres/D1931E67-EDE0-4280-9317-D217929FE936/0/HunterRHAP.pdf>

⁴¹ ABS, 2011, 2049.0 Census of Population and Housing: Estimating homelessness, released 2013