

The Future Series - Article Five

Central West and Orana: driving economic diversity

This Future Series | Article Five is brought to you in collaboration with Health Project Services, and looks at what's to come for our region, all with a view to help you future proof your business.

The Central West and Orana Region is set to be a diverse regional economy with vibrant communities which are well connected to the wider world.

The Central West and Orana Regional Plan outlines a 20-year view of goals and subsequent directions for this diverse economic region to position it for growth. The focus is on vital transportation infrastructure needed to ensure efficient connectivity to Australia's eastern capital cities and international ports. The Plan acknowledges the economic drivers for 2036 are likely to also include health, aged care, education and tourism.

The make-up of the Central West and Orana Region

Central West and Orana Region comprises the Local Government Areas (LGA's) of Bathurst Regional, Blayney, Bogan, Cabonne, Coonamble, Cowra, Dubbo Regional, Forbes, Gilgandra, Lachlan, Lithgow, Mid-Western Regional, Narromine, Oberon, Orange, Parkes, Warren, Warrumbungle and Weddin.

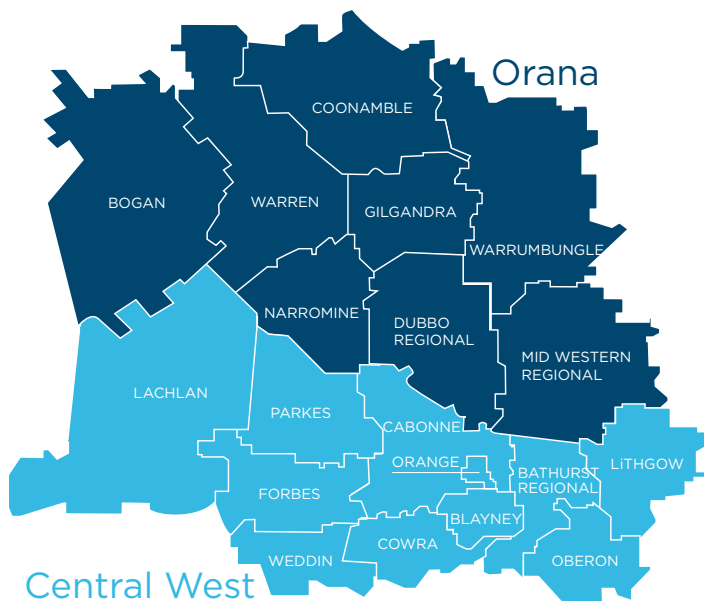


Figure 1: LGA map

Regional Infrastructure Investments

The Regional Plan acknowledges investments by the NSW Government in the region include:

- \$241.3 million for the Dubbo Base Hospital redevelopment;
- \$60 million to upgrade Mudgee Hospital;
- \$140 million towards construction of a third bridge crossing at Dubbo;
- \$28 million towards the Bells Line of Road upgrade;
- \$21 million for a five-stage potable water supply pipeline from Orange to Blayney and Carcoar Dam;
- \$17 million for a potable water pipeline from Orange to Molong Dam, and from Molong to Cumnock and Yeoval;
- \$2.5 million for the new Molong Ambulance Station; and
- establishment of Multi-Purpose Services at Molong, Coolah and Rylston.

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The Regional Plan Vision

The vision for the Regional Plan recognises the region has two diverse parts being:

- 1. Providing connection with eastern metropolitan cities.** The Regional Plan identifies the Central West's beneficial connections to Sydney, the new Western Sydney Airport and Canberra; and
- 2. Capitalising on freight and logistic infrastructure linking to national and global markets.** This will assist in achieving the goals of the Regional Plan. This will improve access to Orana's agricultural products.

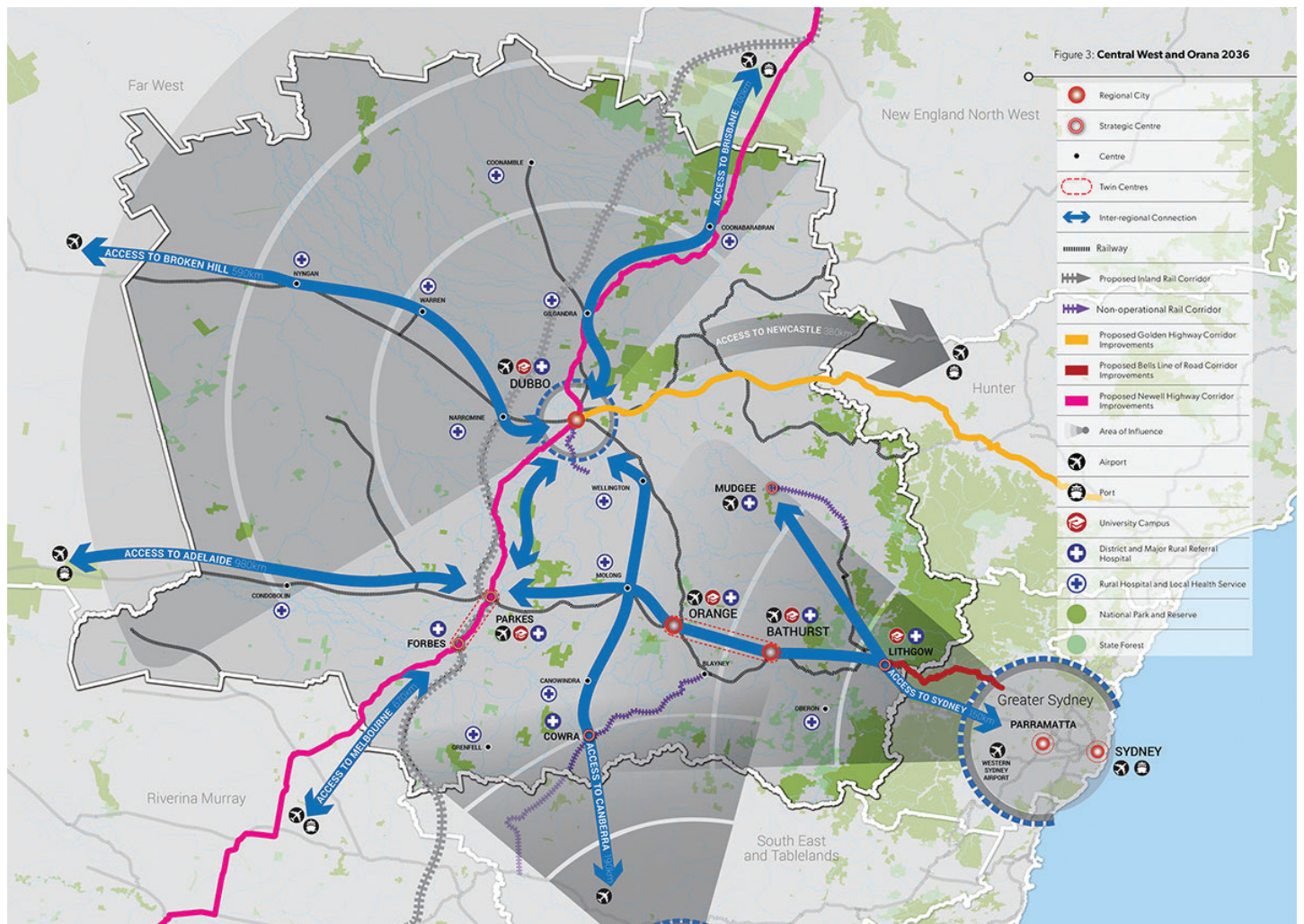


Figure 3: Central West and Orana 2036



Economic drivers of the region

The Regional Plan recognises the need to diversify and strengthen the local economies for Central West and Orana. There are five key components identified in the Regional Plan to achieve this including:

- 2. Transport and logistics:** Freight connections, major road networks and rail corridors will play an important role in improving connectivity intrastate and interstate for manufacturing, transporting livestock and agricultural produce.
- 3. Agribusiness and value-adding:** The Regional Plan aims to maximise the benefits of the diverse agricultural industries across the region which is a hub for food processing, packaging and associated industries.
- 4. Tourism:** The region predominately attracts weekend visitors from Sydney and Canberra and has seen an increase in the number of international visitors, particularly from Asia.
- 5. Mining and renewables:** In Lithgow and Mudgee, coal mining is prominent, while in other regions gold, silver and copper mining is active. There has been an increase in rare earth mining across the region including Dubbo. Renewable energy, more specifically wind energy, is concentrated around the tablelands and slopes of the Central West, while solar energy is focused in Orana.
- 6. Growing service sector** (particularly for health, aged care and education services): As regional cities and strategic centres expand from economic growth combined with an ageing demographic profile, the Regional Plan anticipates more health and education services will be required. Existing health facilities are identified in Dubbo, Orange, Bathurst, Mudgee and Parkes.

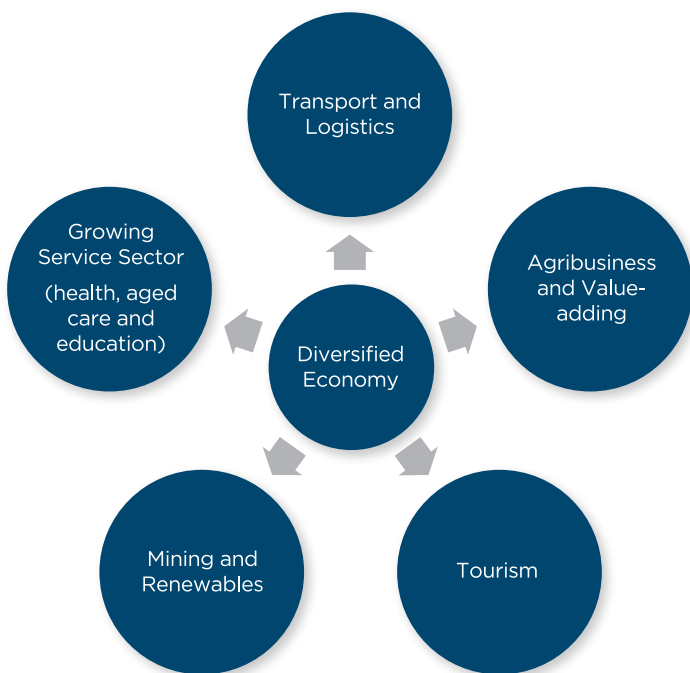


Figure 3 - Economic drivers of the Central West and Orana region

Economic opportunities of the region

The Regional Plan has identified the top three economic opportunities for each LGA within the region as shown in **Figure 4** below. The Health sector is categorised as a top three economic opportunity in the LGA's of Orange, Weddin and Bogan. Overall, across the region, the main sectors of opportunities are Agribusiness, Transport and Logistics and Tourism:

Top Three Economic Opportunities Per Local Government Area

	Agribusiness	Transport and logistics	Tourism	Manufacturing	Mining	Aged care	Health	Aviation	Technology and education
Central West									
Bathurst Regional									
Blayney									
Cabonne									
Cowra									
Forbes									
Lachlan									
Lithgow									
Oberon									
Orange									
Parkes									
Weddin									

	Agribusiness	Transport and logistics	Tourism	Manufacturing	Mining	Aged care	Health	Aviation	Technology and education
Orana									
Bogan									
Coonamble									
Dubbo Regional									
Gilgandra									
Narromine									
Mid-western Region									
Warren									
Warrumbungle									

Source: NSW Department of Planning & Environment, Central West and Orana Regional Plan - Vision

Population projections

Over the next two decades, the total population of Central West and Orana region is forecast to grow by a total of 8.2% (average annual growth rate of 0.4%) to reach approximately 309,000 people by 2036.

The majority of population growth is expected to occur in:

- Bathurst Regional LGA – a total increase of 12,000 people
- Orange LGA – a total increase of 7,150 people
- Dubbo Regional LGA – a total increase of 5,550 people

The majority of population decline is expected to occur in:

- Cowra LGA – a total decrease of 1,450 people
- Lachlan LGA – a total decrease of 1,300 people
- Warrumbungle LGA – a total decrease of 1,100 people

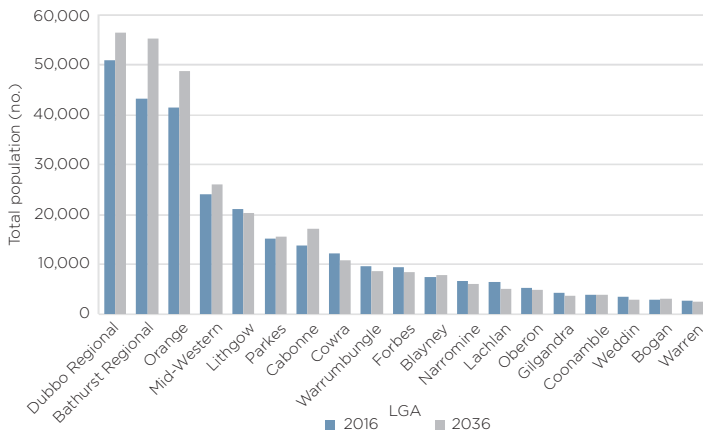


Figure 5 – Population projections by selected LGA, 2016-2036

Source: NSW Department of Planning and Environment, 2016 NSW and LGA Household Projections and Implied Dwelling Requirements 2016 to 2036, NSW Government, Sydney.

The population movements in this region is forecast to gravitate towards the regional cities of Dubbo, Bathurst and Orange, often at the expense of smaller towns. Aged care services will be in high demand with over 25% of the population expected to be aged over 65.

Regional Plan Goals

The Regional Plan comprises four overarching goals to achieve during this timeframe which are stated as:

- Goal 1** – The most diverse regional economy in NSW
- Goal 2** – A stronger healthier environment and diverse heritage
- Goal 3** – Quality freight transport and infrastructure networks
- Goal 4** – Dynamic vibrant and healthy communities

Goal 1 – The most diverse regional economy in NSW

The NSW Government recognise the agriculture, manufacturing and mining industries play a significant economic role, however future growth opportunities will come from the health, education and tourism industries. Emerging opportunities are identified for food production and packaging, aged care and related services, renewable energy and niche tourism. The top five industries by economic contribution are shown in **Figure 6**.

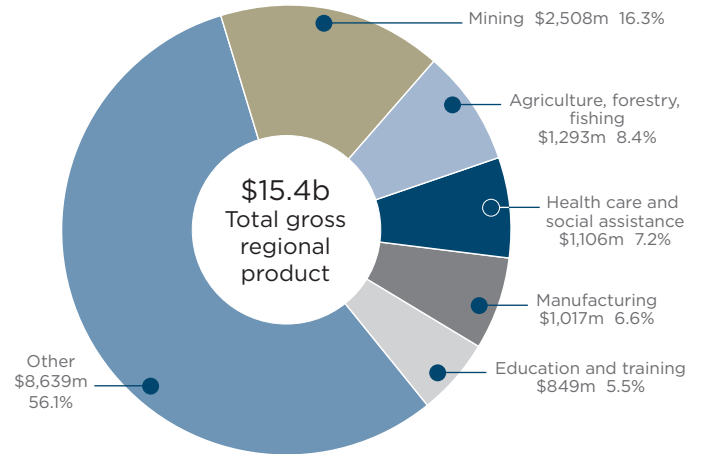


Figure 6 – Top five industries by economic contribution, 2011

Source: NSW Department of Planning & Environment, Central West and Orana Regional Plan – Goal 1

The Regional Plan has 12 Directions to help fulfil this goal which are stipulated as:

- **Direction 1:** Protect the region’s diverse and productive agricultural land
- **Direction 2:** Grow the agribusiness sector and supply chains
- **Direction 3:** Develop advanced manufacturing and food processing sectors
- **Direction 4:** Promote and diversify regional tourism markets
- **Direction 5:** Improve access to health and aged care services
 - Greater demand for higher order and specialist medical services and tailored community-based healthcare facilities such as Multi-Purpose Services and e-health initiatives.
 - The Plan identifies opportunities for supportive health services around existing health facilities in Bathurst, Dubbo, Mudgee, Orange and Parkes.
 - Technology usage will improve connectivity and accessibility for residents in smaller or more remote locations.

- The actions for this direction are stated as:

5.1 Establish health precincts around hospitals in regional cities and strategic centres.

5.2 Promote mixed-use facilities and research and accommodation precincts for the health and aged care service sectors.

5.3 Facilitate the development of multipurpose, flexible and adaptable health and education infrastructure.

5.4 Minimise the encroachment of inappropriate and incompatible land uses near existing and proposed health facilities.

- Direction 6:** Expand education and training opportunities
- Direction 7:** Enhance the economic self-determination of Aboriginal communities
- Direction 8:** Sustainably manage mineral resources
- Direction 9:** Increase renewable energy generation
- Direction 10:** Promote business and industrial activities in employment lands
- Direction 11:** Sustainably manage water resources for economic opportunities
- Direction 12:** Plan for greater land use compatibility

The expanded Direction 5 in this goal highlights planned government investments in medical precincts across key cities within the region. These precincts aim to provide a greater range of services and support further development of new medical practices. They will also develop infrastructure to improve transport and technology to support residents in remote locations.

Goal 2 – A stronger, healthier environment and diverse heritage

The Regional Plan wants to maintain and strengthen the natural environment across the Central West and Orana region. The region's natural assets are expected to attract more visitors which may generate job growth and boost the local economy. Major tourism assets recognised by The Regional Plan are shown below.

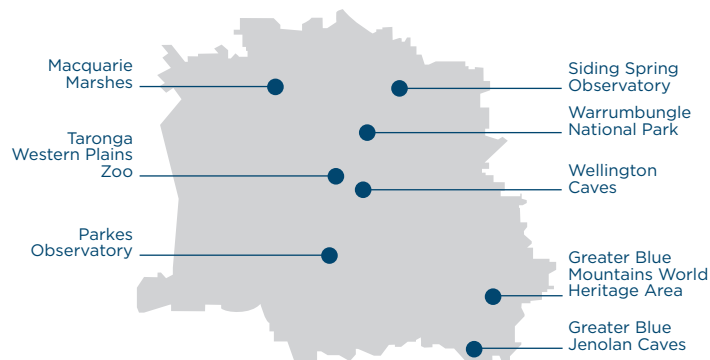


Figure 7 – Environmental tourism assets

Source: NSW Department of Planning & Environment, Central West and Orana Regional Plan – Goal 2

The Regional Plan has five Directions to help fulfil this goal which are stipulated as:

- Direction 13:** Protect and manage environmental assets
- Direction 14:** Manage and conserve water resources for the environment
- Direction 15:** Increase resilience to natural hazards and climate change
- Direction 16:** Respect and protect Aboriginal heritage assets
- Direction 17:** Conserve and adaptively re-use heritage assets

Goal 3 – Quality freight transport and infrastructure networks

Freight and transport networks connect the region to Sydney, Newcastle, Wollongong, Brisbane, Melbourne, Broken Hill and Adelaide with hubs located at Dubbo, Parkes and Gilgandra. According to The Regional Plan, Central West and Orana predominately exports meat (beef and lamb), grain, cotton, raw minerals and metals, manufactured foods, beverages and other value-add produce. These sectors provide jobs and require a strong transport network to supply external markets.

The NSW Government acknowledge improved efficiency and reduced costs are important to help the region increase freight volumes.

The Regional Plan has four Directions to help fulfil this goal which are stipulated as:

- Direction 18:** Improve freight connections to markets and global gateways
- Direction 19:** Enhance road and rail freight links
- Direction 20:** Enhance access to air travel and public transport
- Direction 21:** Coordinate utility infrastructure investment

Veterinary services for treating livestock will continue to be in demand across the region. Farmers will be looking for ways to reduce costs and increase output from their livestock and also establish ethical and efficient practices in the freight of livestock across Australia and overseas.

Goal 4 - Dynamic, vibrant and healthy communities

As local economies emerge or expand over the next 20 years, this will impact population migration. The Regional Plan anticipates population growth to settle in larger urban centres being:

- **Central West:** Orange, Bathurst, Mudgee, Parkes, Lithgow.
- **Orana:** Dubbo (catchment population over 120,000)

In contrast, smaller areas are expected to see little or no growth and may in some cases witness a decline in population. Over the next two decades, household composition is forecast to see higher growth in Couple Only and Single Person households.

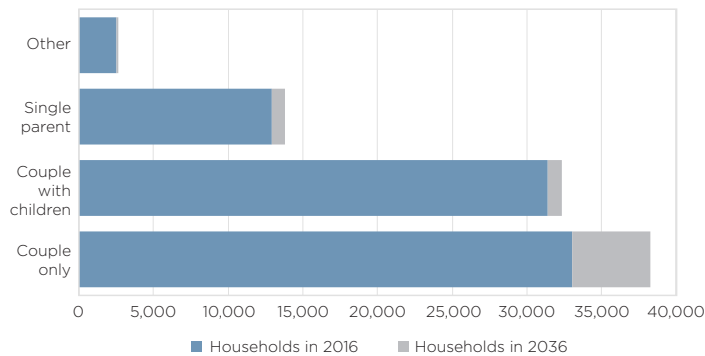


Figure 7 - Environmental tourism assets

Source: NSW Department of Planning & Environment, Central West and Orana Regional Plan - Goal 2

The Regional Plan has eight Directions to help fulfil this goal which are stipulated as:

- **Direction 22:** Manage growth and change in regional cities and strategic and local centres.
 - Actions are stated as:
 - 22.1 Coordinate infrastructure delivery across residential and industrial land in regional cities and strategic centres.

- 22.2 Reinforce the role, function and relationship between regional cities and strategic centres in local housing strategies.
- 22.3 Improve transport in regional cities and strategic centres, and their connections with regional communities.

- **Direction 23:** Build the resilience of towns and villages.
- **Direction 24:** Collaborate and partner with Aboriginal communities.
- **Direction 25:** Increase housing diversity and choice.
 - Growing need for more medium density dwellings consisting of one and two bedrooms to cater to changing demographics and provide more affordable housing.
 - New supply will be supported near town centres and villages with access to infrastructure and services.
 - Social housing is highest in Orange, Dubbo, Bathurst and Lithgow. Social housing estates existing at East Dubbo, Kelso in Bathurst and Bowen and Glenroi in Orange.
 - Actions are stated as:
 - 25.1 Prepare local housing strategies that increase housing choice, including affordable housing options.
 - 25.2 Increase housing choice in regional cities and strategic centres at locations near or accessible to services and job.
 - 25.3 Align infrastructure planning with new land release areas to provide adequate and timely infrastructure.
 - 25.4 Locate higher density development close to town centres to capitalise on existing infrastructure and increase housing choice.
 - 25.5 Promote incentives to encourage greater housing affordability including a greater mix of housing in new release areas.
 - 25.6 Prepare guidelines for local housing strategies to address local affordable housing needs.
 - 25.7 Work with councils to appropriately plan for future social and affordable housing needs.

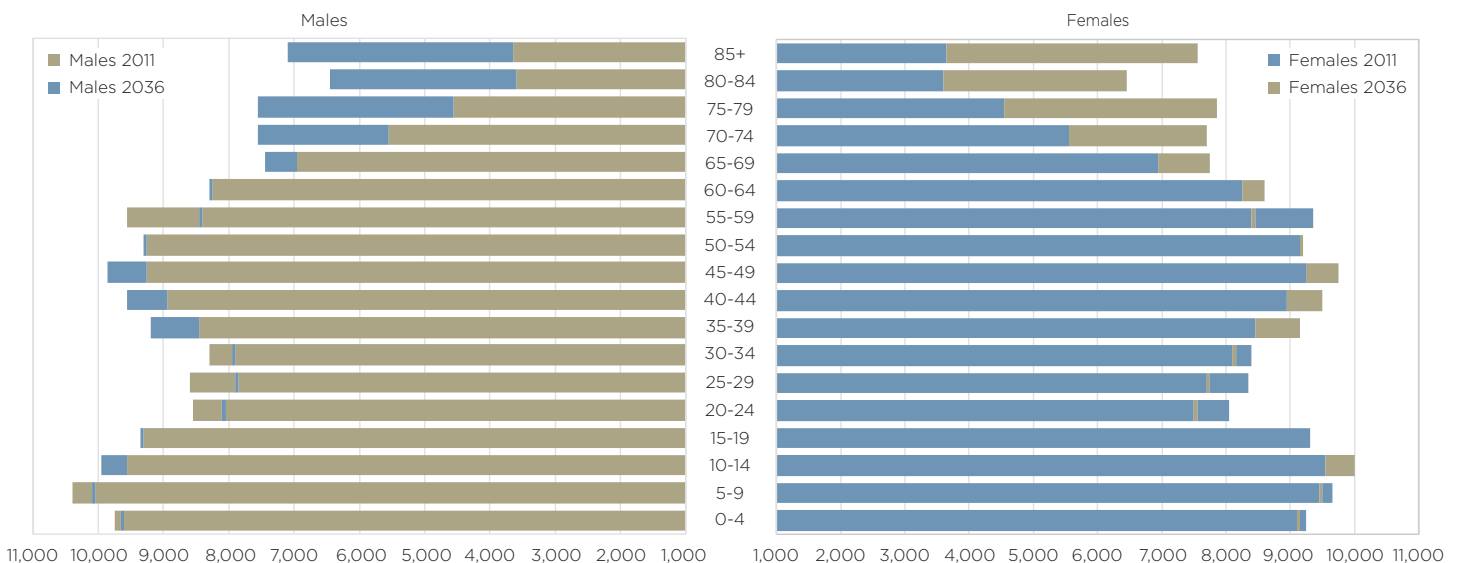


Figure 9 - Population pyramid 2016-2036

Source: NSW Department of Planning and Environment, 2016 NSW and LGA Population Projections

- **Direction 26:** Increase housing choice for seniors.
 - The region is currently experiencing a shortage of suitable housing options for the ageing population. The LGA's most affected will be Gilgandra, Weddin, Cowra, Oberon and Lithgow, with forecasts predicting people aged 65 years and over will account for more than 30% of the population.
- Housing strategies will seek to find a balance of diverse accommodation types for older people including retirement villages, nursing homes and potential to modify existing dwellings.
- Actions are stated as:
 - 26.1 Promote ageing-in-place by adopting elements of *Liveable Housing Australia's Liveable Housing Design Guidelines* in development controls for housing, where possible.
 - 26.2 Promote opportunities for retirement villages, nursing homes and other senior's housing in local housing strategies.
 - 26.3 Remove planning barriers to provide a range of low-care and independent seniors' accommodation options in appropriate locations.
 - 26.4 Review *State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing for Seniors or People with a Disability) 2004* to make it more applicable to private developers in regional areas.
 - 26.5 Locate new housing for seniors close to existing services and facilities, and on land free from hazards.
 - 26.6 Work with Councils to investigate the demand for senior's housing and to identify barriers to providing low-care and independent senior's accommodations.
 - 26.7 Work with Gilgandra Shire Council to produce a case study on Cooee Lodge Retirement Village to guide other councils developing aged care accommodation
- **Direction 27:** Deliver a range of accommodation options for seasonal, itinerant and mining workforces.
- **Direction 28:** Manage rural residential development.
- **Direction 29:** Deliver health-built environments and better urban design.

Local Government Area Profiles

The Regional Plan has determined priorities for each LGA within the Central West and Orana region which are stipulated as:

Bathurst Regional

- Support the delivery of residential release areas and increase the range of housing options in existing urban areas.
- Support the development of a nationally recognised automotive industry hub at Mount Panorama including the development of Velocity Park Raceway and associated infrastructure and facilities.
- Promote Bathurst as a centre of excellence for technology and education.
- Recognise and enhance cultural, heritage, rural and environmental values.

Blayney

- Residential land release areas include Millthorpe and Blayney.
- Economy supported by mining, manufacturing and agricultural sectors.
- Continue to revitalise Blayney's main street and central business district.
- Continue to grow the mining, agribusiness, transport and logistics sectors and associated businesses.
- Investigate the development of a regionally significant intensified agricultural precinct for agribusinesses, leveraging existing strategic advantages and future infrastructure.
- Leverage Blayney's strategic advantages including its proximity to Bathurst, Orange, Cowra, Canberra and Sydney; the existence of major utility services; and access to transport, warehousing and freight facilities.
- Continue to grow the renewable energy industry sector.
- Leverage opportunities from the Local Government Area's rural character to support diverse industries such as tourism.

Bogan

- Economy supported by mining and agricultural sectors.
- Maintain and further develop Nyngan's main street as an attractive destination for local shopping and services, while enhancing and retaining its character.
- Deliver effective local health services through Council-owned facilities and the Nyngan Multi-Purpose Health Centre.
- Maintain and enhance local and regional road networks to support agriculture, mining and tourism and to give local residents safe and efficient access to services and facilities in Nyngan.
- Ensure water security through infrastructure projects including off-line storage.
- Support and develop the local economy, including agriculture and mining, leveraging the Local Government Area's strategic location.
- Promote and support a variety of tourism opportunities particularly for older or retired tourists.

Cabonne

- Economy supported by mining, manufacturing and agricultural sectors.
- Maintain and enhance the economic diversity of Cabonne's towns, villages and commercial centres.
 - Support villages to attract appropriate development.
- Support the mining and agribusiness sectors and associated businesses through land use planning policies.
- Protect agricultural land from encroachment from residential development.
- Support the connectivity of the local, regional and state transport network.
- Leverage opportunities from the Local Government Area's rural character to diversify the economy in areas such as tourism.

Coonamble

- Economy mainly supported by agricultural sector.
- Support existing settlements.
- Preserve the main street and central business district of Coonamble.
- Support the agribusiness sector, including value-add manufacturing, transport and logistics, and associated businesses.
- Leverage opportunities from the Local Government Area's rural character to support diverse industries such as tourism
- Protect and enhance Coonamble's cultural and historic character.
- Support the provision and continued development of major regional sports, recreation and cultural events and facilities
- Protect important agricultural land from encroachment from residential development.

Cowra

- Economy mainly supported by agricultural sector.
- Support the growing agricultural sector by promoting innovation and technological advancement.
- Enhance Cowra's existing transport connections, specifically the re-opening of the Blayney-Demondrille rail line, the upgrade of Lachlan Valley Way to support the transport network to Canberra and the east coast via the Hume Highway; and the Cowra town centre.
- Promote and support the sustainable growth of Cowra's health sector.
- Continue the development of Cowra Airport as a centre for aviation-related industry and services.

Dubbo Regional

- Diverse economy supported by health care and social assistance, public administration and safety, construction, manufacturing, retail, agriculture, transport and warehousing, and finance.
- Establish the regional city of Dubbo as a centre of excellence for health care, social assistance and community services to support people within and beyond the region.

- Support the growth and development of Dubbo as a mining services centre for the Orana and Western NSW.
- Plan for the infrastructure needs of an expanding population including the Newell, Mitchell and Golden highways and their relationship with continued economic development.
- Continue to grow tertiary education offerings to attract young people, while supporting established sectors in professional, government and retail services.
- Support the growing tourism industry in Dubbo and Wellington to create diverse and sustainable businesses that provide local jobs, and to recognise unique tourist assets.
- Continue to grow and develop agribusiness, transport and logistics and recognise the importance of these sectors to the regional, state and national economy.
- Ensure housing is affordable and a variety of housing types are available to the broader community, including seniors and people with a disability.
- Maintain the health of the Macquarie and Bell rivers and recognise their importance to the natural environment and tourism.
- Continue to protect agricultural land from encroachment from residential development.
- Support the ongoing growth and development of Dubbo Regional Airport.

Forbes

- Diverse economy supported by agricultural, manufacturing and health care sectors.
- Attract investment in value-adding manufacturing industries.
- Enhance the agriculture sector with improved transport links and value-added production.
- Encourage the development of employment generating rural and agricultural industries.
- Maintain and grow agricultural, livestock and meat processing industries.
- Promote Forbes District Hospital as a regional medical training facility.
- Protect important agricultural land from residential development encroachment.
- Attract tourism-related development, capitalising on Forbes's natural and built character.

Gilgandra

- Support the existing settlements of Gilgandra and Tooraweenah.
- Grow the agribusiness sector through value-add and diversification opportunities to increase local jobs.
- Leverage opportunities from the area's rural character to support value-adding industries, tourism and energy generation.
- Support the provision and continued development of major regional sports, recreation and cultural events and facilities.
- Support the development of transport and logistics sectors and associated businesses to maximise Gilgandra's location at the junction of the Newell, Oxley and Castlereagh highways.

Lachlan

- Support existing settlements as the focus for new development.
- Support the primacy of the main streets of Condobolin and Lake Cargelligo.
- Support the agribusiness, transport and logistics sectors and associated businesses.
 - Develop the Lachlan Valley Way and local road links to support regional transport from Griffith and Hillston to Tottenham and Narromine, to link with the Newell Highway at Gilgandra.
- Develop a regional road transport support node at Condobolin.
- Identify and develop the Shire's mining potential and protect resources while planning for long-term social and utility growth.
- Protect and enhance the natural environment.
- Support the provision and continued development of major regional sports, recreation and cultural facilities.
- Protect important agricultural land from encroachment from residential development

Lithgow

- Diverse economy supported by mining, health care and social assistance, public administration and safety, construction, manufacturing and retail.
- Maintain the primacy of Lithgow's main street and central business district.
- Develop transport and freight connections that capitalise on Lithgow's proximity to Sydney.
- Leverage opportunities from the Local Government Area's location and rural character to support diverse industries such as tourism.

Mid-Western Regional

- Support appropriately located and serviced land for residential development.
- Support the mining and resources sector and associated businesses.
- Leverage opportunities from the Local Government Area's location and rural character to support the established food and tourism market.
- Protect agricultural land from encroachment from residential development.
- Support the provision and continued development of major regional sports, recreation and cultural facilities.

Narromine

- Promote Narromine as a recreational aviation and gliding hub, encouraging aviation-related development around Narromine Aerodrome.
- Continue to invest in health care and education to support a steady urban and rural population.
- Identify and protect regionally significant agricultural land, including commercial irrigated crops and horticulture.
- Provide for strategically located employment lands and support the development of value-added agricultural industries.

Oberon

- Support the forestry and agricultural sectors and associated businesses.
- Leverage locational opportunities to support freight and logistics industries.
- Leverage cool climate opportunities to support eco-tourism and food tourism.

Orange

- Capitalise on Orange's character, lifestyle and heritage to enhance tourism and attract new residents.
- Leverage Orange's rural character to support diverse industries such as value-added manufacturing and food tourism.
- Support the growing healthcare sector and related industries in the health precinct at Bloomfield around Orange Health Service.
- Plan for industrial land and protect industrial areas from incompatible land uses.
- Support the delivery of new homes in residential release areas, including North Orange and Shiralee, and increase the range of housing options in existing urban areas.

Parkes

- Economy supported by agriculture, mining, transport and logistics and retail sector.
- Develop Parkes as a National Logistics Hub, with supporting infrastructure including roads, rail and air linking Parkes to capital cities and ports.
- Develop Parkes Regional Airport as an air freight hub.
- Work with the Australian Government and local councils as the Melbourne to Brisbane Inland Rail progresses.
- Ensure adequate supply of residential, industrial and commercial land.
- Diversify the local economy by supporting new industry development and opportunities in agriculture, value-added manufacturing and the mining and resources sector.
- Improve telecommunications infrastructure, including high-speed internet connectivity.
- Facilitate the growth of local communities through cultural and socially supportive infrastructure.
- Develop and support the visitor economy and implement the objectives of the Destination Management Plan.

Warren

- Protect and maintain the integrity of agricultural land.
- Encourage economic growth by supporting agriculture and other associated industries.
- Support the primacy of Warren's main street and central business district to retain its role as a functional, attractive town and service centre for other villages.
- Expand value-added manufacturing and encourage businesses to locate in the Local Government Area.
- Leverage opportunities from the Local Government Area's location and rural character to support diverse industries such as ecotourism and facilities for visitors.
- Provide facilities, services and housing options to support diverse community needs, including for seniors.

Warrumbungle

- Encourage economic growth by supporting agriculture and other emerging industries such as value-add manufacturing and freight-related opportunities.
- Support the primacy of the main street and central business district in Coonabarabran and other towns.
- Support the agricultural sector and associated businesses in each locality.
- Continue to support and protect the Siding Spring Observatory from incompatible development.
- Support tourism opportunities, specifically for nature-based tourism, in the Warrumbungle and Coolah Tops national parks.
- Protect agricultural land and rural industries from residential development encroachment.

Weddin

- Support the primacy of the Grenfell main street and central business district.
- Enhance tourism by developing Weddin's built and social heritage environment.
- Continue to deliver a high standard of health and community services, facilities and infrastructure to residents and visitors.
- Support agriculture, including broadacre cropping and grazing, and agribusiness diversification.
- Leverage opportunities to support freight and logistics industries.
- Leverage opportunities from agricultural production through value-added manufacturing and associated industries.
- Protect important agricultural land from inappropriate development encroachment.

2036: The Vision for Health Services

For General Practitioners: Supportive health services will be established around existing regional health precincts in Bathurst, Dubbo, Mudgee, Orange and Parkes. These areas are also forecast to have the highest population growth for the region, opening opportunities for GPs to service the growing population in these cities. Aged care will be in high demand across the region, with the population over 65 set to comprise 25% of the population. Aged care opportunities look highest in Bathurst, Dubbo and Orange LGA's. There will also be a focus on improving indigenous health.

For Dentist Practitioners: Bathurst and Orange LGA's have the highest growth of children under 14 years of age as well as the highest proportion of couples with children. These areas are likely to present the best opportunities for family-focused dentists. Some smaller LGA's such as Cabonne have smaller growth but may present opportunities for families not wanting to travel to regional centres for dental care.

For Veterinary Professionals: Agriculture and livestock are a top three economic driver in all LGA's except for Lithgow, Oberon & Orange. Veterinary professionals will have ample opportunities to work with farmers particularly in species of cows and sheep. Regional cities of Bathurst, Orange and Dubbo will present the biggest growth in domestic pet adoption, where growth in young families will be the highest.

In Conclusion

Supporting the change in economic drivers is the primary focus of the Central West and Orana Regional Plan. Traditional agriculture, mining transport and logistics is set to combine with tourism, health and education to make this region one of the most economically diverse in NSW. Population growth will be more centralised around the regional cities identified as Bathurst, Dubbo and Orange. The NSW Government are investing heavily in transport, health precincts and housing in these cities to cater for this, with a focus on aged care which will make up a quarter of the population in 2036.



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1. NSW Department of Planning & Environment, Illawarra-Shoalhaven Regional Plan - Vision
2. NSW Department of Planning & Environment, Illawarra-Shoalhaven Regional Plan - Introduction
3. NSW Department of Planning & Environment, Illawarra-Shoalhaven Regional Plan
4. NSW Department of Planning & Environment, Illawarra-Shoalhaven Regional Plan - Goal 2 - A Variety of housing choices with homes that meet needs and lifestyles

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	Bathurst Regional LGA	Blayney LGA	Bogan LGA	Cabonne LGA	Coonamble LGA	Cowra LGA	Dubbo Regional LGA*	Forbes LGA	Gilgandra LGA	Lachlan LGA	Greater Sydney GCCSA	NSW
Population Projections												
2016	43,300	7,450	2,950	13,850	4,050	12,350	51,050	9,400	4,450	6,450	4,681,950	7,748,000
2021	46,500	7,600	3,000	14,750	4,000	12,100	52,750	9,300	4,350	6,200	5,106,300	8,297,500
2026	49,550	7,750	3,000	15,600	4,000	11,750	54,300	9,100	4,200	5,850	5,537,850	8,844,700
2031	52,500	7,900	3,050	16,400	4,000	11,350	55,550	8,850	4,050	5,550	5,975,550	9,386,850
2036	55,250	8,000	3,100	17,200	4,000	10,900	56,600	8,550	3,850	5,150	6,421,850	9,925,550
Total population increase	11,950	550	150	3,350	-50	-1,450	5,550	-850	-600	-1,300	1,739,900	2,177,550
Average annual growth rate	1.4%	0.4%	0.3%	1.2%	-0.1%	-0.6%	0.5%	-0.5%	-0.7%	-1.0%	1.9%	1.4%
Age Structure (as at 2016) - Proportion of total population												
0 to 14 years old	19.7%	20.7%	20.5%	21.6%	20.5%	17.4%	20.7%	20.3%	18.6%	21.9%	18.7%	18.7%
65 years old and older	16.4%	18.6%	19.7%	19.9%	19.8%	24.9%	16.6%	21.8%	23.6%	20.4%	13.9%	13.9%
Median age	37	42	40	43	43	47	37	42	45	40	36	36
Household Structure (as at 2016)												
Total no. families	10,136	1,926	662	5,697	910	3,291	12,621	2,414	1,107	1,549	1,247,047	1,940,226
Couple family without children	38.3%	41.6%	42.2%	41.9%	41.4%	46.2%	38.4%	44.4%	46.2%	42.4%	33.4%	36.6%
Couple family with children	42.5%	41.8%	40.3%	45.2%	31.9%	35.4%	40.2%	37.1%	33.2%	38.3%	49.5%	45.7%
Single parent	17.9%	15.4%	16.0%	11.9%	24.6%	16.5%	19.6%	16.9%	18.3%	17.6%	15.2%	16.0%
Other family household	1.3%	1.1%	1.5%	1.0%	2.1%	2.0%	1.7%	1.7%	2.3%	1.7%	1.8%	1.7%
Total no. occupied dwellings	14,429	2,645	964	4,682	1,358	4,803	17,471	3,503	1,585	2,204	1,623,868	1,940,226
Family household	68.9%	71.6%	67.5%	74.0%	65.2%	67.1%	70.6%	68.1%	68.6%	69.2%	73.6%	72.0%
Single person household	27.0%	26.7%	30.5%	24.4%	31.9%	30.8%	26.4%	29.6%	29.2%	29.3%	21.6%	23.8%
Group household	4.1%	1.7%	2.0%	1.6%	2.9%	2.1%	3.1%	2.3%	2.1%	1.5%	4.7%	4.2%
Average children per family	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.9
Household Structure (as at 2016)												
Median weekly household income	\$1,310	\$1,227	\$1,155	\$1,301	\$976	\$959	\$1,272	\$1,069	\$998	\$1,034	\$1,750	\$1,486
Median monthly mortgage repayments	\$1,670	\$1,500	\$1,083	\$1,517	\$867	\$1,148	\$1,500	\$1,148	\$1,083	\$900	\$2,167	\$1,986
Population Projections 0-14 years old												
2016	8,550	1,650	700	3,000	900	2,200	10,850	1,900	850	1,350	889,900	1,462,800
2021	8,900	1,650	700	3,200	900	2,050	11,150	1,850	850	1,200	988,150	1,577,400
2026	9,250	1,750	650	3,350	900	1,950	11,150	1,750	750	1,200	1,072,800	1,672,700
2031	9,700	1,750	650	3,450	900	1,800	11,150	1,700	750	1,050	1,137,550	1,743,800
2036	10,050	1,750	650	3,600	900	1,700	11,100	1,600	650	950	1,193,600	1,801,050
Population Projections 65 years and over												
2016	6,750	1,400	550	2,700	800	3,050	8,400	2,100	1,050	1,350	631,850	1,240,650
2021	8,150	1,500	600	2,950	800	3,300	9,650	2,300	1,100	1,400	742,850	1,440,200
2026	9,600	1,700	650	3,350	950	3,450	11,100	2,400	1,200	1,450	870,150	1,665,500
2031	10,950	1,800	700	3,800	1,000	3,550	12,350	2,500	1,250	1,450	999,850	1,877,350
2036	12,150	1,900	750	4,150	1,000	3,650	13,300	2,550	1,200	1,450	1,129,200	2,072,650

*formerly Western Plains Regional Council

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing 2016, Cat No. 2001.0 and NSW Department of Planning and Environment, 2016 NSW and LGA Household Projections and Implied Dwelling Requirements 2016 to 2036, NSW Government, Sydney.

	Lithgow LGA	Mid-Western Regional LGA	Narromine LGA	Oberon LGA	Orange LGA	Parkes LGA	Warren LGA	Warrumbungle LGA	Weddin LGA	Greater Sydney GCCSA	NSW
Population Projections											
2016	21,100	24,050	6,800	5,250	41,600	15,250	2,800	9,750	3,600	4,681,950	7,748,000
2021	21,150	24,700	6,700	5,200	43,600	15,450	2,750	9,550	3,500	5,106,300	8,297,500
2026	21,100	25,250	6,600	5,150	45,450	15,600	2,700	9,300	3,350	5,537,850	8,844,700
2031	20,850	25,700	6,400	5,050	47,200	15,700	2,650	9,000	3,200	5,975,550	9,386,850
2036	20,450	26,000	6,200	4,900	48,750	15,700	2,650	8,650	3,050	6,421,850	9,925,550
Total population increase	-650	1,950	-600	-350	7,150	450	-150	-1,100	-550	1,739,900	2,177,550
Average annual growth rate	-0.2%	0.4%	-0.4%	-0.3%	0.9%	0.1%	-0.3%	-0.6%	-0.8%	1.9%	1.4%
Age Structure (as at 2016) - Proportion of total population											
0 to 14 years old	17.0%	20.4%	21.4%	17.5%	21.2%	20.2%	21.1%	17.9%	16.8%	18.7%	18.7%
65 years old and older	22.0%	19.7%	21.1%	22.1%	16.7%	19.8%	20.8%	26.1%	28.8%	13.9%	13.9%
Median age	45	42	42	45	37	41	43	49	51	36	36
Household Structure (as at 2016)											
Total no. families	5,215	6,077	1,640	1,345	10,227	3,671	676	2,371	951	1,247,047	1,940,226
Couple family without children	42.2%	42.3%	41.8%	46.9%	38.2%	40.2%	45.9%	49.4%	53.0%	33.4%	36.6%
Couple family with children	37.2%	40.9%	36.8%	37.5%	41.9%	39.7%	37.0%	32.7%	33.6%	49.5%	45.7%
Single parent	19.3%	15.5%	19.5%	15.3%	18.8%	18.7%	16.1%	16.3%	11.9%	15.2%	16.0%
Other family household	1.3%	1.3%	1.9%	0.4%	1.2%	1.4%	1.0%	1.6%	1.5%	1.8%	1.7%
Total no. occupied dwellings	7,859	8,760	2,311	1,877	14,736	5,286	1,003	3,524	1,446	1,623,868	1,940,226
Family household	65.0%	68.3%	69.7%	70.4%	68.2%	68.2%	66.6%	66.5%	65.0%	73.6%	72.0%
Single person household	32.6%	28.9%	28.2%	27.3%	28.6%	29.8%	31.4%	31.4%	32.4%	21.6%	23.8%
Group household	2.4%	2.8%	2.1%	2.3%	3.2%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.5%	4.7%	4.2%
Average children per family	1.8	1.9	2.0	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.9
Household Structure (as at 2016)											
Median weekly household income	\$984	\$1,131	\$1,078	\$1,239	\$1,295	\$1,088	\$1,104	\$878	\$904	\$1,750	\$1,486
Median monthly mortgage repayments	\$1,387	\$1,690	\$1,100	\$1,452	\$1,629	\$1,300	\$899	\$923	\$910	\$2,167	\$1,986
Population Projections 0-14 years old											
2016	3,750	4,650	1,550	950	8,800	3,300	600	1,950	600	889,900	1,462,800
2021	3,650	4,700	1,450	900	9,150	3,350	550	1,900	600	988,150	1,577,400
2026	3,450	4,700	1,350	900	9,200	3,300	550	1,850	600	1,072,800	1,672,700
2031	3,250	4,700	1,350	850	9,400	3,250	550	1,750	600	1,137,550	1,743,800
2036	3,100	4,650	1,200	750	9,550	3,250	500	1,650	600	1,193,600	1,801,050
Population Projections 65 years and over											
2016	4,500	4,800	1,300	1,050	6,650	2,800	550	2,350	1,000	631,850	1,240,650
2021	5,100	5,450	1,500	1,300	7,650	3,100	600	2,450	1,000	742,850	1,440,200
2026	5,750	6,050	1,650	1,400	8,800	3,450	700	2,550	1,050	870,150	1,665,500
2031	6,350	6,550	1,700	1,550	9,800	3,750	700	2,550	1,000	999,850	1,877,350
2036	6,550	7,100	1,700	1,600	10,700	4,000	750	2,550	950	1,129,200	2,072,650