



Population and settlement

Chapter 2

Australia's major cities continue to experience strong population growth. Of the 2,915,607 people added to the population between 2001 and 2010, major cities absorbed 81 per cent (ABS 2011a). This growth has been the result of significant migration from other countries as well as from natural increase. In some cities growth has been largely a product of internal migration of Australia's resident population, which is one of the world's most mobile.

Summary indicators

Dimension	Indicators
Population	Population growth 2001 to 2010 Components of population growth Internal migration and population distribution Population projections for major regional cities
Demographic change	Projected population age profiles to 2027
Household composition	Projected number of persons in household type 2006 to 2031
Housing diversity	Average number of bedrooms per dwelling and number of persons per household 1994-95 to 2007-08
Urban settlement	Population density Proportion of population living at various distances from the CBD
Dwelling stock	Building approvals by dwelling type 2010-11

Key findings

- Australia's population has grown by three million in the past decade. The contribution of international migration to this growth has varied over time and has declined in 2010 to 52 per cent, down from a peak in 2008 of 67.6 per cent.
- The overwhelming majority of migrants settle initially in capital cities, particularly Sydney and Melbourne. They are generally highly mobile in the years immediately after arrival and more likely to move interstate than the general population. Within five years their movement patterns are similar to internal migration trends of the general population.
- International migrants are settling in Sydney at a slightly higher rate than Sydney residents are leaving.
- Melbourne is also a destination for many international migrants but the city is losing fewer internal migrants and consequently is growing more rapidly than Sydney.

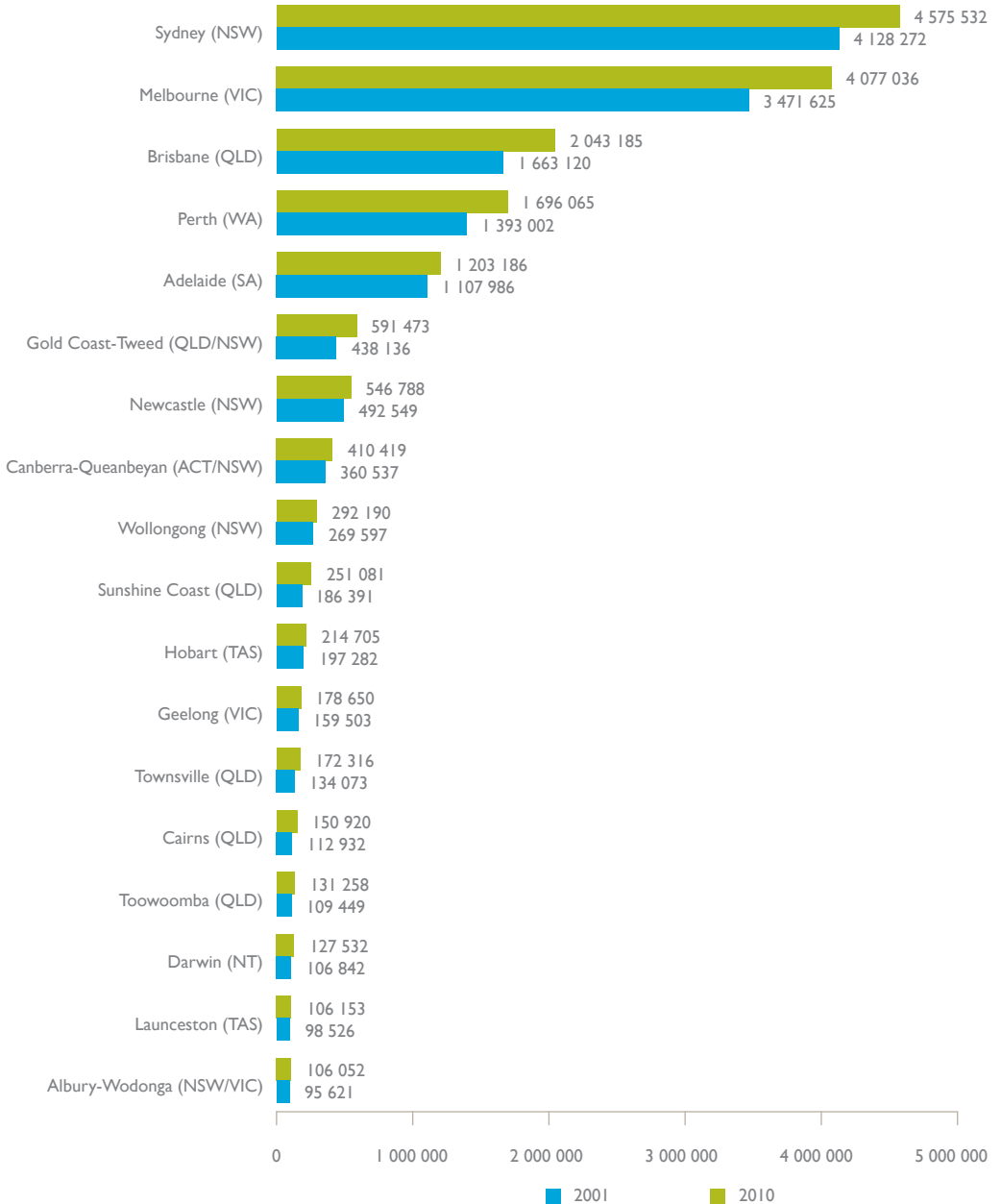
- The destination for many internal migrants exiting Sydney and Melbourne was Perth and Brisbane and surrounding regions. Alongside the established trend of older Australians moving away from cities, a similar trend is evident among younger Australians and higher-skilled people moving to near-city and coastal regional areas, with housing affordability and less congestion reported as possible reasons.
- The central local government areas of Perth, Melbourne and Sydney all experienced rapid growth as the CBD and surrounding areas were redeveloped with higher-density housing. This trend was most pronounced in the City of Sydney, which added 52,530 residents and was a significant share of Sydney's population growth (11.7 per cent) in the period 2001 to 2010.
- The outer suburbs of capital cities continue to accommodate much of the population growth. However, Sydney has a much higher proportion of infill developments than other capital cities.

Population growth

Between 2001 and December 2010 Australia's population grew by 2,915,607 people (ABS 2011a), with 81 per cent of this growth occurring in the 18 major cities. The distribution of this growth, both in numbers and in the rate of growth, varied considerably between the cities (Figure 2.1).

The biggest absolute increase was in Melbourne where the population grew by 605,411. The four largest capital cities, Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth together accounted for almost 60 per cent of the national population growth from 2001 to 2010, despite substantial migration from these cities to other cities and regions (Hugo and Harris 2011).

Figure 2.1 Population in major cities, 2001 and 2010



Source: ABS 2011a

Components of population growth

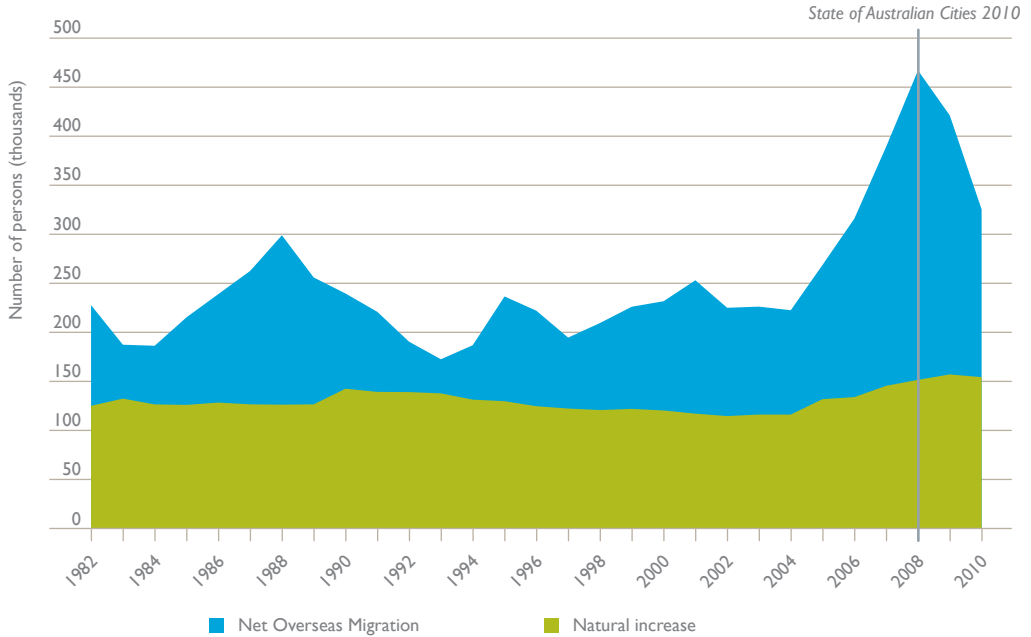
The three main components of population growth in cities are: net overseas migration, natural increase (births less deaths) and internal migration (population movement between locations). This report update adds to the data on overseas migration and explores internal migration in more detail, drawing on two recent reports: *Spatial trends in Australian population growth and movement* by the Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics (BITRE 2011a), and *Population Distribution Effects of Migration in Australia* (Hugo and Harris 2011) published by the University of Adelaide for the Department of Immigration and Citizenship.

Net overseas migration

As noted in *State of Australian Cities 2010*, the majority of population growth since 2001 was attributable to net overseas migration. Over the post-war period net overseas migration has been responsible for about half of Australia's population growth. It has also been a primary source of urban growth with the vast majority of migrants, particularly those from non-English speaking countries, settling in our major cities.

There has been considerable fluctuation over time in growth from overseas migration (BITRE 2011a). In 2008, net overseas migration accounted for more than two thirds (67.6 per cent) of population growth for the year, whereas in 2010 the contribution had dropped to close to half (52.6 per cent) as shown in Figure 2.2.

It should be noted, however, ABS changed the definition when calculating net overseas migration, from September 2006 onwards, to include those persons who stay in the country for 12 months in a 16-month period. The spike in Net Overseas Migration in about 2008 was largely attributable to a strong increase in arrivals of long-term temporary residents (in particular international students) without a corresponding increase in departures. The change in methodology and definition used by the ABS had a small impact on the data.

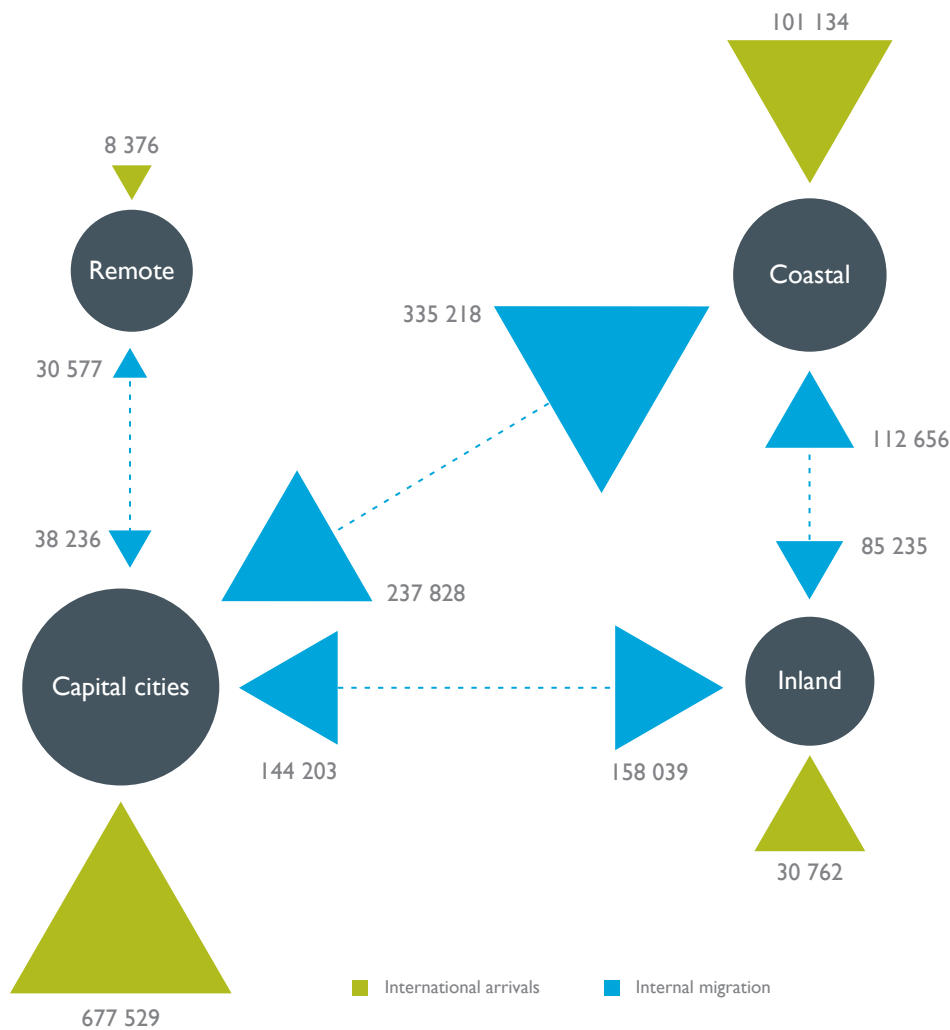
Figure 2.2 Components of Australian population growth, 1982 to 2010

Source: ABS 2010a

Internal migration

Australia has a highly mobile population. More than 40 per cent of the population had a different permanent address at the 2006 census to the one they had five years previously, with 1.69 million people shifting between statistical divisions, and 747,000 people moving interstate (Hugo and Harris 2011). Figure 2.3 shows the overall picture of international and internal migration flows for Australia over this period.

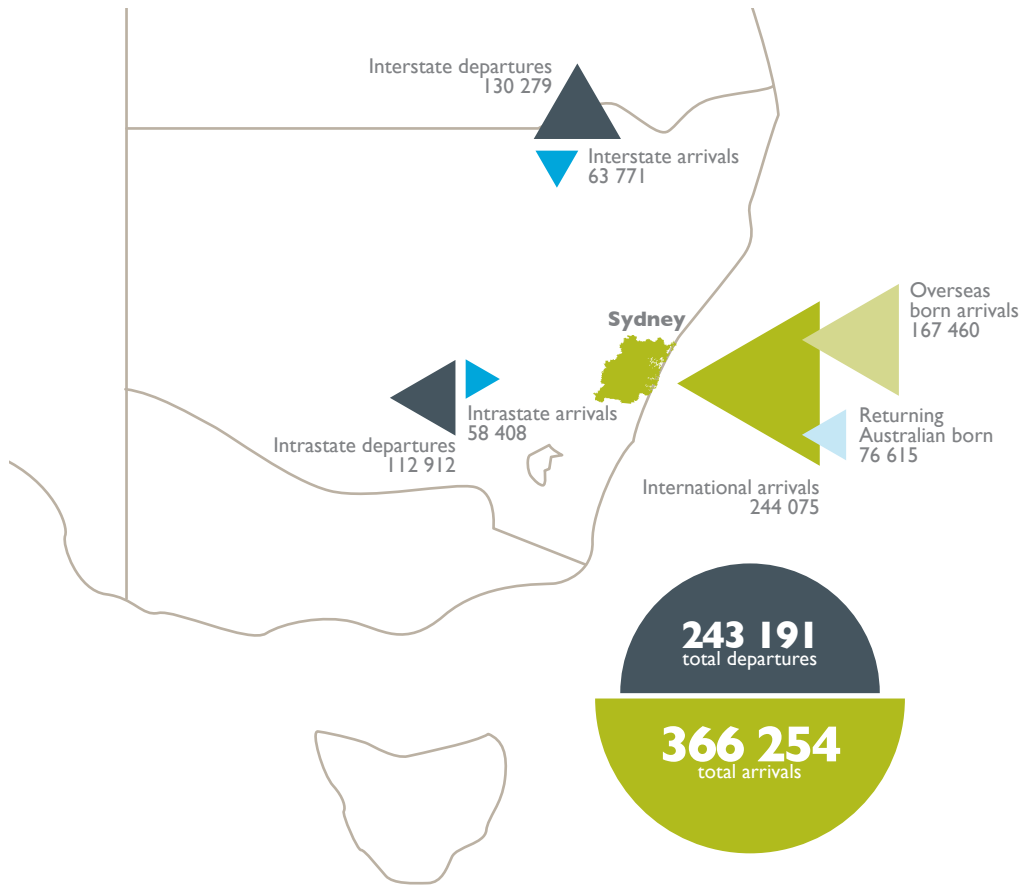
Figure 2.3 The pattern of total internal and international migration, Australia 2001-2006



Source: BITRE 2011a

There has also been substantial internal migration from capital cities to non-capital cities and regional areas (Hugo and Harris 2011). Census data from 2001 and 2006 shows that five of the eight capital cities experienced net internal migration losses. Sydney recorded the largest loss of 121,000 people. This was more than compensated for by international migration as shown in Figure 2.4. By comparison the losses in the other capital city statistical divisions were much smaller – 19,000 in Melbourne, 9,600 in Adelaide, 2,000 in Darwin and 460 in Canberra.

Figure 2.4 Migration profile of Sydney, between 2001 and 2006

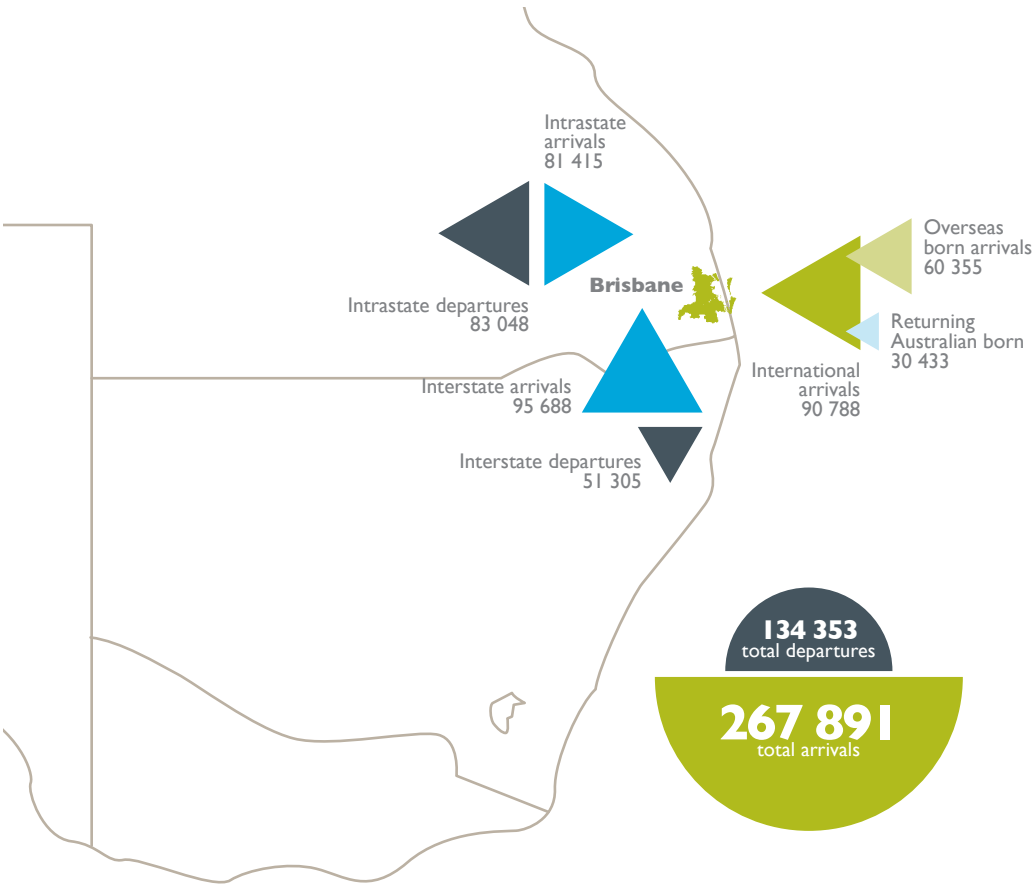


Source: Adapted from Hugo and Harris 2011

The reasons for people leaving Sydney are complex. High property prices and congestion are reported as likely major causes for the net migration loss, (Hugo and Harris, 2011), yet these issues are not experienced by Sydney alone. Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth experienced considerable housing affordability constraints and all figured prominently in recent years in 'most expensive places to live' lists (refer to Chapter 5).

There is considerable variance in the internal migration patterns experienced by large Australian cities. For example, Brisbane had the largest net internal migration, where arrivals exceeded losses by 42,750 people. Figure 2.5 explains the full migration profile for Brisbane. Smaller net internal migration gains occurred in Perth (3,300 people) and Hobart (2,400 people).

Figure 2.5 Migration profile for Brisbane, between 2001 and 2006



Source: Adapted from Hugo and Harris 2011

The general trend of migration to coastal and nearby areas, first observed in the 1970s, continues to escalate with significant net migration gains being recorded. This trend is particularly apparent in the South East Queensland area, with Brisbane, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, and Wide Bay–Burnett the top four destinations for Australians, receiving more than twice as many net internal migrants than the next six.

There is evidence (Hugo and Harris, 2011) that recent migrants, those arriving between 1996 and 2001, were most mobile during their first months and years in Australia, with 44,240 recent migrants moving over the 2001–06 period. After this, they then tended to follow similar internal migration patterns to the general population.

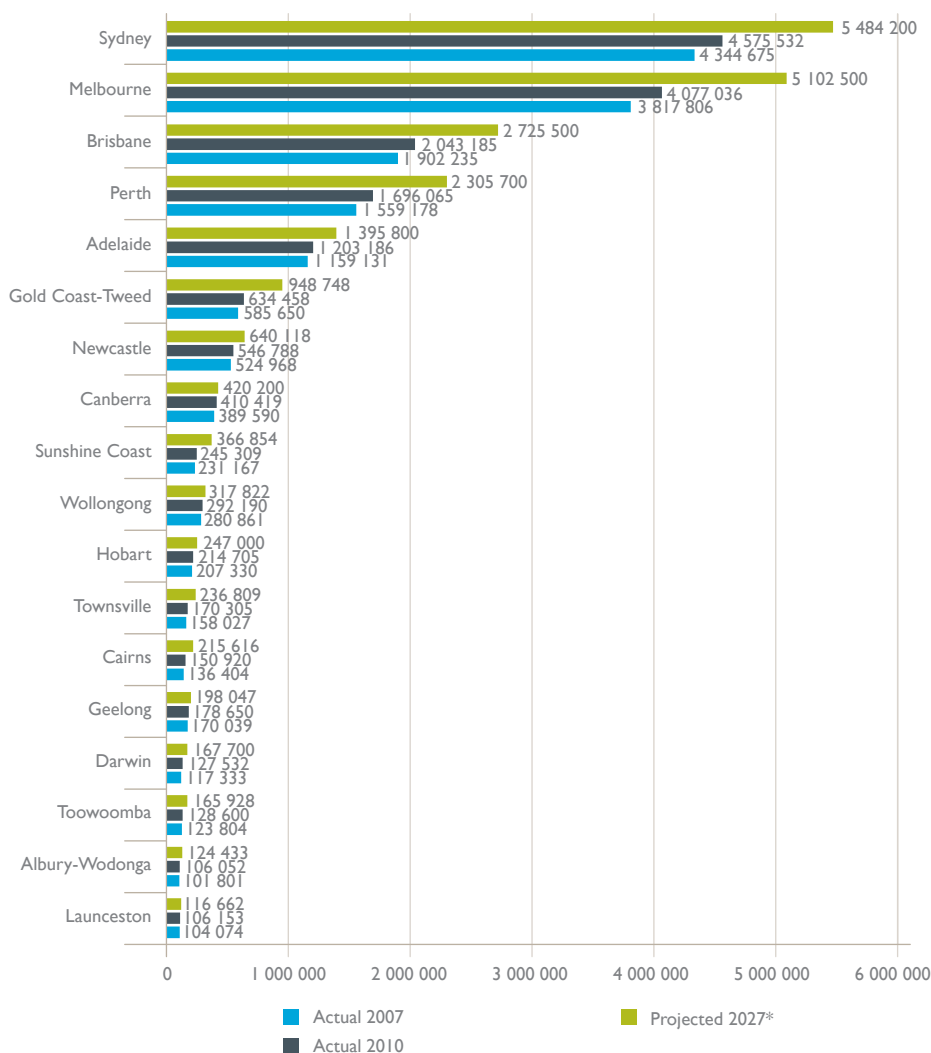
Sydney experienced a significantly higher net migration loss than other centres of 4,642 recent migrants between the 2001 and 2006 Census. Where recent migrants differ from the rest of the population is that they are more likely to move to other cities interstate, than to nearby city or coastal areas.

Population Projections

State of Australian Cities 2010 provided a summary of existing national population projections for capital cities. This report provides projections and analyses for all 18 major cities.

In 2007, the Australian Bureau of Statistics undertook unofficial population projections to the year 2027. These projections are presented alongside actual estimated resident populations in 2007 and 2010 for major cities in Figure 2.6.

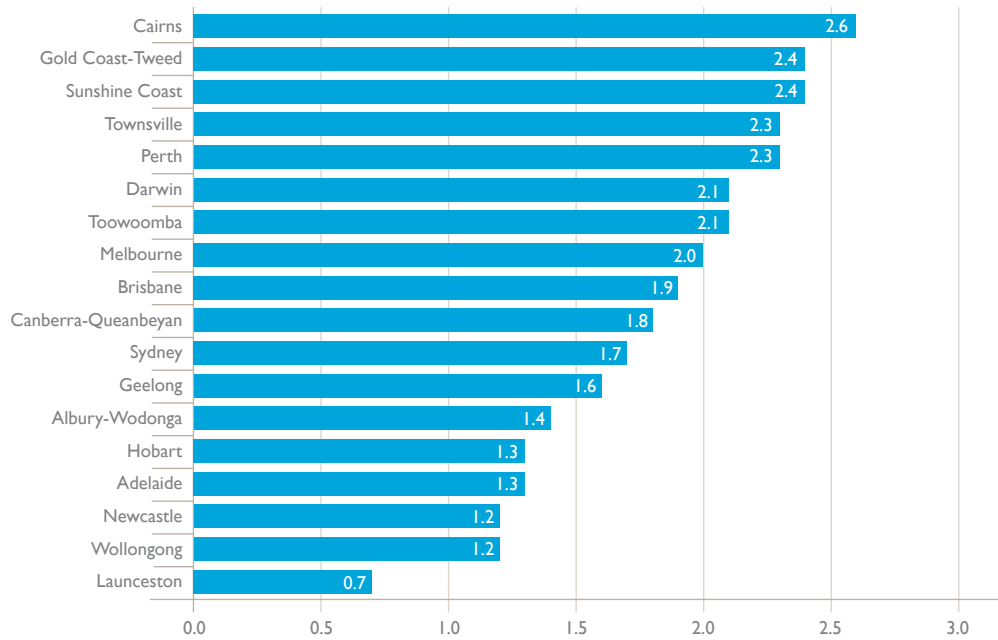
Figure 2.6 Major cities population projections to 2027 and estimated residential populations in 2007 and 2010



Source: BITRE analysis of ABS 2011a and population projections prepared by ABS for the Department of Health and Ageing, 2008

Some cities with smaller populations are experiencing higher percentage growth than the larger capitals. Figure 2.7 demonstrates that between 2009 and 2010, Cairns experienced the highest percentage growth of the major cities at 2.6 per cent. Launceston experienced the lowest percentage growth over the same period.

Figure 2.7 City population growth 2009-2010



Source: Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2009-10 (cat. no. 3218.0)

Demographic change

Australian cities will face significant intergenerational challenges resulting from the ageing of the population. Currently the most significant component of government spending relates to social security and welfare, with around one-third going to the aged, families with children, the sick and disabled, veterans, carers and income support payments. (2011-12 Budget Papers). Treasury projections show that the number of traditional working age people to support each retiree is expected to fall from five people today to 2.7 people in 2049-50. In 1970, there were 7.5 working age people for each person aged over 65 years (The Treasury, 2010). As a consequence, there will be relatively fewer people of working age to support an increasing number of older Australians.

Population ageing

State of Australian Cities 2010 highlighted the fact that population ageing is occurring at different rates in different cities. This update uses population projections to explore how these differences are expected to play out in the cities of Wollongong, Albury-Wodonga and the Gold Coast–Tweed.

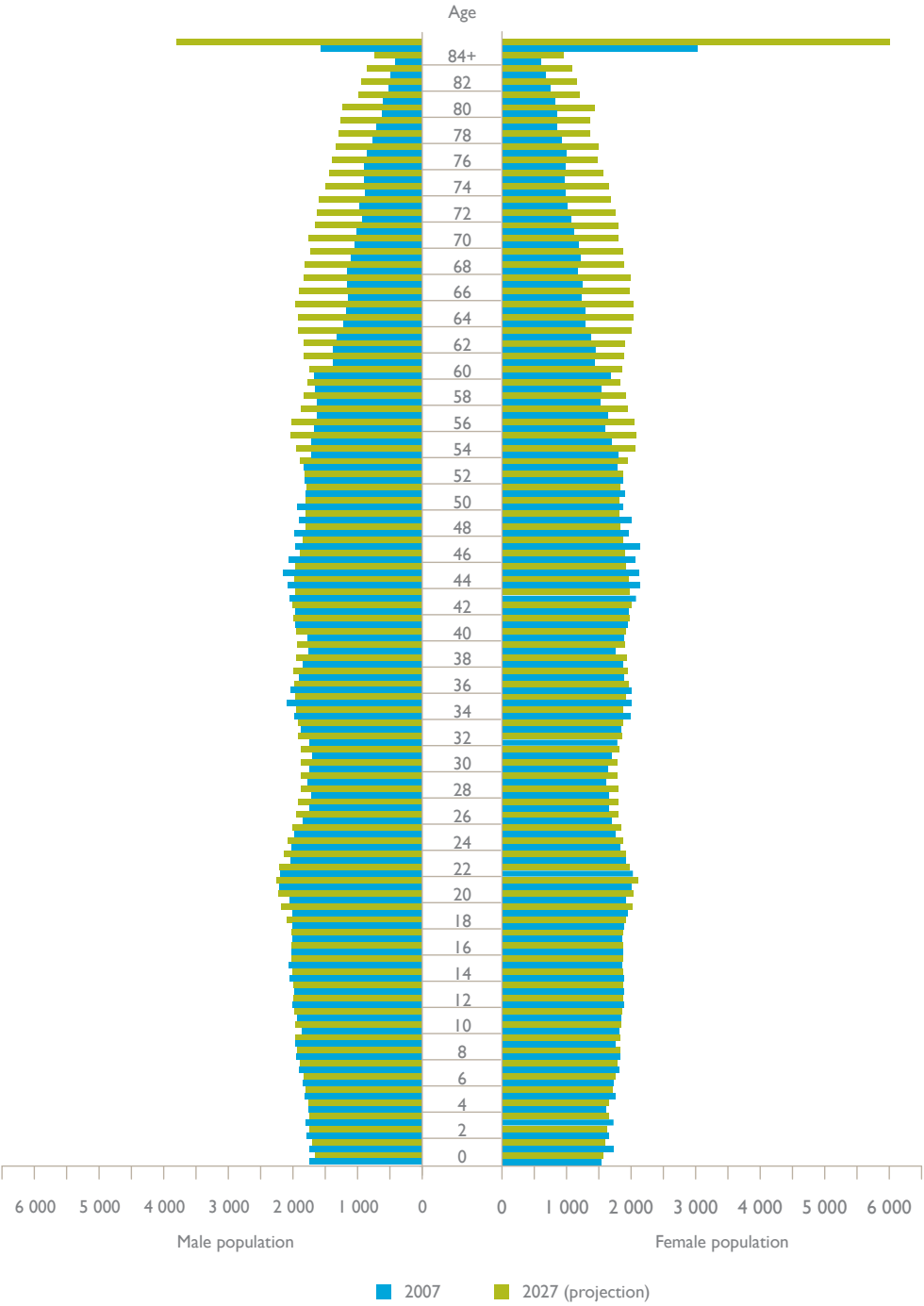
A decline in traditional manufacturing and blue-collar industries in Wollongong over the last 25 years has seen the region experience consistently higher unemployment rates than the New South Wales average (ABS 2007). A dip in the 23 to 36-year-old cohort shown in Figure 2.8 indicates that many younger people are leaving the region to seek employment opportunities elsewhere. The decline in the 23 to 36-year-old cohort is also reflected in the projected decline in young children who will be living in the city by 2027. The outflow of young people in a population that experienced rapid post-war growth and a corresponding decline in the birth rate has meant that 16 per cent of Wollongong's population is now over 65 years old, in contrast to the New South Wales average of 14.1 per cent (ABS 2011).

The age profile of Albury-Wodonga has a similar hollowing out of the 23 to 36-year-old cohort. As Figure 2.9 shows, Albury-Wodonga will have a more even spread of population by 2027 than in 2007. Despite this, the city will still have a substantial increase in the population aged over 52 years by 2027.

The reason for this is that while Albury-Wodonga has a comparatively higher unemployment rate of 6.9 per cent compared to the national average of 5.3 per cent (DEEWR 2011), the city has a relatively even spread of employment opportunities across the industry sectors of retail, construction, property and business services, health and community services and education. This means that it attracts people from surrounding areas where agriculture is the major, and declining, source of employment. Importantly, there is also a relatively even proportion of people employed as professionals, tradespeople, managers and clerical and service workers in the city, suggesting that there are a range of career paths for younger people who choose to stay in the city. There are also a range of tertiary education opportunities in Albury-Wodonga. This may account for the projections showing little decline in the population aged 16 to 22 years, the age at which many people, particularly women, leave regional centres to seek tertiary education and employment opportunities in larger cities.

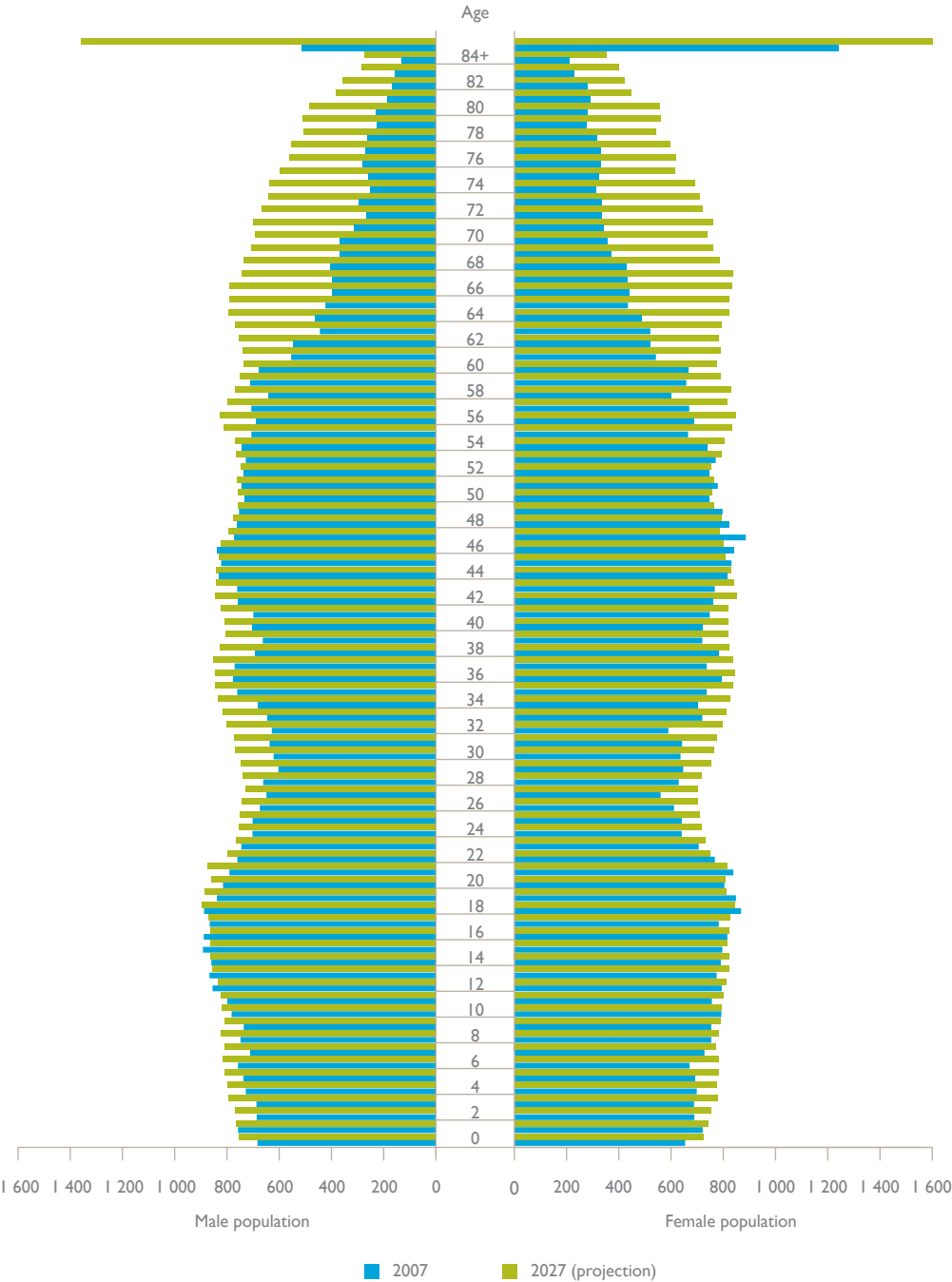
In contrast to Wollongong and Albury-Wodonga, the age profile of the Gold Coast–Tweed largely mirrors the Australian average. Despite a popular misconception that the Gold Coast–Tweed area is predominantly a place where people retire to, Figure 2.10 shows that there is only a slightly higher proportion of people above 60 years of age. People across all age groups have been moving to the Gold Coast–Tweed. The population shift to the area is reflected in a relatively even spread in the age profile. Substantial future population increase is projected to occur across all age groups with a slightly higher proportion of children.

Figure 2.8 Wollongong age profile 2007 and projected population 2027



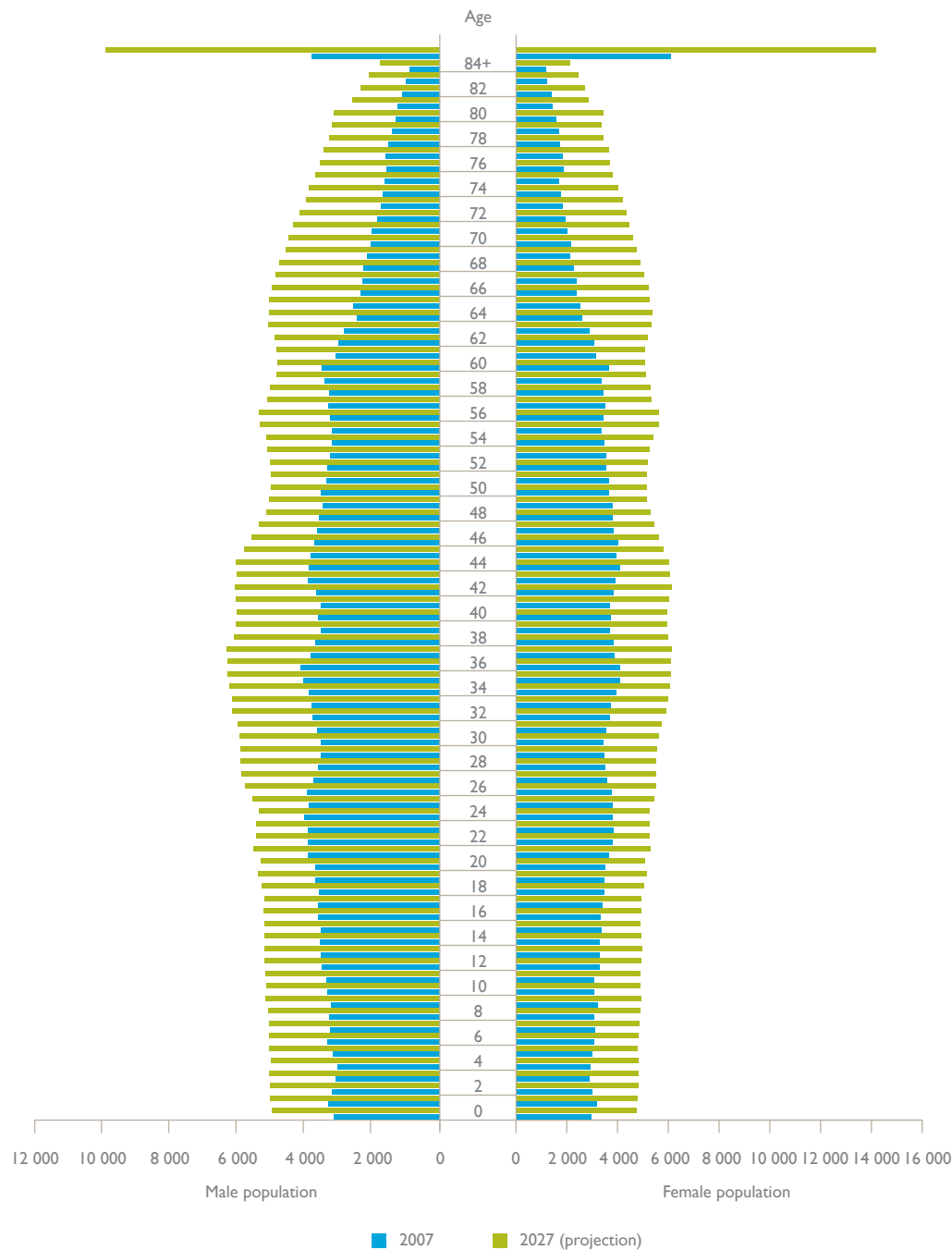
Source: Regional Population Growth, Australia for 2007 and 2027 (preliminary figures); *Population projections prepared by ABS for the Department of Health and Ageing (2009).

Figure 2.9 Albury-Wodonga age profile 2007 and projected population 2027



Source: Regional Population Growth, Australia for 2007 and 2027 (preliminary figures); *Population projections prepared by ABS for the Department of Health and Ageing (2009).

Figure 2.10 Gold Coast–Tweed age profile 2007 and projected population 2027

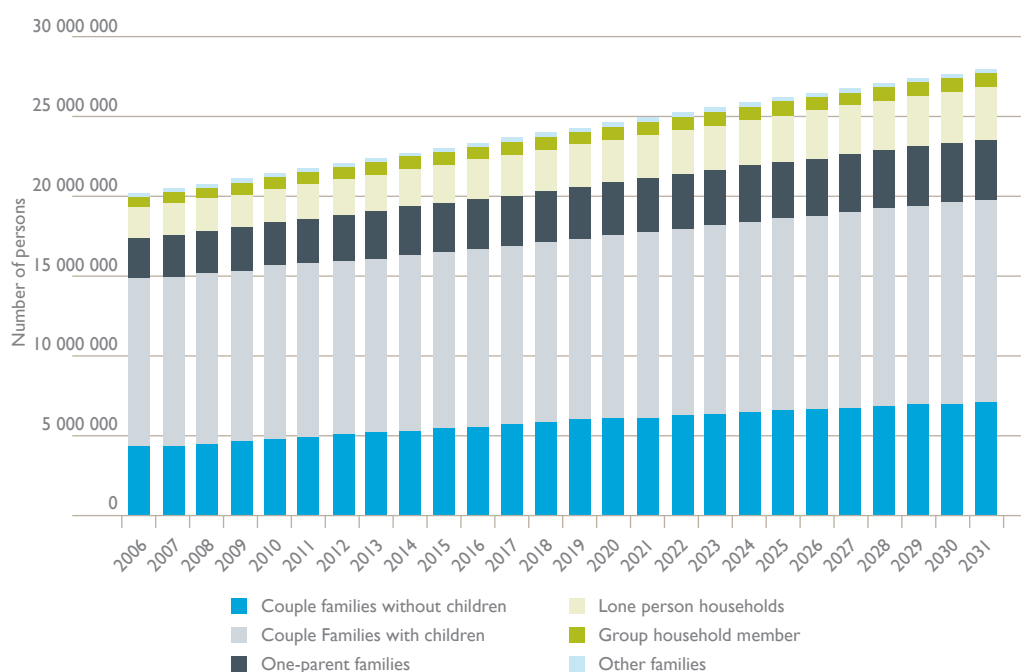


Source: Regional Population Growth, Australia for 2007 and 2027 (preliminary figures); *Population projections prepared by ABS for the Department of Health and Ageing (2009).

Household and family projections

The Australian Bureau of Statistics recently updated its household and family projections based on the 2006 Census (ABS 2010). Using the same 'medium growth' scenario as applied in *State of Australian Cities 2010*, the household projections show that the fastest growing type is the lone person household. In 2006 the proportion of lone person households in Australia was 24 per cent and is projected to grow to 28 per cent by 2031. This equates to an increase of 1,359,255 lone person households from 1,860,042 in 2006 to 3,219,297 in 2031, shown in Figure 2.11. The increase in the number of lone person households will be highest in the largest capitals, Sydney and Melbourne, but the rate of growth will be equally as high in Perth and Brisbane, as illustrated in Figure 2.12.

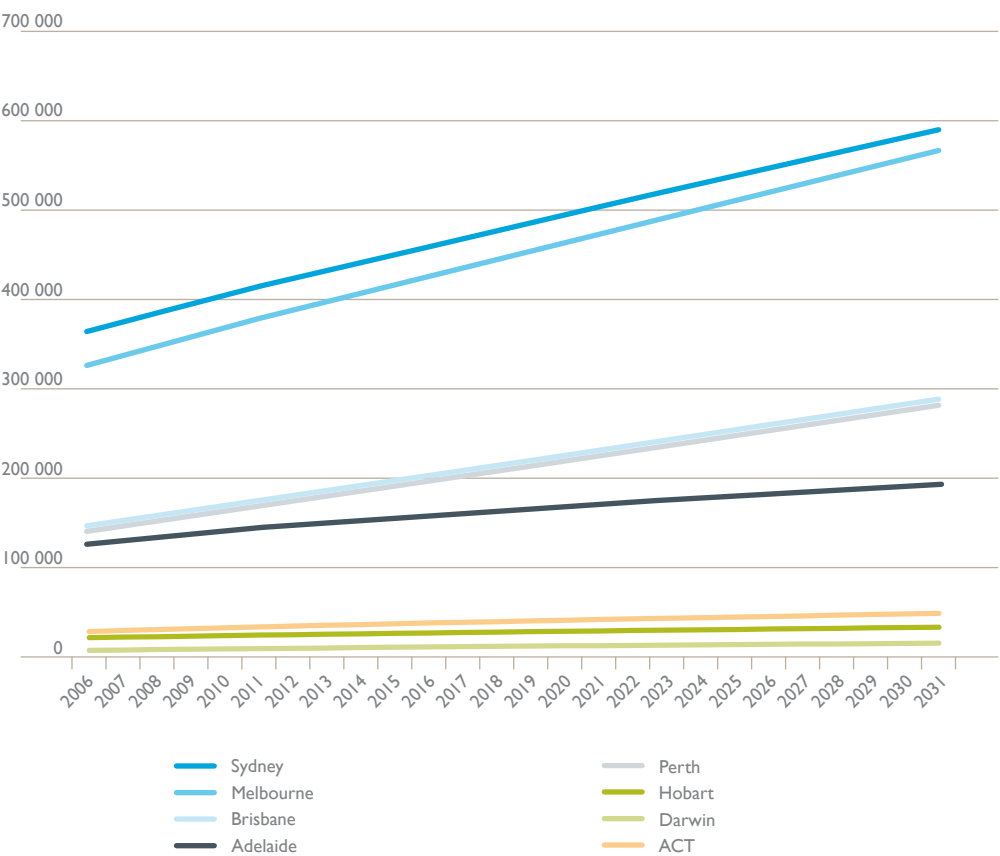
Figure 2.11 Projected number of persons by household type, Australia 2006 to 2031



Note: ABS Household and Family projections are based on Series B 'medium growth' population projections, 2006 to 2101 cat. no. 3222.0.

Source: ABS 2010

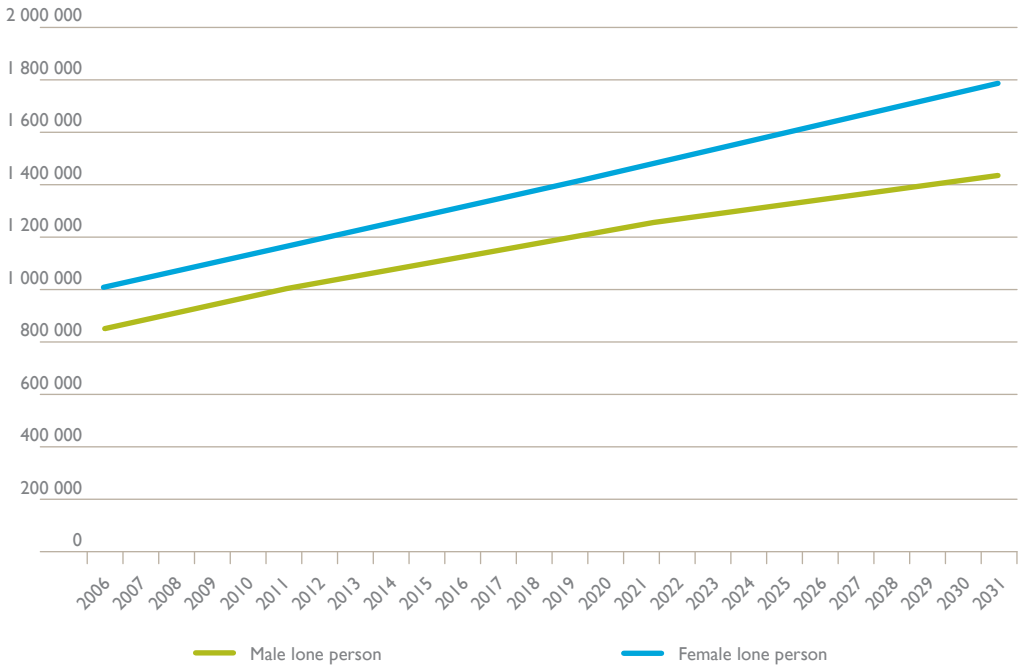
Figure 2.12 Projected number of lone person households for capital cities, 2006 to 2031



Source: ABS 2010b

There is a noticeable difference between the proportions of women and men in lone person households. In 2006 the gender ratio (number of men to 100 women) in lone person households was 79.4. With life expectancy being higher for women than men, the gender difference in lone person households is projected to increase, with a projected gender ratio of 77.4 in 2030, as shown in Figure 2.13.

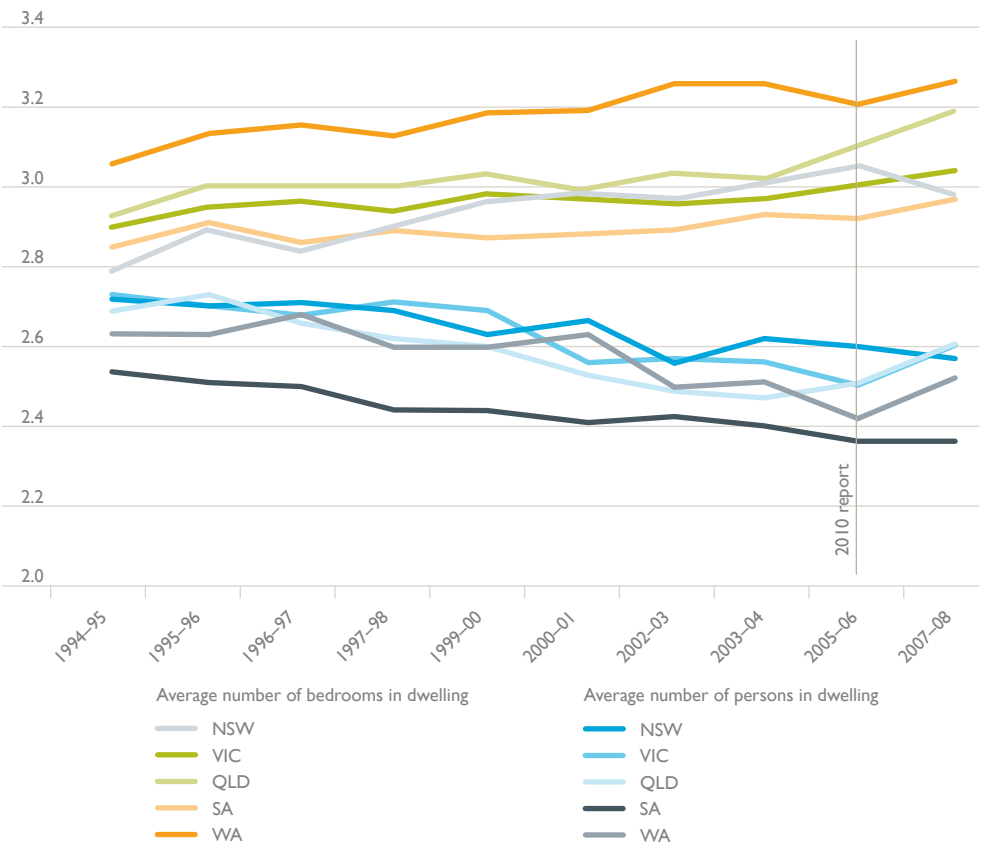
Figure 2.13 Lone person households by gender, Australia, 2006 to 2031



Source: ABS 2010b

With changing household sizes and living arrangements, the general trend of increasing number of bedrooms per dwelling and decreasing number of persons per household has recently become more complex. Figure 2.14 shows the average number of bedrooms per dwelling and number of persons per household for five States, 1994–95 to 2007–08. Only South Australia has continued this previous trend in the period 2005–06 and 2007–08. In New South Wales, contrary to the trend in other States, the average number of bedrooms per dwelling has declined in line with the decline in the average number of persons per household. In Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia, however, there has been a further increase in dwelling size and an increase in the number of persons per household.

Figure 2.14 Average number of bedrooms per dwelling and number of persons per household for five States, 1994–95 to 2007–08



Source: BITRE analysis of ABS 2007 Housing Occupancy and Costs, Australia, 2005-06 cat. no. 4130.0.55.001 and ABS 2010 Australian Social Trends, December 2010 Data Cube – Housing cat. no. 4102.0, table 2 Housing, State Summary.

Urban settlement

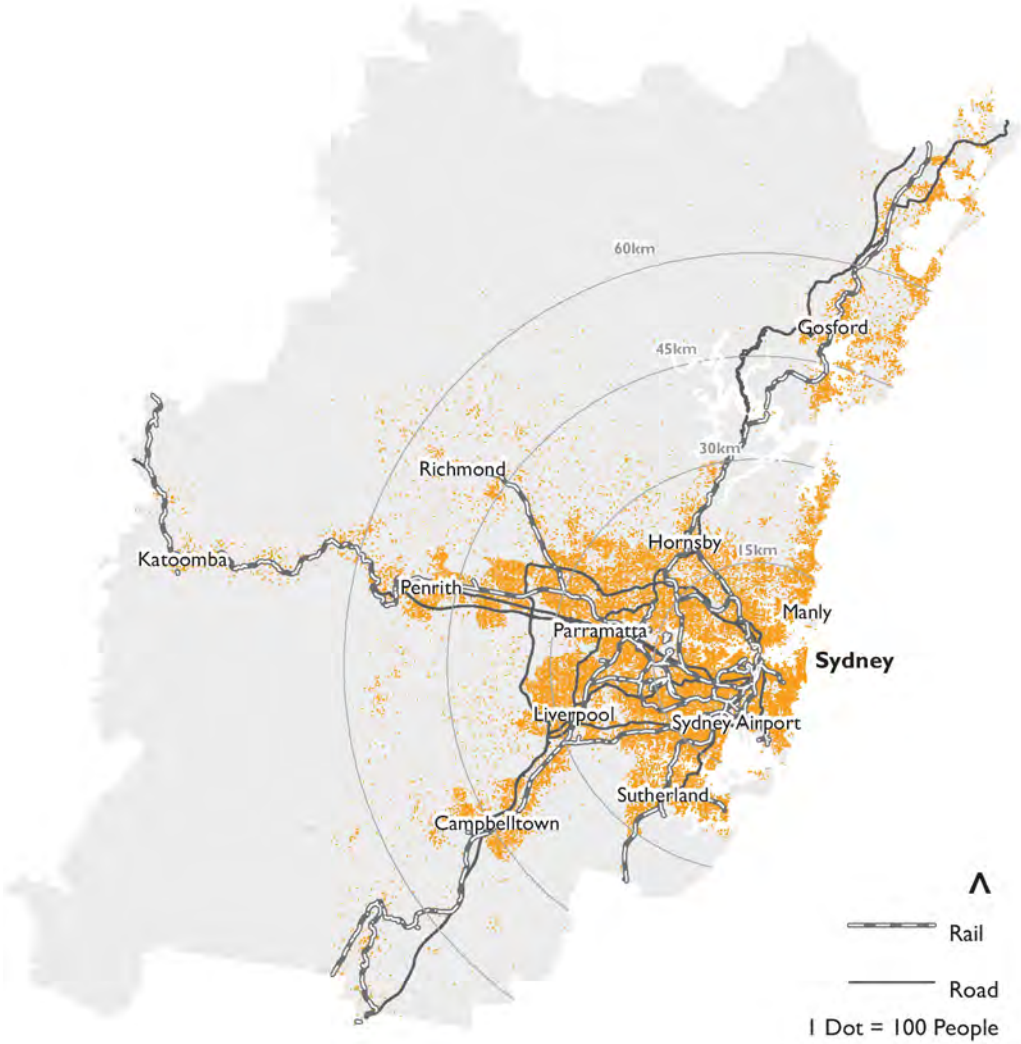
State of Australian Cities 2010 outlined the role that capital cities play in Australia's urban settlement pattern. The economic and social influence of our capital cities over State activities and regional centres has been very pronounced over time (BITRE 2011a). Large urban conurbations have formed around capital cities and primarily stretch along our coastlines. This update further explores Australia's emerging urban regions, and provides more detail on the settlement patterns of the conurbations of Sydney, Melbourne, South East Queensland and Perth.

Many regional cities and the areas between them are integrated and interdependent with capital cities, sharing labour markets and transport networks and increasingly functioning as a single unit.

Outer urban growth and encroachment into adjacent regions has also spurred the growth of peri-urban townships. The peri-urban regions within easy commuting distance of major cities enjoy the benefits of the greater quality and range of services often available in metropolitan areas combined with a country lifestyle (BITRE 2011a).

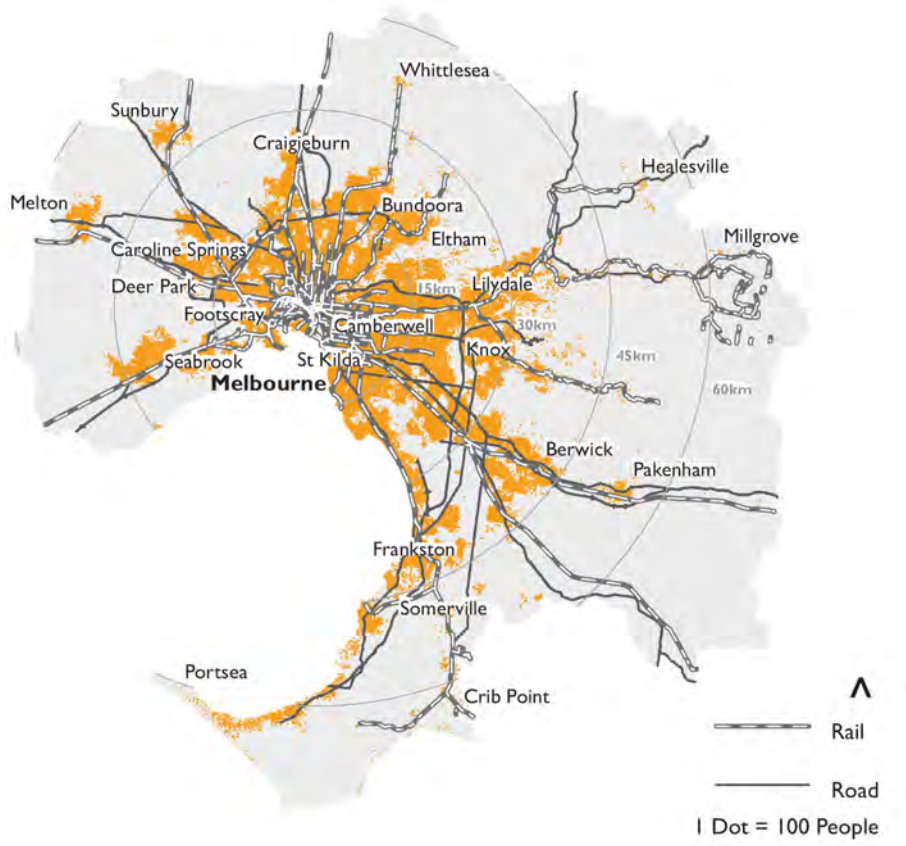
At the same time, the process termed 'peri-urbanisation' is occurring in the capital cities. This is where urban expansion on the outer fringe extends into neighbouring regions. These peri-urban areas can reach outwards to 150 kilometres from the capital city central business district (Buxton *et al* 2006), as shown in Figure 2.15 to Figure 2.23.

Figure 2.15 Sydney population density, 2006



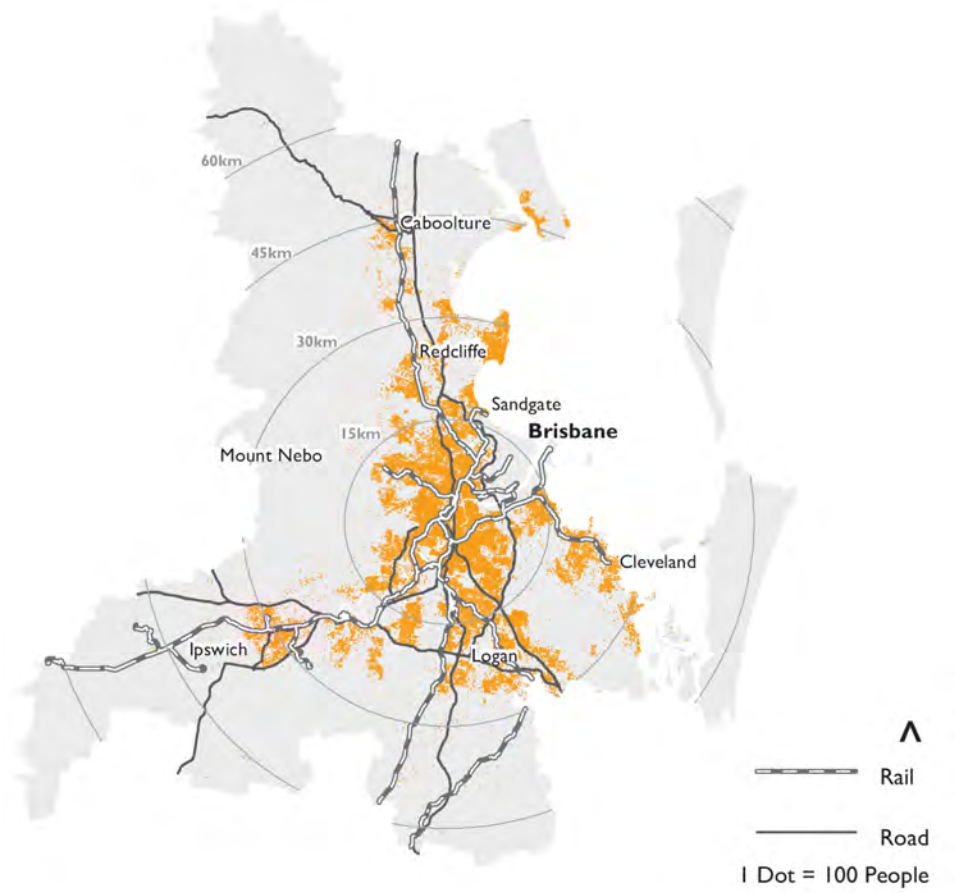
Source: Department of Infrastructure and Transport 2011 analysis of ABS 2006 Census

Figure 2.16 Melbourne population density, 2006



Source: Department of Infrastructure and Transport 2011 analysis of ABS 2006 Census

Figure 2.17 Brisbane population density, 2006



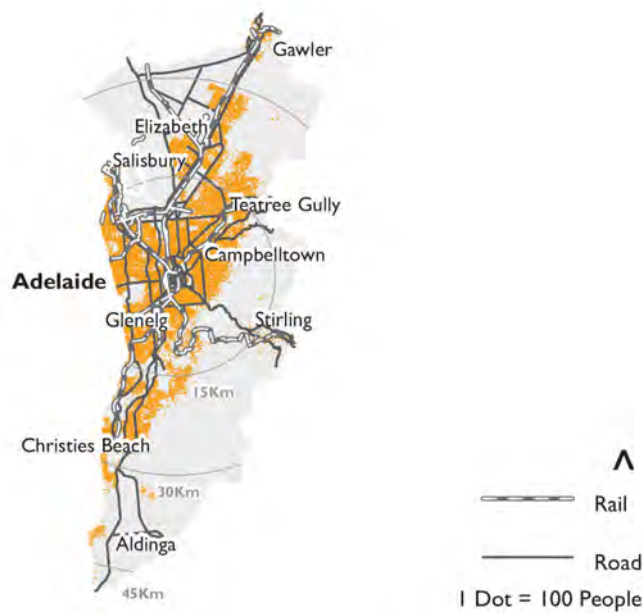
Source: Department of Infrastructure and Transport 2011 analysis of ABS 2006 Census

Figure 2.18 Perth population density, 2006



Source: Department of Infrastructure and Transport 2011 analysis of ABS 2006 Census

Figure 2.19 Adelaide population density, 2006



Source: Department of Infrastructure and Transport 2011 analysis of ABS 2006 Census

Figure 2.20 Canberra-Queanbeyan population density, 2006



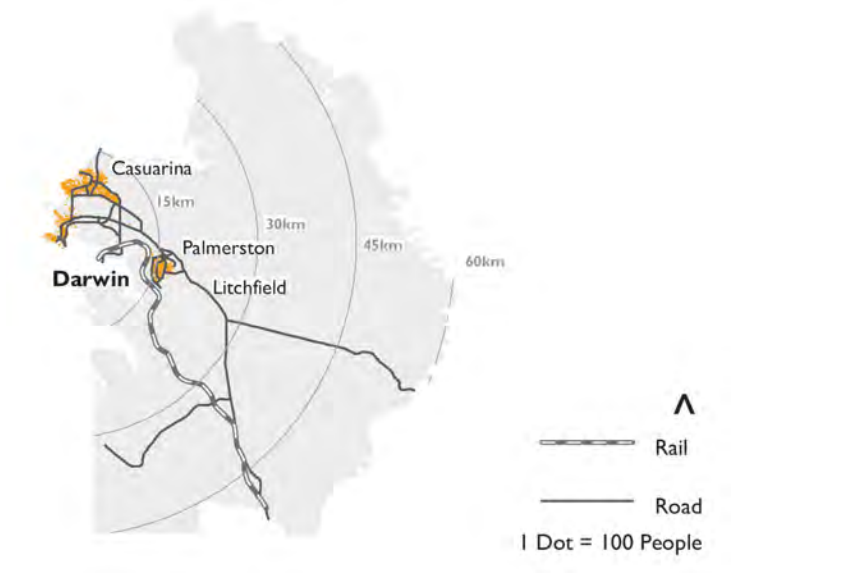
Source: Department of Infrastructure and Transport 2011 analysis of ABS 2006 Census

Figure 2.21 Hobart population density, 2006



Source: Department of Infrastructure and Transport 2011 analysis of ABS 2006 Census

Figure 2.22 Darwin population density, 2006

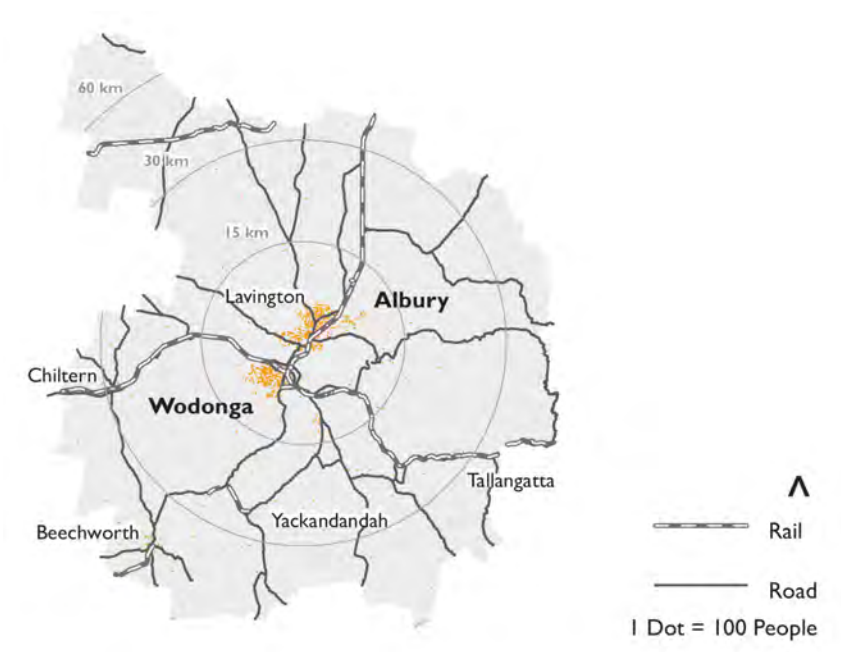


Source: Department of Infrastructure and Transport 2011 analysis of ABS 2006 Census

Urbanisation in regional areas

Urbanisation processes are particularly concentrated in our coastal areas, where the majority of regional cities are located. There is continuing strong population growth in these coastal cities but also around other major centres along the coast and in large inland regional centres. Figure 2.23 illustrates the extent of this urbanisation in 2006 for the city of Albury-Wodonga. The population growth in these non-metropolitan areas between 1997 and 2009 was almost two million people (Gurran *et al* 2011).

Figure 2.23 Albury Wodonga population density, 2006



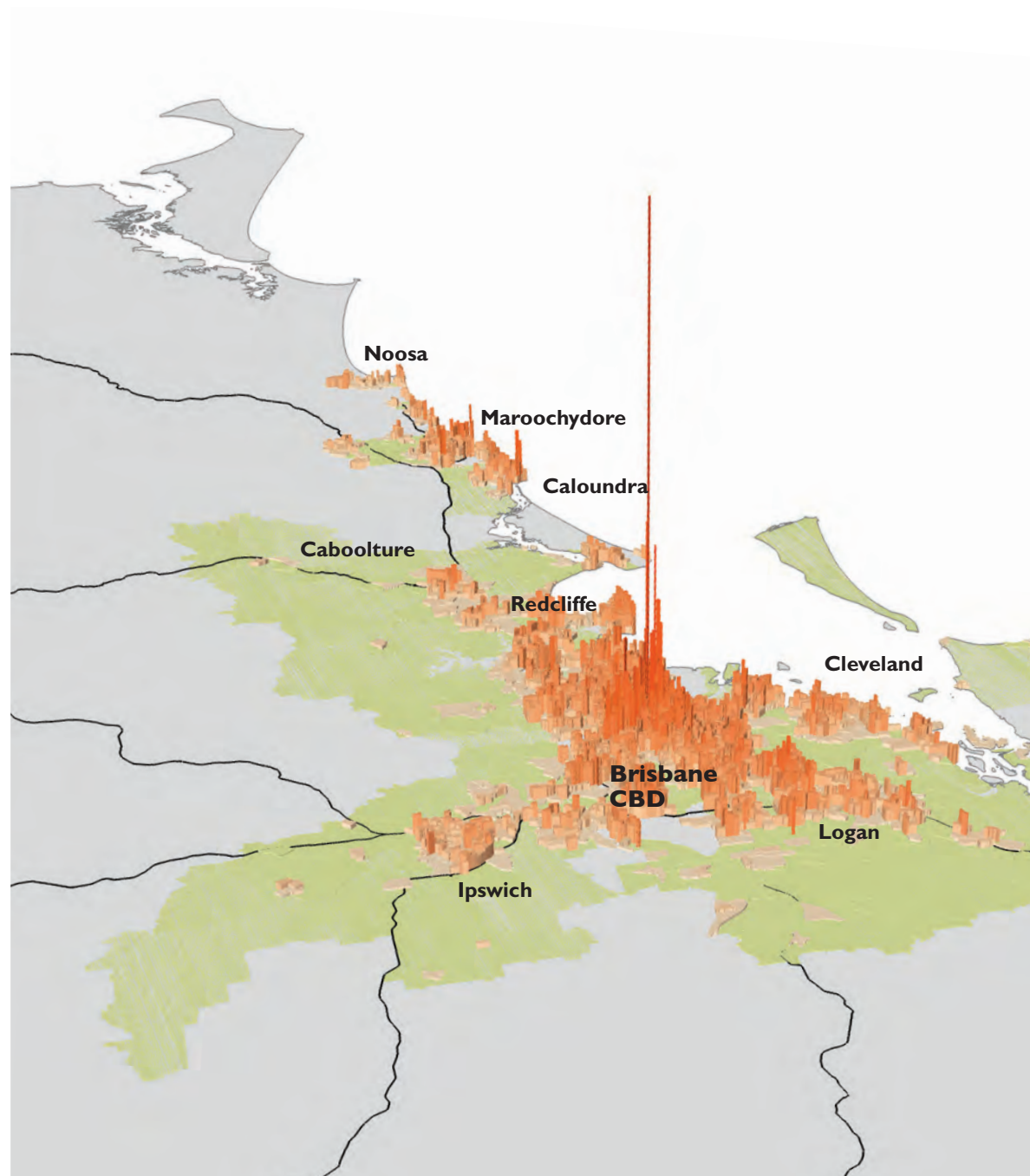
Source: Department of Infrastructure and Transport 2011 analysis of ABS 2006 Census

The urbanisation pressures emanating from our capital cities, and between and around our regional cities, have implications for natural resource and infrastructure management and land use planning. For example, 25 per cent of Australia's agricultural production occurs in the peri-urban areas. This poses problems for maintaining traditional farming in areas where land prices have risen because of demand for larger blocks on the urban periphery (Houston 2005).



Townsville, Queensland

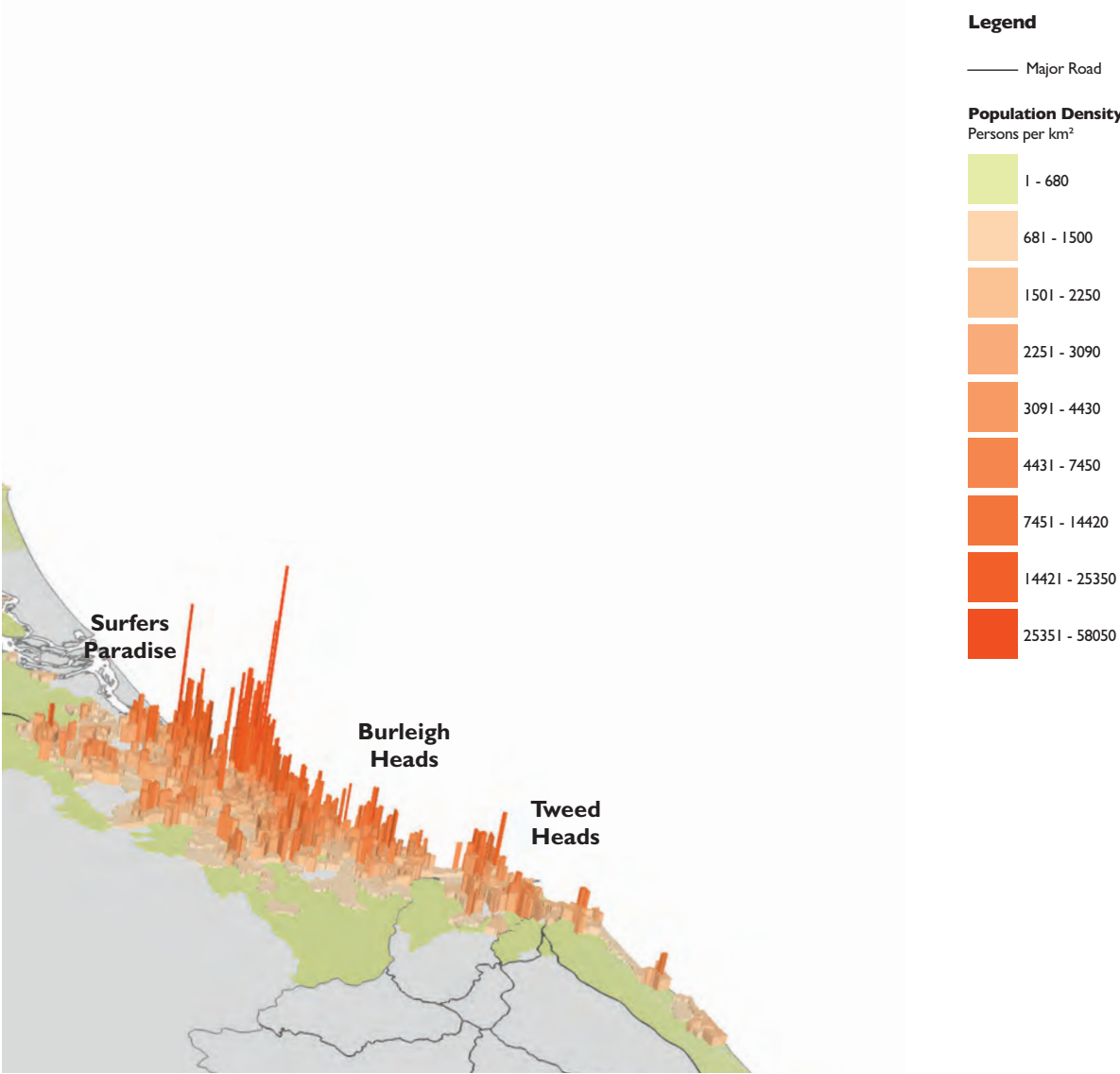
Figure 2.24 Population densities of South East Queensland, 2006



Note: The density is expressed as persons per kilometre but does not indicate the total number of persons in the district. Each district has approximately the same number of persons in it, about 200 people per collection district. The densities are corrected to account for open spaces within districts

Source: Department of Infrastructure and Transport 2011 analysis of ABS 2006 Census

The mapping of population densities around Greater Brisbane (Figure 2.24) as an example, illustrates the extent of peri-urbanisation along the coast. This has resulted in a relatively low density metropolitan region with the exception of the area around Brisbane’s central business district and Surfers Paradise. The height of each spike in the figure represents the population density of an individual ABS collection district.



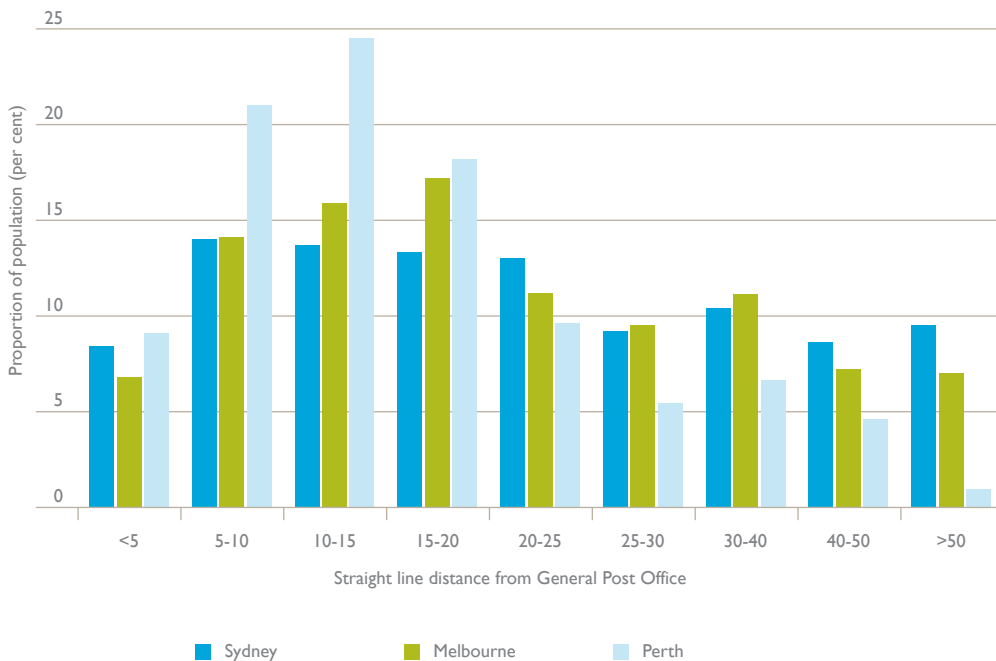
Spatial patterns of population in Sydney, Melbourne and Perth

Urban settlement patterns in the larger cities in the past two decades have become more diverse than in the post-war growth period last century, reflecting changing economic, demographic, social and cultural trends. This has had an influence on housing preferences, as described in Chapter 5 on liveability (Kelly *et al* 2011).

Analysis of population growth in three capital cities, Perth, Melbourne and Sydney, (BITRE 2010, 2011b and 2011c) shows both outer urban expansion and resurgent growth in inner areas.

Compared with the other cities, Melbourne has a smaller share of its population living within five kilometres of the Central Business District (CBD), while Sydney has a greater share living more than 40 kilometres away. Reflecting Perth's smaller population base, 73 per cent of residents live within 20 kilometres of the CBD, compared with about half of Sydney and Melbourne residents (Figure 2.25).

Figure 2.25 Proportion of population living at various distances from CBD, 2006



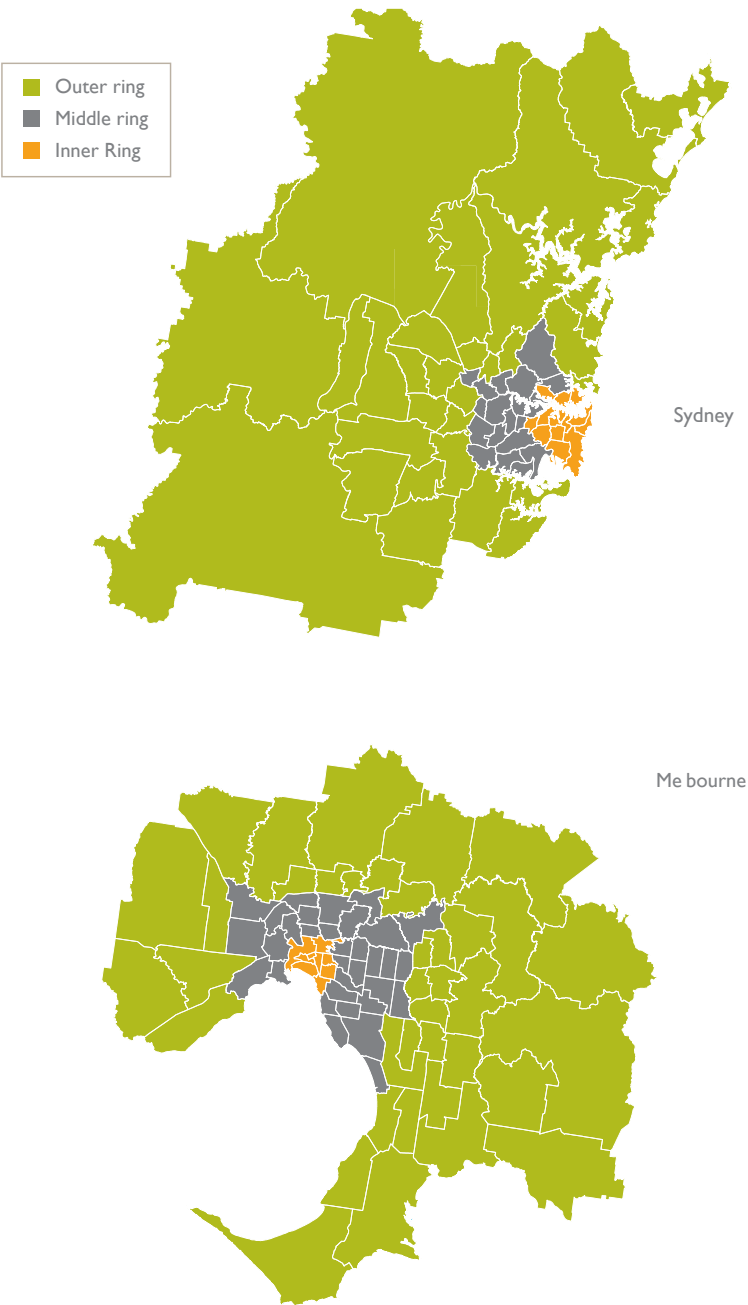
Source: BITRE analysis of 2006 ABS Census of Population and Housing place of enumeration data for CDs.

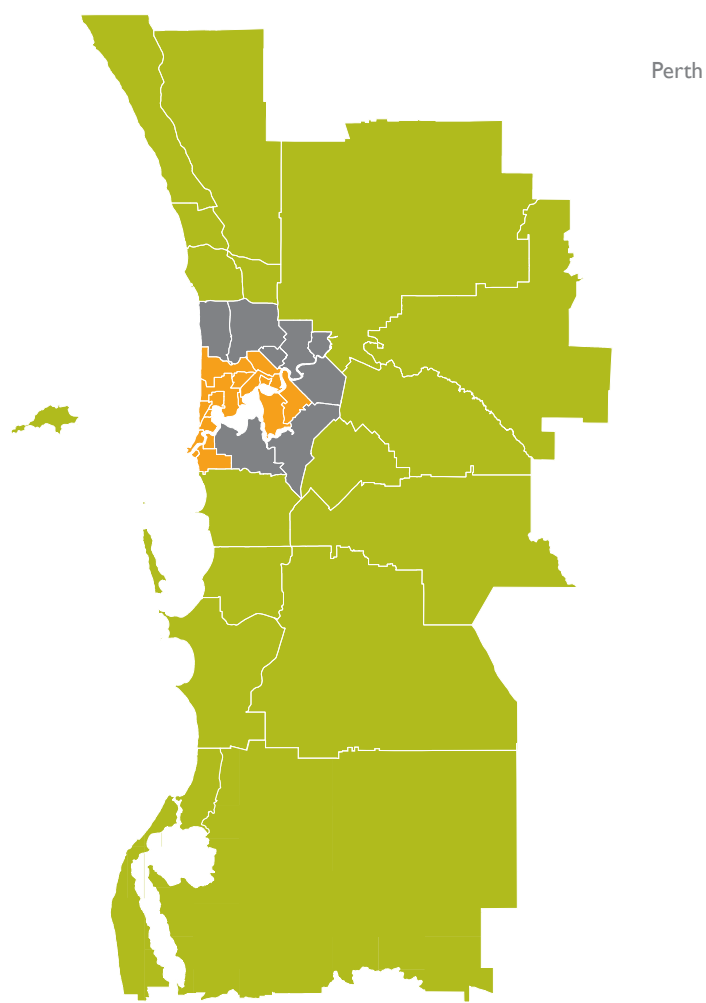
To better understand the distribution of resident population and jobs, each city has been divided into 'inner', 'middle' and 'outer' areas based on State government classifications, except for Melbourne, where the classification was based on ABS statistical subdivisions.

The classification that forms the ring structure of the cities generally reflects the history of residential development in the city and is illustrated in Figures 2.26 and 2.27.

Between 2001 and 2010, Melbourne added more than 600,000 new residents, compared with roughly 450,000 in Sydney and 300,000 in Perth. While Melbourne added the most people, Perth had a higher population growth rate (2.2 per cent) than Melbourne (1.8 per cent) and double that of Sydney (1.1 per cent).

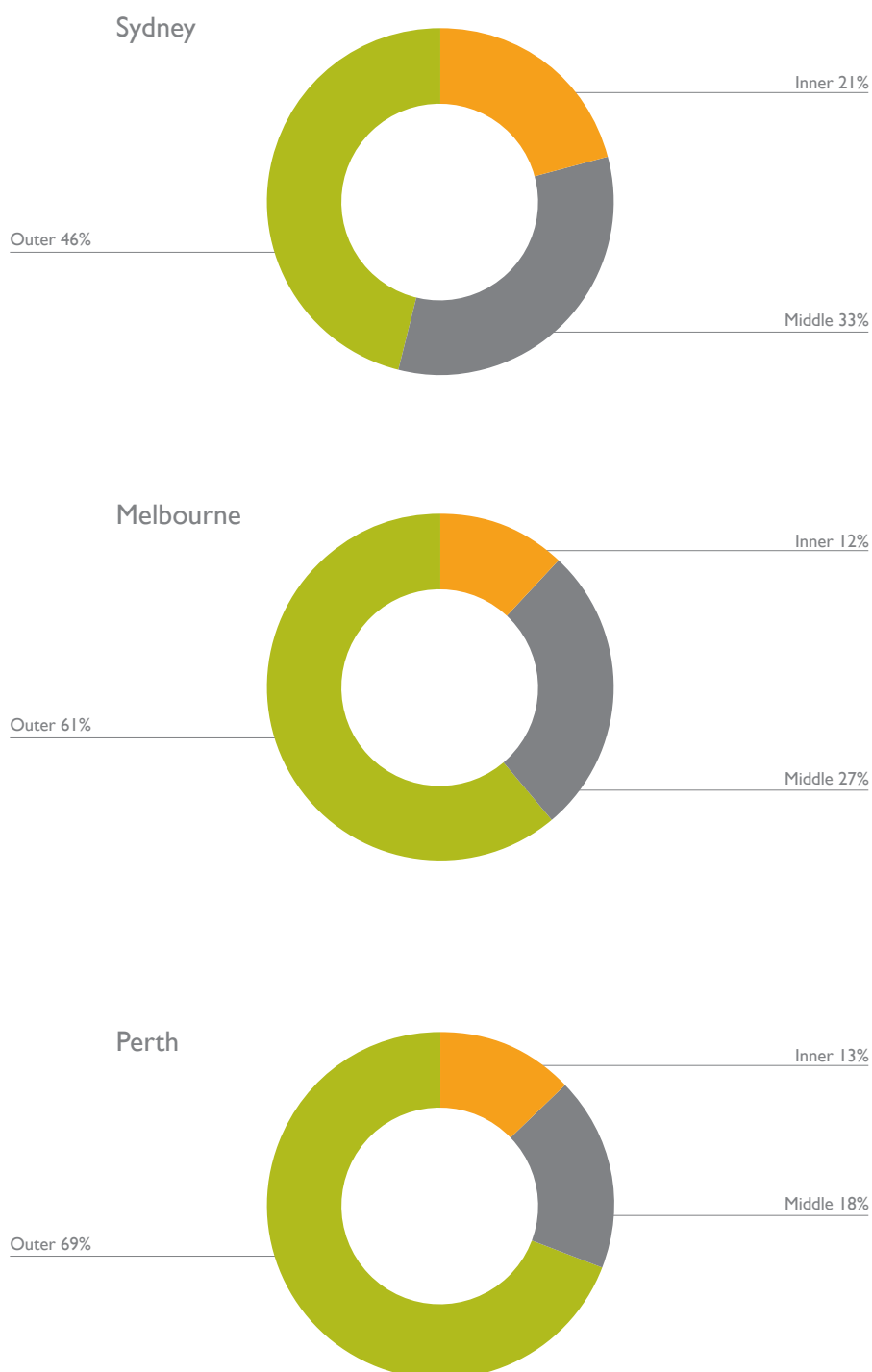
Figure 2.26 Map displaying inner, middle and outer rings of Sydney, Melbourne and Perth





Source: BITRE analysis of ABS 2006 SLA boundaries.

Figure 2.27 Population growth in Sydney, Melbourne and Perth by sub-region, 2001 to 2010



Source: BITRE 2011 analysis of ABS Estimated Resident population 2011 release

Table 2.1 Population statistics for Sydney, Melbourne and Perth, 2001 to 2010

Indicator	Sydney	Melbourne	Perth
Estimated Resident Population (ERP), 2010	4 575 532	4 077 036	1 696 065
Population change, 2001 to 2010	+ 447 260	+ 605 411	+ 303 063
Average annual rates of growth, 2001 to 2010 for			
Total population	1.1%	1.8%	2.2%
Population of central Local Government Area (LGA)	3.9%	6.3%	9.9%
Population of inner suburbs	1.4%	3.0%	1.8%
Population of middle suburbs	1.3%	1.0%	1.3%
Population of outer suburbs	1.0%	2.6%	2.9%
Spatial distribution of growth, 2001 to 2010			
Proportion of population growth in inner suburbs	20.5%	12.2%	13.0%
Proportion of population growth in middle suburbs	32.8%	26.9%	17.8%
Proportion of population growth in outer suburbs	46.7%	60.9%	69.3%
Population growth in Statistical Local Areas (SLA)			
SLA which added most population	Blacktown North* (+ 27 606)	Melton East* (+ 41 579)	Rockingham* (+ 30 112)
SLA which added 2nd most population	Auburn (+ 19 919)	Whittlesea North* (+ 33 796)	Swan* (+ 27 866)
SLA which added 3rd most population	Baulkham Hills North* (+ 19 063)	Wyndham North* (+ 33 377)	Wanneroo North West* (+ 27 866)
SLA which lost most population	Campbelltown North* (– 377)	Broadmeadows* (– 1 333)	None

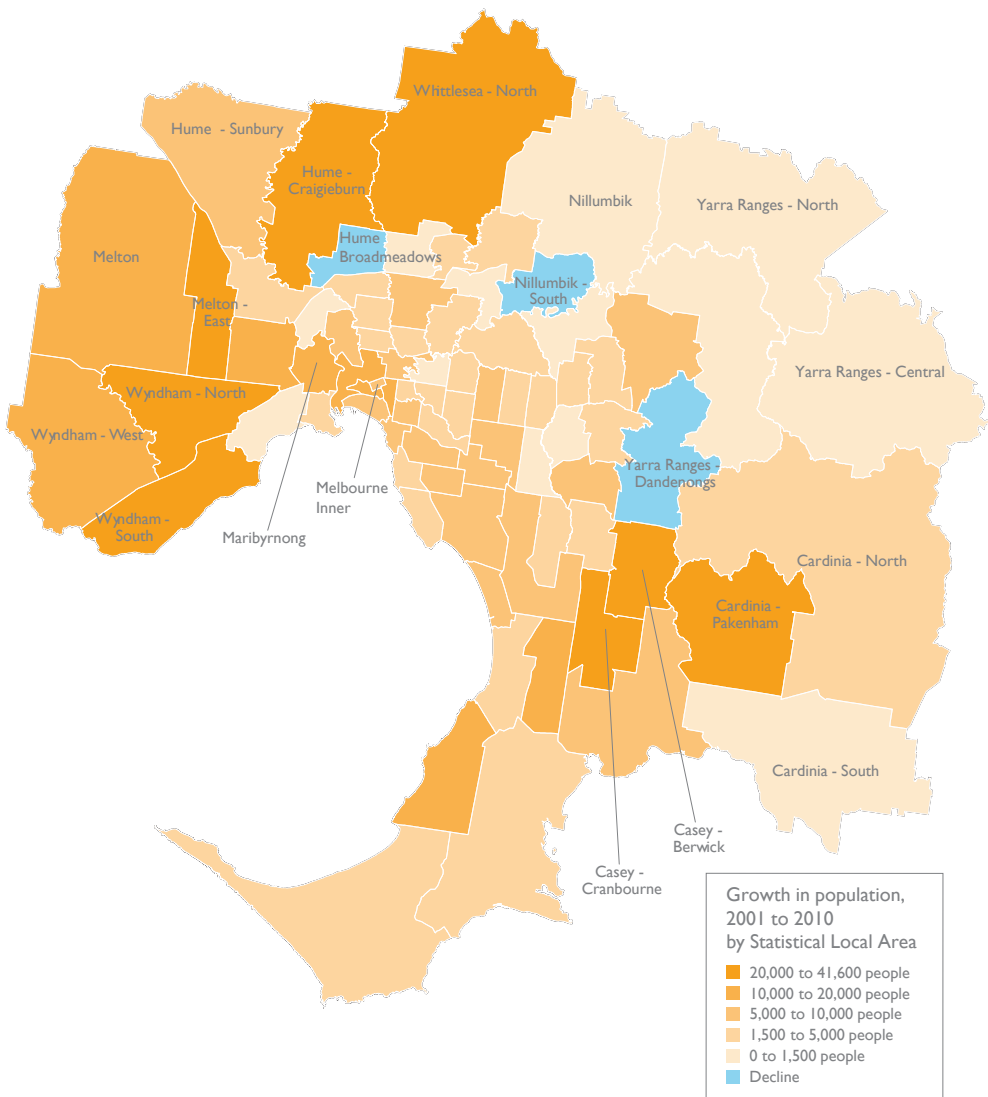
Note: * These SLAs are in the Outer ring of each city.

Source: BITRE analysis of ABS ERP 2011 release and ABS Census of Population and Housing 2001 and 2006.

A common characteristic of the three cities is that the central local government area experienced very rapid growth coming off a limited population base as the CBD and surrounding areas were redeveloped with higher density housing. This trend was most pronounced in the City of Sydney, which added 52,530 residents and was a significant share of Sydney's population growth (11.7 per cent).

Between 2001 and 2010 the outer suburbs of Melbourne and Perth grew rapidly but this pattern was not repeated in Sydney. Nevertheless, outer suburbs accommodated much of the population growth in all three cities, contributing 47 per cent of Sydney's growth, compared with 61 per cent for Melbourne and 69 per cent for Perth. While some of this outer suburban growth occurred in established suburbs (particularly in Sydney), most was attributable to greenfield developments on the urban fringe. As Figure 2.28 illustrates, Melbourne's growth was concentrated on the city's western, northern and south-eastern fringes. Perth's population growth was even more heavily concentrated in urban fringe developments, particularly those with coastal proximity. In Sydney, the main growth area was 30–40 kilometres north-west of the CBD, although urban consolidation also played an important role in housing the growing population.

Figure 2.28 Change in population for Statistical Local Areas, Melbourne, 2001 to 2010

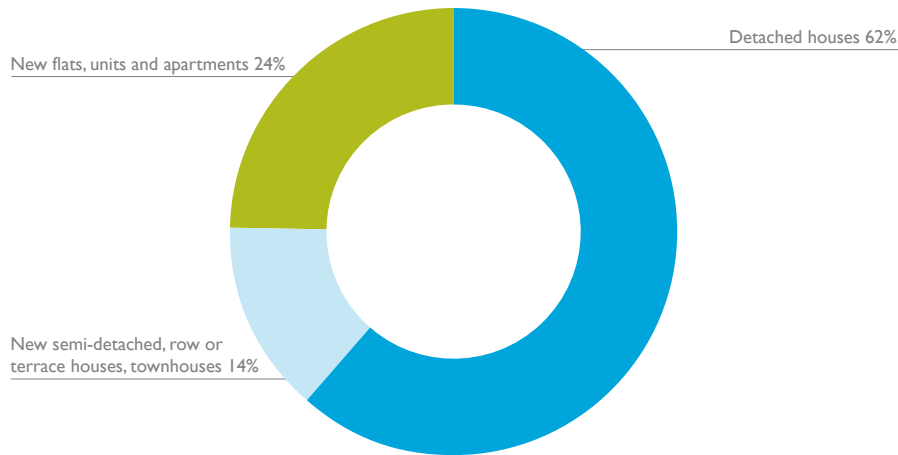


Source: BITRE analysis of ABS ERP 2011 release.

Dwelling stock

State of Australian Cities 2010 outlined dwelling approvals for 2008–09. Figure 2.29 updates this data for the 2010–11 financial year.

Figure 2.29 Building approvals by dwelling type, Australia, 2010–11



Source: ABS 2011b

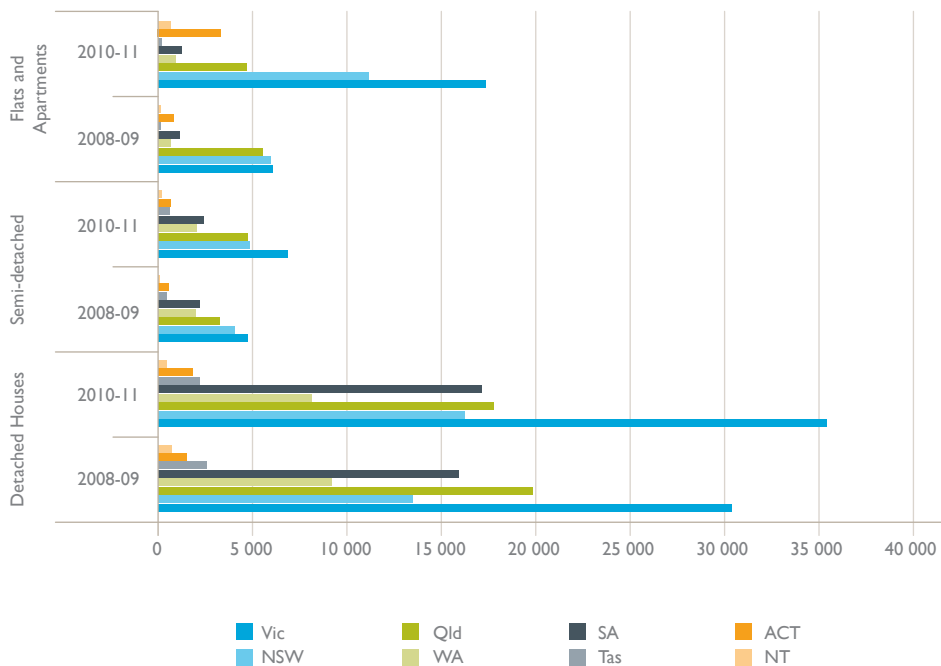
State and Territory data for building approvals show that the largest difference in the number of new flats, units and apartments in 2010–11 occurred in Victoria (which had 11,312 more approvals for new apartments in 2010–11) and Sydney (5,195 more apartments approved). The biggest proportional increase occurred in the Australian Capital Territory where the number of approvals for new flats, units and apartments more than trebled in 2010–11 compared with 2008–09. The ACT was the only jurisdiction where the number of approvals for apartments exceeded approvals for detached houses — by 1855 dwellings, as shown in Table 2.2 and Figure 2.30

Table 2.2 Number of dwellings approved by dwelling type, States and Territories 2008–09 and 2010–11

	Detached houses		Semi-detached		Flats and Apartments	
	2008-09	2010-11	2008-09	2010-11	2008-09	2010-11
NSW	13,481	16,278	4,041	4,874	5,951	11,146
Vic.	30,446	35,459	4,769	6,857	6,073	17,385
Qld	19,884	17,779	3,259	4,731	5,522	4,690
SA	9,201	8,168	1,986	2,046	675	952
WA	15,960	17,152	2,187	2,409	1,137	1,231
Tas.	2,564	2,196	427	612	116	184
NT	729	468	90	203	153	646
ACT	1,488	1,821	541	662	806	3,343
Australia	93,753	99,321	17,300	22,394	20,433	39,577

Source: ABS 2011b

Figure 2.30 Number of dwellings approved by dwelling type, States and Territories 2008–09 and 2010–11



Source: ABS 2011b

Conclusion

International migration has been an important contributor to Australian cities and is expected to continue to be so, particularly in Sydney and Melbourne.

Greenfield developments remain the predominant way to accommodate population increases within Australia's cities. An exception to this is Sydney where infill rates are significantly higher.

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