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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

*ACT GOVERNMENT SUBMISSION TO
THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT*



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Glossary

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACR	Australian Capital Region
C Plus 1	The area that includes Canberra and those surrounding NSW Council areas within an approximate one hour commute
CGC	Commonwealth Grants Commission
CMTD	Chief Minister & Treasury Directorate
COAG	Council of Australian Governments
CURF	Canberra Urban and Regional Futures
DEC	NSW Department of Education and Communities
DoCS	NSW Department of Community Services
DP&I	NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure
DPC	NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet
DRALGAS	Department of Regional Australia and Local Government, Arts & Sport
EDD	Economic Development Directorate
EPA	Environment Protection Authority
ESDD	ACT Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate
ETD	ACT Education and Training Directorate
FSC	Far South Coast
LGA	local government area
LHD	local health district
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
PCG	Project Control Group
RASC	Regional Australia Standing Council
RDA	Regional Development Australia
RDAF	Regional Development Australia Fund
RLF	Regional Leaders' Forum
SEROC	South East Regional Organisation of Councils
SERREE	South East Region of Renewable Energy Excellence
SI	Southern Inland
SMEs	small and medium enterprises
SNSW	Southern NSW

1. Introduction

The ACT is uniquely placed to support the development of the region. Canberra is not only the national capital; it is also the regional centre, with the added dimension that our region is located entirely within another jurisdiction. Inevitably, the ACT's long-term planning must include the wider region. Our hybrid governance model, which combines state and municipal functions, lends itself to stronger regional cooperation. A regional focus, rather than functioning as individual communities separated by distance and divided by state borders, is necessary for future regional development and prosperity.

Over the past decade, the population of the Australian Capital Region has grown by almost 70,000 people (12.9 per cent) to over 610,000. Planning adequate infrastructure and services to accommodate current and future population growth within the ACT and the region is critical. Funding for that service demand is equally important.

We recognise that the ACT Government does not have sole responsibility for regional development. It is very much a collaborative approach in partnership with a range of stakeholders, including the Australian and NSW Governments, surrounding councils, the business and community sectors, education and research institutions as well as community groups. Our collaborative approach recognises that there is a range of economic, social, cultural and institutional dimensions that have an impact on regional development and future prosperity.

The ACT Government continues to actively engage on cross-border and regional matters. The establishment of the regional development portfolio in 2012 acknowledges the strong foundation from previous years' activities, giving profile to the broad range of regional work being undertaken across government. The portfolio provides a more coordinated and focused approach to policy initiatives in response to the growth of the region. Specifically, the renewed regional focus reflects:

- the increasing importance of cross-border service impacts on the ACT with work progressing on better data and evidence, greater collaboration on service planning, and development of effective cost recovery mechanisms;
- the need for short and long term land-use and settlement planning, as well as infrastructure and service impacts, in the context of cross-border land developments; and
- the importance of identifying strengths and opportunities from a regional approach — whether in shared approaches to services or strategies for economic development.

In addition, the surrounding councils are looking to build capacity and capability through collaborative work in the provision of local government services, cost-efficiencies and sustainability.

This ACT Government submission to the Select Committee on Regional Development details the ACT and region's demographic profile and the ACT Government's current and emerging projects, and outlines the emerging issues in the context of continued inter-dependencies between the ACT and surrounding NSW region.

1.1 The ACT's role as regional centre for South East NSW

Like most border regions, the ACT–NSW border is in many ways non-existent for residents of, and visitors to, this area. Notwithstanding the strong identities held by local communities, the border is a notional concept, marked only by road signs announcing entry to a different jurisdiction. However,

the different jurisdictions do present challenges arising from the varying legislative and regulatory frameworks and the need to fund government services delivered in a cross-border context.

The ACT's role as a regional centre for South East NSW continues to strengthen. Government and non-government service providers in the ACT factor in the broader regional population, recognising that their client and customer bases extend beyond the border. For government services, this is particularly the case for health, education and community services.

Given the regional growth, the ACT Government increasingly incorporates the regional dimension in its policies and strategies when addressing spatial planning, transport, environmental management, economic development and tourism activities, as well as service delivery.

1.2 Regional coverage

Common interests of some form generally define a region. For the ACT, in the broadest sense, the region covers the ACT and the south east of NSW.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) defines this area as the Australian Capital Region (ACR¹) (map 1), taking in the ACT and surrounding 17 local government areas (LGAs) of the South Coast, south to the NSW–Victorian border, west to Tumbarumba and Gundagai and north to include the councils of Young, Boorowa, Upper Lachlan and Goulburn Mulwaree.

The ACT Government does not apply a single definition of 'the region' as the regional parameters change according to the issue being addressed. The tertiary health services within the ACT are accessed by people from as far west as Wagga Wagga and south to Bega. However, for education, infrastructure and land use planning purposes, the region is generally concentrated to those LGAs within an approximate one hour commute, referred to as the 'C Plus 1' region (map 2). This takes in Queanbeyan, Palerang, Yass, Goulburn Mulwaree, Cooma–Monaro and Upper Lachlan.

Consequently, the ACT–NSW Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Regional Collaboration is deliberately silent in defining the region given the diversity of issues being progressed. The ACT's economic footprint brings into play a different set of interests. In 2008, the ACT Government commissioned a report titled *The ACT and Its Region: Economic Relationships and Key Drivers of Economic Growth*, which mapped the level of interaction with the region based on those travelling into the ACT for work purposes.²

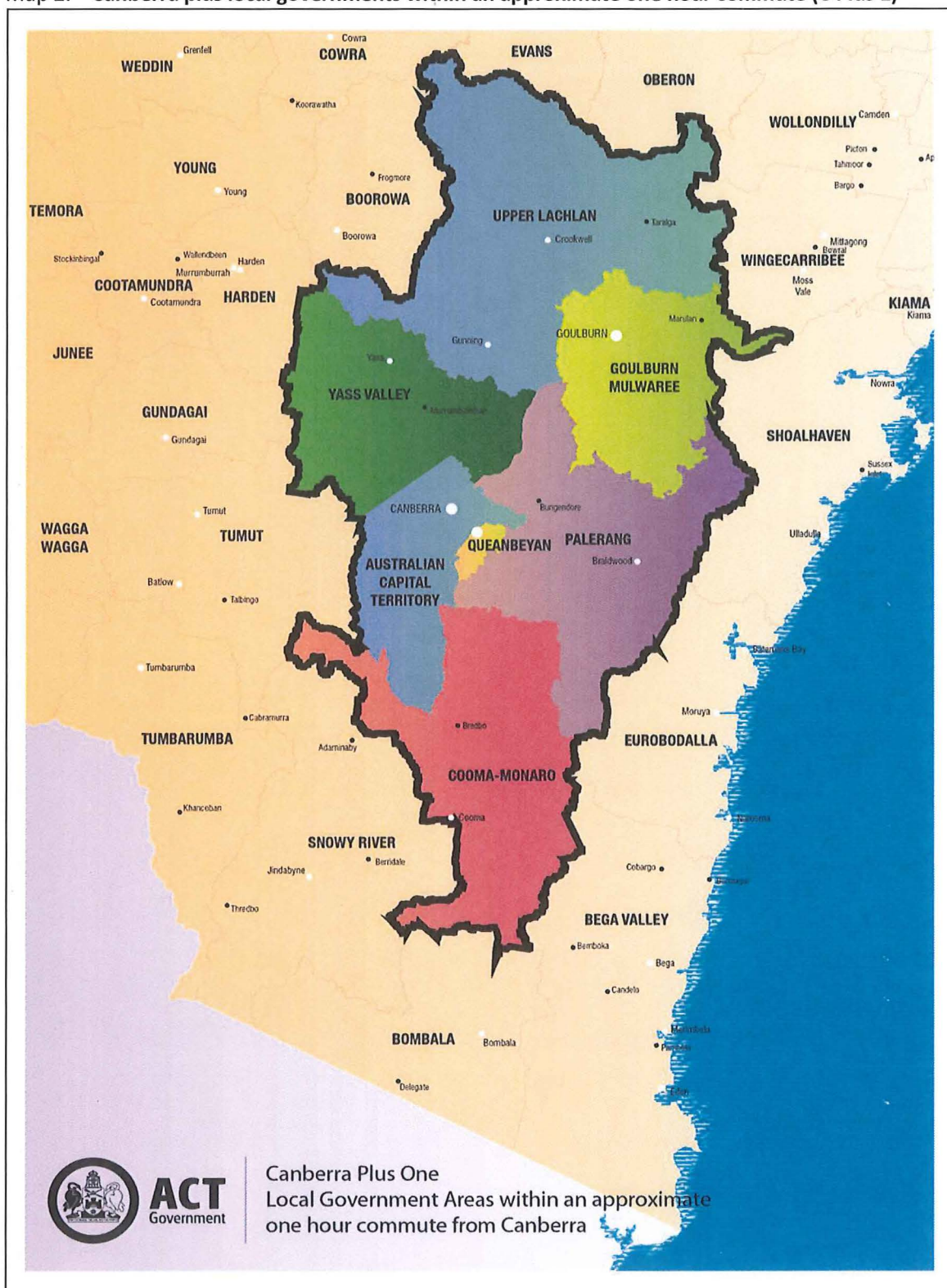
¹ ABS 2010, In fACT - Statistical Information on the ACT and Region: May 2010, no. 1308.8, <http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/allprimarymainfeatures/2AC40201B98488A8CA25778900118FD5?opendocument>.

² Access Economics 2008, *The ACT and its Region: Economic Relationships and Key Drivers of Economic Growth*, prepared for Chief Minister's Department, http://www.cmd.act.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0004/119722/ae-act-linkages.pdf

Map 1: Australian Capital Region



Map 2: Canberra plus local governments within an approximate one hour commute (C Plus 1)



2. Regional demographic profile

The demographic profile of the region provides an insight into the interactions and relationships between the ACT and surrounding South East NSW. Demographic characteristics also provide an evidence base to inform regional planning and coordinated service delivery initiatives. A summary of the key demography of the region follows, with more detailed data and analysis provided in appendix A.

- The ACT has the majority of the ACR population. At June 2012 the ACT represented 60.7 per cent (374,658) of the total ACR population estimated at 617,071.
- Over the decade to 2011, the ACR grew by almost 70,000 or 12.9 per cent. The ACT accounted for nearly 70 per cent of this growth, with a 21,000 increase in population coming from the balance of the ACR.
- Current projections, compiled by the ACT and NSW Governments, indicate that the ACR will reach 688,200 people by 2021 and 756,000 by 2031. The main centres for growth in the decade to 2021 include the ACT, Queanbeyan, Eurobodalla and Bega Valley.
- In 2011, the age profile of the ACR population was approximately one-third aged between 15 and 39 years, a further third aged between 40 and 64 years, while the remaining third was split between children aged less than 15 years (19 per cent) and older people aged 65 or more (13 per cent).
- The ACT had the largest share of the population comprising people aged between 15 and 39 years, reflecting the importance of the ACT, both within and beyond the region, for education and employment purposes.
- Eurobodalla and Bega Valley had the highest share of people aged 65 years or more, demonstrating their role as retirement destinations. Many of the rural parts of the ACR also had relatively large shares of the population aged 65 years as young people traditionally depart these locations in search of jobs or further education opportunities.
- As with other regions, over the next 20 years the ACR is projected to see an increase in people aged over 65 years, with the largest increase in females aged between 70 and 79 years.
- The 2011 Census indicates that, of those people moving to the ACR from elsewhere in Australia, important source locations included the Riverina, Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane.
- There is considerable population movement between the ACT and surrounding parts of NSW. However, over the past five years to 2011, more people moved from the ACT (9634) to the Capital Region (which excludes Cootamundra, Gundagai, Tumbarumba and Tumut) than in the other direction (7652).
- For people aged between 50 and 59 years who moved from the ACT in the five years to 2011, the main destinations were Queanbeyan (260 people), Eurobodalla (259 people), Palerang (211 people) and Yass Valley (204 people). This illustrates the strong connections within the region for ACT residents choosing other residential or lifestyle locations. While Eurobodalla as a destination probably suggests these people have moved for retirement purposes, the other main destinations were within commuting distances to the ACT.
- In 2011, 27,800 people indicated that they worked in the ACT, but lived elsewhere, with 84 per cent from the balance of the ACR. This illustrates the strong economic linkages between the ACT and the surrounding parts of the ACR. Queanbeyan (56.6 per cent or 13,229 people) was

the largest source of interstate workers to the ACT, along with Palerang (16.8 per cent or 3916 people) and Yass (15.7 per cent or 3678 people).

- In relation to the C Plus 1 region, new data released on 30 April 2013 shows that this region's rate of growth of 1.7 per cent between 2011 and 2012 was faster than the Greater Sydney region (1.3 per cent), Newcastle and Lake Macquarie (0.9 per cent), the Central Coast (0.8 per cent), the Southern Highlands and Shoalhaven (0.6 per cent), and the Illawarra (0.5 per cent).
- In terms of total population growth, the C Plus 1 region increased by 8173 people between 2011 and 2012. Only the Parramatta Statistical Area had a larger population increase (9425 people) with all other statistical areas in NSW growing by smaller amounts (Coffs Harbour – Grafton declined by 94 people).
- Absolute population growth in the C Plus 1 region (8173 people) was also larger than most NSW areas. The Hunter Valley excluding Newcastle area grew by 4456 people, the Newcastle and Lake Macquarie area grew by 3126 people, the Central Coast by 2464 people and the Southern Highlands and Shoalhaven by 918 people. Growth in the C Plus 1 region was also above that recorded in Sydney's inner west (5214 people) and Blacktown (5101 people).

The increase in population along with the actual and forecast rates of growth for the region will require a coordinated approach to planning future service delivery and infrastructure requirements.

More detailed demographic information on the region, including SEROC and C Plus 1 profiles, is available at <http://www.cmd.act.gov.au/policystrategic/actstats/profiles>.

3. ACT Government regional engagement

The ACT Government utilises a range of forums and agreements to progress its regional development priorities and activities. This section details the ACT Government's engagement approaches and initiatives.

3.1 Regional Development Australia ACT Committee

Regional Development Australia (RDA) is a national network of 55 committees made up of local leaders who work with all levels of government, business and community groups to support the development of their regions. The committees are administered by the Federal Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport and are jointly funded by the Australian Government and the respective state-territory governments.

Within the ACT and South East NSW Region, three RDA committees have been established:

- RDA ACT
- RDA Southern Inland (SI)
- RDA Far South Coast (FSC).

RDA ACT is an Australian and ACT Government initiative covering the ACT. RDA SI and RDA FSC are initiatives of the Australian and NSW Governments (map 3). RDA ACT provides an important and valuable link to activities within the region. The ACT Government relies on the networks and relationships of the committee members to assist in framing the government's regional activities.

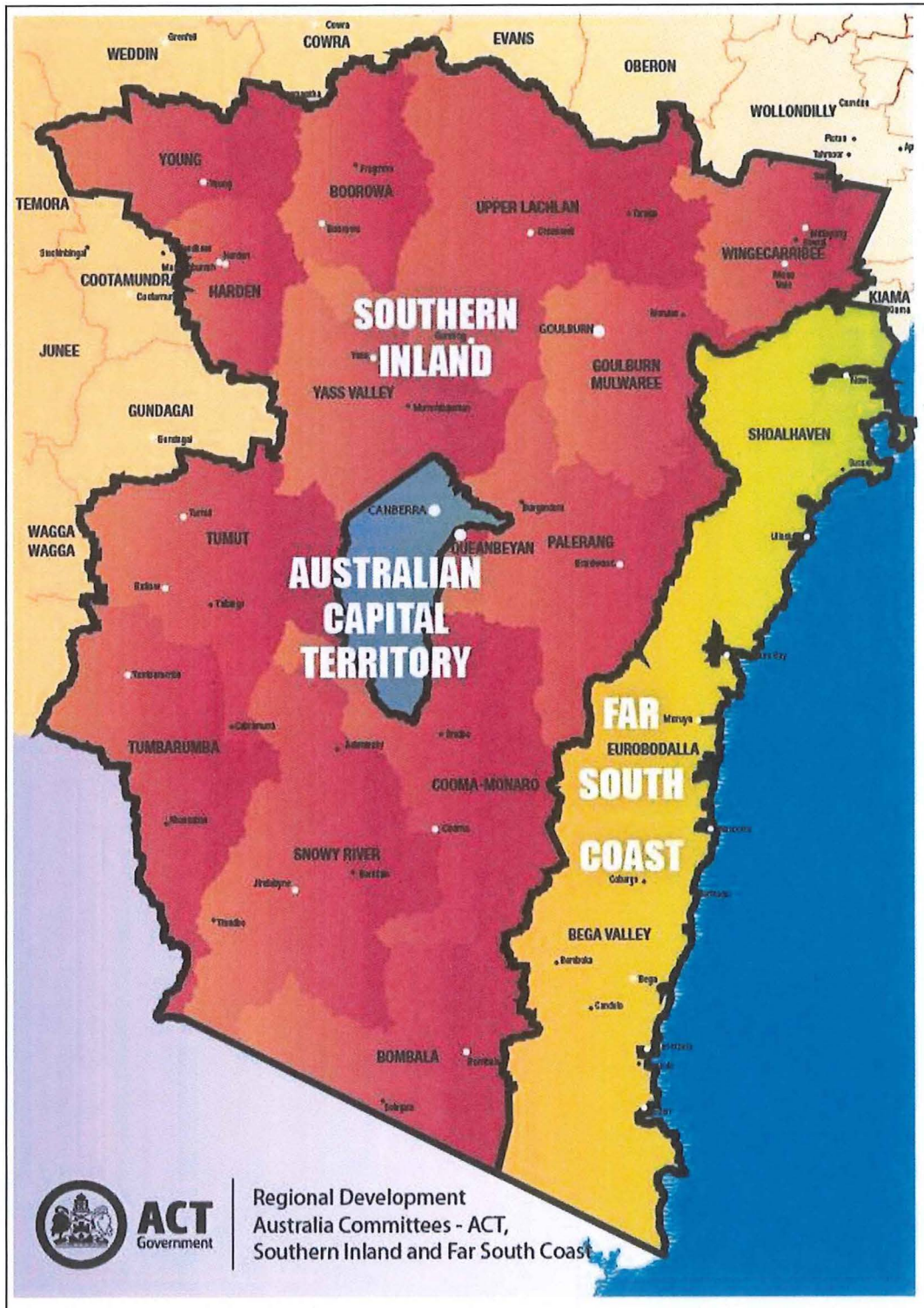
The RDA committees in the region work closely together, with the RDA ACT and RDA SI signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), initially in 2010 and refreshing it in 2012 to reflect and support the implementation of the priorities of the 2011 ACT–NSW MoU for Regional Collaboration (further outlined in section 3.3).

The three RDAs have clearly demonstrated their ability to work effectively together, collectively bidding for funds from the Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education's *Skills for the Carbon Challenge* initiative. The funds will support the growth of renewable energy in the Greater Capital Region, referred to as the South East Region of Renewable Energy Excellence (SERREE) project³. The project will be overseen by a group of RDA, ACT and NSW Government stakeholders, supported by a dedicated project officer.

As part of its commitment to Regional Australia, the Australian Government has allocated funding support to local communities through the Regional Development Australia Fund (RDAF).

³ More information on the SERREE project can be obtained at <http://rdaact.org.au/serree/about>.

Map 3: RDA Committees of the ACT, Southern Inland and Far South Coast



Administered by the Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport (DRALGAS), the objective of the RDAF is to fund projects that support infrastructure needs and enhance the economic and community development of Australia's regions. Program funds will maximise outcomes through partnerships across all levels of government, as well as the business and not-for-profit sectors.

The RDA committees play a key role in identifying projects to be supported for RDAF, and confirming that proposed projects align with their respective Strategic Regional Plans.

3.2 NSW Government

The ACT and NSW Governments have a long history of working together on regional issues, primarily due to Canberra's physical location in the centre of the south east region of NSW. The ACT is recognised as the principal service centre for surrounding NSW areas. Cross-border issues include responding to population growth within the region, economic interdependencies and service delivery, particularly in the areas of health and education.

Regional collaboration by the ACT and NSW Governments facilitates joint planning for sustainable regional growth, optimising future regional economic prospects and meeting regional service needs.

3.3 ACT–NSW MoU for Regional Collaboration

Signed in December 2011 by the ACT Chief Minister and the NSW Premier, the MoU builds on the long history of collaboration between the two jurisdictions, including the 2006 Regional Management Framework⁴. The 2011 MoU strengthens collaboration between the two jurisdictions to optimise regional outcomes and service delivery to the ACT and surrounding South East NSW region. Closer collaboration allows for a regional approach in the areas of health, education, transport, emergency services, justice, tourism, planning and economic development.

The ACT and NSW Governments identified the priority actions as:

- *strategic regional direction and priorities* including developing a statement that identifies opportunities for maximising economic development;
- *landuse planning and infrastructure* expressed through a strategic land use and infrastructure plan, including a mechanism to apportion infrastructure costs to each jurisdiction; and
- *integrated service planning*, initially focusing on health and education sectors.

The implementation of the MoU is overseen by the ACT Chief Minister and Treasury Directorate (CMTD) and the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC).

⁴ The Regional Management Framework was signed in March 2006 by the NSW Premier and ACT Chief Minister. The framework's focus was on enhanced collaboration across a range of cross-border issues and was to be used to resolve cross-border matters and plan for better ways to provide Government services.

Strategic regional direction and priorities

The purpose of this priority action includes developing a statement that identifies opportunities and priorities for maximising economic development. This is being progressed as the *Greater Capital Region Strategy* — a cross-border initiative, which is a place-based approach for the ACT and South East NSW region. The strategy is centred on maximising economic development through improved cross-border coordination.

This priority is being progressed under a steering committee comprising: the First Assistant Secretary, Regional Strategy and Coordination Division DRALGAS, Deputy Director-General CMTD, Regional Coordinator Illawarra and South East NSW DPC and the Chairs of the RDA Committees for SI, FSC and ACT. A working group — comprising: DRALGAS, CMTD, DPC, the Executive Officer of the South East Regional Organisation of Councils (SERO) and the Executive Officers of the RDA Committees for SI, FSC and ACT — supports the progress of the projects.

The Australian Government, through DRALGAS, has committed \$150,000 from its *Strengthening RDAs Initiative*. This funding will provide for the development of a Strategic Regional Directions Statement and the identification of economic opportunities and activities for the *Greater Capital Region* that encompass the three RDAs and focus on collaboration by the NSW and ACT Governments.

The Greater Capital Region strategy

The Greater Capital Region strategy is comprised of three stages.

- *Stage 1* — An economic opportunities scanning project, which includes an examination of existing plans and information to analyse and (based on that analysis) articulate potential opportunities for maximising economic development for the region, and to identify potential constraints and gaps.
- *Stage 2* — Development of an action plan for RDAs, NSW and ACT Governments as well as other relevant stakeholders drawing upon the evidence base assembled and analysed in stage 1.
- *Stage 3* — Implementation of the action plan dependent upon what funds are available.

The stage 1 consultancy report identified the following opportunities.

- Infrastructure, including the potential of existing regional infrastructure such as Canberra Airport and Port of Eden, as well as leveraging the potential from proposed infrastructure such as high speed rail.
- Sustainability, including renewable energy and waste recovery.
- Agriculture, including a regional strategy to identify bottlenecks, processing opportunities and value chain gaps.
- Business innovation.
- Regional marketing and branding.

Land use planning and infrastructure

Collaborative strategic land use and growth related infrastructure planning is being progressed through the development of an ACT–NSW Land Use and Infrastructure Plan (the Plan). The project

area for the Plan includes Canberra and those surrounding NSW council areas that have an approximate one hour commute (C Plus 1) incorporating the LGAs of Queanbeyan City, Yass Valley, Goulburn Mulwaree, Palerang, Upper Lachlan and Cooma–Monaro.

The Plan will provide a framework for the integration of the ACT, NSW and local councils' planning policies and processes in a cross-border setting. The purpose of the Plan, due for completion at the end of 2013, is to:

- examine the growth challenges affecting the region;
- develop an understanding of key and emerging planning and infrastructure issues that require a regional response;
- provide a guide to sustainable development across the region to manage growth and change;
- develop agreed data sources to inform strategic planning;
- facilitate an understanding of infrastructure and service delivery implications arising from development within the ACT–NSW region; and
- provide the basis for negotiations on the apportionment of costs for infrastructure.

This priority is being progressed by a Project Control Group (PCG) comprising the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DP&I), DPC, CMTD and the ACT Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate (ESDD). In addition, a Steering Committee comprising the PCG plus staff from the local councils supports the delivery of the project.

As road infrastructure and transport services will be a significant consideration in the Plan, focused consultations with ACT and NSW transport agencies are being undertaken as a part of the project. A Transport Working Group has been established under the Land Use and Planning and Infrastructure priority action comprising members from Transport NSW, DPC, CMTD and ESDD. Its focus is on improving the integration of cross-border transport services and infrastructure. The Transport Working Group has discussed transport implications from the Eastern Broadacre development, including options for the Kingston Railway Station, transport networks between the ACT and Queanbeyan and the draft NSW Transport Master Plan. Relevant outcomes from this working group will also be reflected in the Plan.

With the release of the NSW Transport Master Plan, the commencement of work on a Regional Transport Plan, coupled with the data compiled for the C Plus 1 initiative, there is an opportunity to improve the development and integration of transport services and infrastructure in the region. Integration of public transport ticketing, services and real time passenger information should be considered in future working group discussions.

Integrated service planning

The range of initiatives that are managed concurrently to support the elements of service planning for health, education and community services is discussed in more detail in section 4.

3.4 NSW Cross-Border Commissioner

In February 2012, the NSW Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional Infrastructure and Services, Andrew Stoner MP appointed Mr Steve Toms as the State's first Cross-Border Commissioner.

Mr Toms' appointment is for two years. The position is hosted within the NSW Department of Trade & Investment and will:

- meet and consult with cross-border communities and build close strategic working networks and alliances with key stakeholders;
- be an advocate for the concerns of cross-border communities;
- monitor existing cross-border governance and management arrangements;
- develop strategies and solutions to optimise the delivery of services to cross-border communities;
- monitor the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) reform agenda in relation to the issues and progress relevant to cross-border communities; and
- keep cross-border communities informed on relevant reforms as they relate to cross-border communities.

Following his appointment, the Commissioner undertook a tour of all the NSW cross-border regions, visiting the ACT–NSW cross-border region in March 2012. He also met with the ACT Chief Minister in May 2012. At the conclusion of his consultations, Mr Toms released his 'Listening Tour' report⁵.

Any ACT–NSW cross-border issues identified in the Commissioner's Listening Tour report that are not already being addressed through broader COAG reform processes are being examined through the ACT–NSW MoU for Regional Collaboration.

3.5 South East Regional Organisation of Councils

Regional Organisations of Councils are voluntary groupings of councils across Australia involving collaborative partnerships between neighbouring councils. The South East Regional Organisation of Councils (SERO) commenced in July 2010 with the twelve local governments surrounding the ACT forming the membership (map 4).

In May 2012, the ACT Government formally became a member of SEROC, with the Chief Minister as the ACT's representative⁶. In addition, the Chair of the RDA ACT Committee was also asked to join as an observer.

Map 4: South East Regional Organisation of Councils (SERO)

⁵ NSW Government 2012, *NSW Cross-Border Commission Listening Tour Report*, Trade & Investment, http://www.business.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0017/24731/cbc_listeningtour_report_20120823.pdf.

⁶ A copy of the MoU between the South east Regional Organisation of Councils and the ACT Government can be viewed at http://www.cmd.act.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0006/339360/SEROCMoU_signed.pdf.



SEROC's objectives include the following.

- *Advance the interest of the region* covered by its member councils and promote a sense of 'regional community'.
- *Promote regional sustainability* – encourage and nurture suitable investment and infrastructure development throughout the region and support members in their action to seek from governments financial assistance, legislative and/or policy changes and additional resources required by the region.
- *Develop regional cooperation and resource sharing* — contribute to measurable improvement in service delivery and the operational efficiency and effectiveness of member councils by facilitating the sharing of knowledge, expertise and resources, promoting innovation and, where appropriate, aggregating demand and buying power.
- *Facilitate regional planning* on a range of environmental, economic, social and infrastructure issues.

The ACT Government supports the activities of SEROC, particularly as they relate to the broader region, noting that SEROC members also have an interest in NSW local government matters. Projects being pursued by SEROC include, *inter alia*:

- providing input to Destination 2036 (NSW Local Government Reform);
- examining economic development opportunities;
- implementing a South East Regional Waste Management Strategic Plan;
- pursuing a Water Utilities Alliance;
- coordinating a Regional Transport Study; and
- developing a Capital Region Living (developing website similar to 'Live in Canberra' approach).

Supporting the SEROC Board is the General Managers' Advisory Committee (GMAC). The ACT Government's representative is the Deputy Director General, Policy and Cabinet, CMTD.

3.6 Individual councils

The ACT Government has had an ongoing relationship with the Queanbeyan City Council, with the Chief Minister meeting regularly with the Mayor. Queanbeyan is our closest neighbour and activities within one jurisdiction directly impact on the other, with the two jurisdictions sometimes juggling competing interests. Maintaining an open dialogue ensures a strategic and coordinated approach to addressing current and emerging issues.

Areas of discussion between the ACT Government and Queanbeyan City Council include road networks, integration of public transport and implications arising from residential development of Googong and South Tralee⁷. In 2010 the former Chief Minister, Jon Stanhope, the former Member for Monaro (the Hon Steve Whan) and Queanbeyan City Mayor (Tim Overall) formed an Eastern Regional Transport Taskforce to consider transport infrastructure, transport planning and service

⁷ A copy of the ACT Government's submission to Queanbeyan City Council on the South Tralee development is available at <http://www.cmd.act.gov.au/policystrategic/regional/local/qcc>.

integration, pricing and concession arrangements, as well as alignment between the Canberra and Queanbeyan transport systems and transport-related cross-border land use and planning matters. The work of the taskforce is being incorporated in the land use planning and infrastructure priority of the ACT–NSW MoU for Regional Collaboration.

The ACT Government, in conjunction with the Commonwealth Government and the Queanbeyan City Council is a signatory to the Queanbeyan Water Supply Agreement signed in 2008 (the Agreement).⁸ It supersedes the ACT and NSW Cross-Border Region Water Resources MoU, which was executed by the same parties in 2006. The Agreement is for a term of 150 years unless terminated earlier by mutual agreement. The Agreement ends if the Googong Dam lease ends and provides for the supply of water for the Queanbeyan existing urban area and future approved developments.

More recently, as the surrounding LGAs expand, the ACT Government has established a closer working relationship with Yass Valley, Palerang and Cooma–Monaro councils. Improved coordination of activities can be achieved through a productive and structured dialogue.

3.7 COAG Regional Australia Standing Council

The Regional Australia Standing Council (RASC) has been established to support effective planning and coordination across all levels of government on matters affecting regional Australia. Commencing in July 2011, the RASC aims to support effective planning and coordination across all levels of government on matters affecting regional Australia.

Specifically, the RASC will seek to improve opportunities and services in regional Australia by:

- undertaking reforms that drive productivity and community prosperity in regional Australia and that are fundamental to national productivity and prosperity;
- developing mechanisms to strengthen and empower regional communities;
- identifying and scoping emerging issues affecting regional Australia for COAG; and
- developing cross-government strategic planning processes.

The RASC is developing a number of frameworks on regional economic development, regional engagement and governance structures. Unlike in other jurisdictions, the ACT Government's regional development and engagement is predominantly undertaken in a cross-border setting.

As such, the ACT Government's position is that cross-border parameters should be reflected in the work of RASC. Other jurisdictions also have a component of their regional development operating within a cross-border setting.

3.8 Canberra Urban and Regional Futures

Canberra Urban and Regional Futures (CURF) is a partnership between the University of Canberra and the Australian National University to provide a platform for information sharing across

⁸ A copy of the 2008 Queanbeyan Water Supply Agreement is also available at <http://www.cmd.act.gov.au/policystrategic/regional/local/qcc>.

organisations in the Canberra region. It focuses on research and education in the context of urban and regional planning, sustainability and climate change.

CURF was engaged by the ACT Government to undertake a scoping study into the establishment of a knowledge portal for the ACR. The purpose of the portal is to provide a more effective mechanism for sharing information across the region, bringing together information from different sources in a coordinated and unified way. It can provide opportunities to access spatial and non-spatial data and to network with other users. The study explored the potential for web-based data capture and sharing about a wide range of issues covering the ACR.

The knowledge portal continues to be examined under the data collection being undertaken through the work of the ACT–NSW MoU for Regional Collaboration.

3.9 Previous ACT Government regional engagement

The Regional Leaders' Forum (RLF) was established in 1995 and continued through to 2012 when it was concluded by agreement between the ACT and NSW First Ministers. The renewed regional engagement landscape reflected through the 2011 ACT–NSW MoU for Regional Collaboration, the establishment of SEROC and the presence of the RDA committees in the ACT and South East region of NSW, prompted the conclusion of the RLF.

4. Cross-border service delivery

The ACT Government acknowledges that its provision of services extends beyond the ACT's borders. Appropriate data collection is critical to informing future planning as well as funding these services.

Equalisation of GST is undertaken by the Commonwealth Grants Commission (CGC), which is responsible for developing methodologies used to distribute the GST pool among the states and territories. The CGC's methodology includes a cross-border disability assessment for the ACT, recognising the level of service provision into NSW. Canberra, in providing capital-city type services, attracts clients from the surrounding region.

The ACT has continued to argue that Canberra is the principal service centre for government, commercial, tertiary education, retail and transport services for residents of the surrounding local areas. Significant numbers of NSW residents regularly use ACT Government education, health and welfare, law and order, recreational and transport services. However, since these residents do not reside in the ACT, they do not generally contribute to ACT Government revenue through the payment of ACT taxes and charges. The state share of GST for these residents goes to NSW.

While the ACT supports the CGC's recognition of the cross-border impacts and its fundamental policy neutral approach to equalisation, the long term reliance on the CGC may be problematic as:

- changes to methodologies used to assess claims are ongoing — the CGC and larger states want to simplify methodologies, but this can lead to smaller disabilities not being included;
- funding impacts mainly affecting the ACT do not affect other states to the same extent;
- the CGC has previously expressed concern with the ACT's continuing reliance on its equalisation process to compensate for cross-border services; and
- compensation through the CGC is usually calculated on national average cost rather than the actual costs of service cost incurred;
- CGC reviews are only performed every five years and, until then, the ACT Government's GST revenue will be calculated based on the 2010 CGC Review; and
- claims require a robust case, based on high quality and validated data.

Additionally, the ACT Taxation Review has identified issues with the GST revenue base as:

- it has grown at a slower rate than the economy because of a rising share of Australian consumer spending on GST exempt items, such as health and education;
- it does not capture all imported online sales, which are growing; and
- while the Commonwealth is responsible for the collection of the GST, there is little incentive for it to protect this base as it is a state tax.

This section provides an overview of the cross-border service delivery activities undertaken by the ACT Government for health, education and community services.

4.1 Health services

ACT hospitals provide a tertiary referral service for the surrounding region of NSW, as well as lower acuity services to residents living in the areas closest to the ACT.

In terms of NSW patient flows to the ACT, half of all southern NSW residents treated in ACT public hospitals live within 100 kilometres of the ACT, and almost 90 per cent within 200 kilometres. NSW residents comprise around 23 per cent of all hospital separations from ACT public hospitals.

To facilitate an integrated approach to health services across the region, the ACT engages most closely with the Southern NSW Local Health District (LHD), but also with the Murrumbidgee LHD, whose residents access a narrower range of tertiary referral hospital services. Some parts of ACT Health liaise with the SENSW Medicare Local — however, at a planning level, this is usually through SNSW LHD

A Joint Departmental Committee (JDC) has been established between NSW and the ACT. The Committee has established a Work Plan aimed at developing and implementing a long term framework for delivering coordinated regional health services to the people of the ACT and to NSW residents, particularly those living in areas adjacent to the ACT.

The work of the Committee has been scheduled to achieve improvements in the organisation and delivery of health services within the short to medium term, while also allowing the necessary time to undertake the more detailed research, analysis and evaluation of options that could result in new long term regional health networking arrangements.

Strategies for regional collaboration and planning continue to be developed. The JDC has developed a log of initiatives under way. As specific examples, the Health Directorate and Queanbeyan Health Service are negotiating options for expansion of surgery at Queanbeyan Hospital. During 2012 there were 57 occasions of service for elective gynaecology and urology procedures performed on behalf of the ACT at Queanbeyan Hospital. Initial discussions have been held in relation to commencement of orthopaedic joint surgery.

The recent launch of the Emergency Medicine Education and Training Program at Queanbeyan Hospital on 18 February 2013 highlights another successful collaborative effort. In addition, the ACT is undertaking the development of a regional Cancer Services Plan, in collaboration with Southern NSW Local Health District (SNSW LHD), as well as entering into an agreement on the provision of renal services in SNSW LHD.

Other initiatives include the following.

- A critical care Telehealth pilot project operating from a base at The Canberra Hospital and supporting emergency departments in Queanbeyan, Batemans Bay, Moruya and Cooma.
- Patients with cardiac reperfusion within one hour of Canberra are now taken directly to the Canberra Hospital, bypassing local Emergency Departments.
- The ACT Health Directorate has participated in the SNSW LHD District Healthcare Services Plan and Yass and Moruya Oncology service planning.
- SNSW LHD has participated in the ACT Health Directorate Clinical Services Plan and the Palliative Care Service Plan.
- SNSW LHD was invited to contribute to ACT Health Directorate's policy on Inter-Hospital Transfers (significant as transfers between ACT and NSW hospitals can present challenges to continuity of care for patients).

- An agreement for a joint project on discharge planning/transfer of care between ACT and SNSW LHD.

The ACT cannot refuse access to ACT hospital services on the basis of residence. This is a longstanding principle of intergovernmental agreements on health agreed in 2008 (Medicare principles). Funding for ACT health services provided to NSW residents is being resolved under an agreement between the ACT and NSW in line with the terms of the National Health Reform Agreement, which has a section on cross-border arrangements (clause A88- A101), and was agreed by COAG in 2011.

The 2012-13 NSW payment for ACT hospital services provided to NSW residents is expected to be \$120 million.

4.2 Education and training

The Education and Training Directorate (ETD) provides services to children and young people both directly (through public schools and early childhood education and care services) and indirectly (through regulation of non-government schools and home education, and early childhood education and care services), and to people of all ages through the planning and coordination of vocational education and training in the ACT.

A number of students from the NSW region attend ACT public and non-government schools, and vocational education and training providers in the ACT (including the Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT)). The majority of students enrolled in ACT public schools from home addresses outside the ACT are from Queanbeyan, Murrumbateman, Jerrabomberra, Bungendore, Wamboin, Yass, Bywong, Royalla, Sutton and Gundaroo.

Some students from the ACT attend schools in the surrounding NSW region, particularly the distance education centre through Karabar High School in Queanbeyan.

The 2012 ACT School Census indicates that of the 40,074 students enrolled in ACT public schools, 1939 were NSW residents (4.8 per cent). Of the 27,462 students enrolled in ACT non-government schools, 3345 were NSW residents (12.2 per cent).

NSW residents make up 7.8 percent of all students in ACT schools:

- preschool to year 6 — 5.0 per cent
- years 7–10 — 11.3 per cent
- years 11–12 — 11.9 per cent.

The Directorate believes that the number of students from NSW enrolled in ACT public schools is understated due to the use of an ACT residential address for students who reside in NSW. It has been estimated that this undercount may be as high as 5 per cent of total public school enrolments.

The 2012 ACT School Census also showed that there were 1890 students accessing Disability Education programs. Of these, 80 students resided in NSW. The Directorate liaises with the NSW Department of Education and Communities (DEC) about students who reside in NSW who wish to access Disability Education programs in the ACT, with DECs providing a letter of introduction to accompany student applications.

In addition to its own data collection, the ETD receives data from non-government schools under an MoU. The data includes enrolment information collected through the February school census and student address details. This data assists in planning regional services.

In relation to higher education, 35 per cent of the domestic student population in the ACT is from interstate. The majority of the University of Canberra's interstate enrolments are from NSW and make up approximately 25 per cent of the university's total enrolments while 27 per cent of Australian National University's enrolments are interstate students.

There are 163 registered training organisations currently holding an ACT Funding Agreement, enabling them to apply for government funded training initiatives in the ACT. Sixty-four of these organisations have a head office location in NSW.

The Directorate is involved in planning for integrated cross-border service delivery for schools education and training, working with NSW DEC. Of particular interest is the exchange of information on the provision of school education services in the ACT and surrounding region, and on the demand for schooling from students in the surrounding NSW region.

Under the ACT–NSW MoU for Regional Collaboration, planning by ETD and NSW DEC focuses on the ACT and the south east region of NSW, with a specific project area incorporating areas within a one hour commute of Canberra.

ETD regularly liaises with stakeholders that are based in the ACT and also service surrounding regions, including Job Services Australia, Australian Apprenticeships Centres and registered training organisations. The Directorate also liaises with NSW State Training Services in relation to Australian Apprenticeships.

The Directorate is seeking to understand current patterns for use of education and training services in order to anticipate and plan for future provision of services and to facilitate equal opportunity for regional students to participate in higher education. Under the National Partnership Agreement on Skills Reform, the Directorate is undertaking the cross-border project to identify and address cross-border issues affecting funding training initiatives in the ACT. Through this project the Directorate is considering issues relating to the introduction of a national entitlement to training, interstate transfers of Australian Apprentices, interstate block release, and interstate students training with the ACT's public training provider. The Directorate will also liaise with other state and territory governments to consider a governance structure for the management of cross-border issues.

As the ACT is a small jurisdiction, many of its industries consist of a small number of enterprises that employ limited numbers of new employees in any year. Consequently, local registered training organisations may not service some industry sectors and, in some cases, Australian apprentices must obtain their structured (off-the-job) training interstate. Registered training organisations (RTOs) are encouraged to discuss ideas for delivery of training to such markets with the ETD and negotiate funding to develop new, flexible and innovative arrangements. Such arrangements could include cooperative arrangements between industry and registered training organisations, partnering arrangements between registered training organisations or a mix of on-the-job training with mentoring, management and assessment support services from the registered training organisation.

A small number of Australian apprenticeships qualifications are not delivered by any RTOs operating in the ACT. Australian apprentices in an ACT training contract for such qualifications are required to

travel interstate to undertake their structured (off-the-job) training. This normally occurs in 'blocks' of time (also known as interstate block release). A fixed contribution is paid to apprentices required to travel interstate for structured (off-the-job) training to assist with transport and daily living costs. This arrangement is also being considered with the cross-border issues under the National Partnership Agreement on Skills Reform.

Unlike health services, there is no specific agreement with NSW on funding ACT Government education services for NSW residents. This funding must be recovered through the CGC.

4.3 Community services

The ACT Government's Community and Services' Directorate, through its Children, Youth and Family Services, provides support to vulnerable and in need children, young people and families. When assessed as appropriate, services may also be provided to the surrounding NSW region. Specifically, Youth Justice's primary engagement with the NSW region occurs by means of transfers between jurisdictions, utilisation of supported crisis accommodation facilities on an overflow basis, and utilisation of interstate residential drug and/or alcohol rehabilitation facilities when appropriate.

The primary engagement for ACT Government's Care and Protection Services with the NSW region occurs through interstate alerts for children and young people in need of protection, interstate transfer of parental responsibilities, as well as informal cross-border support for children and young people in need of care. The ACT–Queanbeyan border presents challenges to child protection systems. Children in the care of the NSW Department of Community Services (DoCS) reside in the ACT without the knowledge of the ACT child protection authorities. In addition, NSW children at risk may present at ACT hospitals. Acknowledging privacy issues, transparency through exchange of information and cross-border case management arrangements could better serve the children.

Disability ACT provides no services to people from NSW through funded programs unless the individual is a cost-recovery consumer. The introduction of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (now Disability Care) will alter the way disability services are provided. The ACT Government will be a launch site for Disability Care from July 2014. As with other launch sites, residence in the launch site area is a pre-requisite for participation. Full roll out in NSW from 2018-19 will then implement this new national scheme across the region. Once the scheme is rolled out, services will be provided on a national basis, with each state and territory funding its share.

The Community Services Directorate plays an important role in the response to natural disasters. Immediate assistance arrangements include the provision of food, shelter, information and personal or practical support and may, in some circumstances, include the provision of immediate financial assistance and/or temporary accommodation. Natural disasters do not discern between jurisdictions, and developing mutual support arrangements between recovery agencies in the ACT and South East NSW Region would be of value.

5. Current and emerging projects

As the ACT and region continue to grow, so too does the array of activities that can be collectively progressed. Below is an overview of the ACT Government's current and emerging regional initiatives.

5.1 Improved regional data collection and analysis

Enhancing the evidence base is critical to framing the future regional development portfolio policies and initiatives. The recent release of the ABS census data provides an opportunity to examine regional demographic trends to inform land use and infrastructure activities. In 2012, the ACT Government prepared *Indicators for a Statistical Portrait of the Australian Capital Region*⁹. It identified a selection of key indicators grouped into six themes that provide a picture of the region. During 2013, new data from the 2011 Census is being used to report these indicators. During 2012, CMTD led a project to review and appraise the systems, geocoding methodology and validation processes utilised by ACT Government directorates collecting location data as part of service provision. The project considered the management, analysis and reporting of this data. Consistency of collection, alignment with national standards and regular reporting was recommended. Better data will aid future service planning as well as support arguments for funding cross-border services.

The ACT Government, through its service agencies, captures a wealth of data that has the capacity to provide useful information on out-of-jurisdiction service utilisation. This can lead to better service planning, as well as an improved evidence-base for intergovernmental agreement negotiations. In 2013, a project to report the scale and patterns of cross-border service utilisation, focused on health, education and jobs, will highlight the value of such data. This approach will also enhance understanding of the regional demographic drivers of service demand growth and better inform demographic projections.

5.2 Tourism

There is significant potential for tourism to play an important role in the ongoing cooperation between NSW and the ACT and so deliver economic growth for the region. The tourism industry currently contributes around \$1.3 billion to the ACT economy and is one of the territory's largest private sector employers, supporting 15,000 jobs. In 2012, Canberra attracted 2.1 million overnight visitors, accounting for nearly 10 million visitor nights and 1.5 million day-trip visitors.

Similarly, the value tourism provides to nearby regional NSW is equally important. A study commissioned by Tourism Research Australia in 2011 found that direct visitor expenditure represented 17 per cent of total economic output in the Snowy Mountains, the fourth highest of any region in Australia.

The economic value tourism provides to the ACT economy is closely linked to the quality of product and experiences available in regional NSW. NSW experiences play an important role in supporting Australian Capital Tourism's destination campaign activity and provide reasons for people to visit Canberra. For example, food and wine experiences are one of the four key pillars of Australian

⁹ Chief Minister and Cabinet 2012, *Indicators for a Statistical Portrait of the Australian Capital Region*, ACT Government, <http://www.cmd.act.gov.au/policystrategic/actstats/socialtrends>.

Capital Tourism's destination communication. The Canberra District wine region is home to 33 wineries, 32 of which are located in NSW.

The growth of tourism's value to the ACT and the region's economy relies on strong working partnerships with regional tourism businesses, regional tourism organisations, the NSW Government and the Australian Government. Australian Capital Tourism has facilitated these relationships through a range of forums including representation on the Boards of Tourism Snowy Mountains and Capital Country Tourism.

Two projects being managed by Australian Capital Tourism that demonstrate the value of a whole of region collaborative approach to achieve their full potential are the direct international air access and the implementation of priorities under the Tourism 2020 framework.

Aviation

Aviation and the opportunity to secure direct international air services for the ACT have the potential to significantly and positively stimulate the economies of the ACT and regional NSW.

Canberra Airport has undertaken a \$420 million transformation — with impending capability for hosting direct international flight services. While the majority of the ACT's overnight visitors are currently sourced domestically, the international market offers significant growth potential. In addition, the development of Canberra as an international gateway will result in increased traffic of the regional population into Canberra to take advantage of outbound services.

The ACT Government's Economic Development Directorate (EDD), through Australian Capital Tourism, is currently leading a project in conjunction with the Canberra Airport Group to attract services from New Zealand and Singapore.

Formal presentations have already been made to a number of international carriers regarding flights between Canberra and New Zealand. A recent Ministerial visit to Singapore also provided the opportunity to conduct high level discussions with key stakeholders in that region — including Changi Airport — to reinforce Canberra's world class aviation facilities.

While a decision by an airline to establish direct services to Canberra will be made purely on a commercial basis, success in this regard would go a long way to securing the long term future of Canberra and the region as a key business and tourism hub.

Tourism 2020

In partnership with the Federal Government, State and Territory Tourism Ministers have led and endorsed the Tourism 2020 strategic plan committed to supporting the tourism industry in maximising its economic potential.

In achieving a national 2020 stretch target of doubling overnight expenditure to \$140 billion, priority projects include growing demand from Asia, investment in new product and infrastructure, regulatory reform, attracting investment in tourism product, increasing the uptake of digital technology by small business, and addressing labour and skills shortages.

Australian Capital Tourism represents the ACT Government in contributing to the development of Tourism 2020 programs and delivery of priority projects under the framework. In addition, in

support of the national commitment, Australian Capital Tourism is in the process of determining 2020 targets for the ACT. The plan will focus on identifying the drivers of tourism demand and critical factors that influence competitive performance for tourism in the ACT and region. Australian Capital Tourism will assess where a whole-of-Government effort can contribute to meeting the 2020 tourism potential for the ACT. This will include working with regional partners.

5.3 Environmental management including biodiversity, catchment management

There is a close working relationship between the ACT and NSW environmental agencies, progressing a number of initiatives that have cross-border coverage due to the connectivity through the region. These include cross-border native vegetation and habitat connectivity initiatives in the vicinity of the north and northern eastern margins of the ACT — in particular, work in the Greater Gorooyarroo area (which represents the largest landscape of intact box-gum woodland in Australia) and the Southern Tablelands Flyway (a migratory route stretching from the central Lachlan River Catchment down to northern ACT).

Following a referral by the ACT Assembly, the ACT Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment undertook an *Investigation into the State of the Watercourses and Catchments for Lake Burley Griffin*¹⁰. The ACT Chief Minister met with the Mayors of Queanbeyan, Palerang and Cooma–Monaro as well as ACT Government and National Capital Authority representatives, commencing the preparation of an Action Plan in response to the Commissioner's report with the aim to improve the water quality of the lake.

A coordinated catchment management approach across the jurisdictions to improve water quality is a preferred approach. The mechanism and governance arrangements to achieve this outcome are being considered by the ACT Government. Some of the considerations are in the context of the negotiations surrounding the Murray Darling Basin Plan.

5.4 Procurement and resource sharing

In establishing the ACT Government's Regional Development portfolio late last year, the Chief Minister expressed her intention to examine a regional approach to procurement activities. This aligns with SEROC's objective 1.4.3 to:

Develop Regional Cooperation and Resource Sharing — Contribute to measurable improvement in service delivery and the operational efficiency and effectiveness of Member Councils through facilitation of the sharing of knowledge, expertise and resources, promoting innovation and, where appropriate, the aggregation of demand and buying power.

The SEROC General Managers' Advisory Council has been tasked with progressing this objective and preliminary discussions with the ACT Government's Shared Services Procurement have commenced. However, in relation to the aggregation of buying power, the local councils operate in a different procurement environment to the ACT Government, principally due to the Free Trade Agreement obligations with which the state, territory and Commonwealth governments must comply.

¹⁰ Full details of the investigation are available at http://www.envcomm.act.gov.au/investigations/lake_burley_griffin_investigation.

NSW Councils are already able to access NSW State Contracts, rather than necessarily having to undertake their own individual procurement for goods and services. In addition, NSW Councils are also able to access contracts established by *Local Government Procurement Pty Ltd* — a wholly owned subsidiary of the Local Government and Shires Association of NSW. Unlike the NSW Government, the ACT Government currently does not have processes in place to support other entities that may use ACT government contracts. This would require the Territory to establish processes to register other contract users and provide contract management support and assistance as required. However, more broadly, the Territory could support the sharing of knowledge and expertise of procurement practices.

Shared Services Procurement, in providing tendering opportunities to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) across the region, has sought to utilise SEROC network of council to provide a web link back to the ACT Government's procurement website, providing SMEs with tendering opportunities.

5.5 Emergency management and disaster recovery

An Emergency Management and Disaster Recovery Working Group has been established to identify existing cross-border arrangements for emergency management and disaster recovery, and any issues that could be progressed through new or refined cross-border arrangements. The working group, chaired by NSW DPC, comprises representatives from both jurisdictions' fire, ambulance, police, emergency services, environment protection authorities and the rural fire service.

During 2013 the Working Group will examine the benefits of extending the ACT's Emergency Services Single Point of Truth (SPOT) Information Distribution function to capture events across the border. It will also develop a Regional Disaster Plan that covers the ACT and South East NSW region.

In September 2012, the ACT and NSW Environment Protection Authorities (EPAs) signed a cross-border protocol. The protocol provides a strategic framework for interstate cooperation and mutual assistance and will result in strengthened cross-border operations to control pollution and more effective regulatory actions. The new protocol enhances regional collaboration by the EPAs and streamlines joint regulatory operations. The Working Group will also oversight an initiative to reduce illegal waste dumping across the region.

6. Emerging issues

The regional landscape is dynamic. Population growth in the surrounding region, changing policy focus by the federal and NSW governments, an expanding service delivery footprint and a more focused engagement strategy with neighbouring councils present all stakeholders with opportunities to reshape the future of our region.

6.1 Re-imagining our future — new partnerships and governance

Current partnerships and collaboration arrangements reflect the ACT Government's regional priorities and pursuit of specific initiatives. Future work, however, should encompass different approaches to regional governance, addressing the complexities of strategic planning and service delivery in both a cross-border and across-governments context. Current projects under the MoU (for example, regional infrastructure planning) as well as collaborative work through SEROC will inform this.

Potential structural changes within NSW local governments are also likely to present a different governance landscape, with different opportunities for partnerships.

The NSW Government's review of local government is examining new council structures, models and governance arrangements to strengthen communities in NSW. The Independent Local Government Review Panel, comprising Professor Graham Sansom, Ms Jude Munro AO and Mr Glenn Inglis, has released several reports.¹¹

In its most recent report, *Future Directions for NSW Local Government: Twenty Essential Steps* (April 2013), the panel proposes around 20 multi-purpose County Councils. These focus on existing or potential major regional centres, which would be potentially strengthened through amalgamations with adjoining councils.

Within the current SEROC membership, four county councils are proposed.

- *Capital*: Queanbeyan as the regional centre merging with Palerang, Yass Valley, Goulburn Mulwaree, Upper Lachlan and incorporating Wingacarrabee.
- *Snowy-Monaro*: Snowy River, Cooma–Monaro and Bombala.
- *South Coast*: Shoalhaven, Eurobodalla and Bega Valley.
- *Central West*: Harden, Boorowa, Young, along with other councils further west.

In its report, the Panel acknowledges that:

'...development in the border regions of NSW and around the ACT is driven to a very significant extent by cross-border economic and social links and provision of essential services. The importance of these linkages must be recognised and increasingly arrangements for local and

¹¹ More information on the Independent Local Government Review Panel is available at <http://www.localgovernmentreview.nsw.gov.au/home.asp>.

regional governance will need to facilitate cross-border collaboration. The Panel will further explore these issues.¹²

The Panel will undertake a further round of consultations prior to releasing its final report in mid-2013.

At a minimum, the ACT Government may wish to explore how to achieve stronger alignment of governance and engagement structures — perhaps with greater alignment of SEROC and Regional Development Australia Committee boundaries.

More broadly, our thinking should reach out to longer term options — is there a future scenario with a new regional governance structure incorporating decision making and funding capacity that can deliver regional services and progress jointly funded initiatives?

The combined region provides opportunities for the ACT and adjacent councils to speak with one voice. SEROC provides an opportunity for this to happen now, but future opportunities will hang off our ability to develop this shared voice to advocate for our region.

Re-imagining our future could be a cross cutting engagement in 2014 that builds on relevant issues in the NSW's local government review, and identifies and opens up options for our long term regional future around:

- regional governance that reflects the interests of all regional communities
- funding mechanisms to support regional services and projects
- shared advocacy and reform
- joint planning and strategy
- partnerships and operational collaborations.

6.2 Strategy and spatial planning

The NSW has a number of policy reforms in progress, including the Destination 2036 initiative¹³, which looks at local government reform along with proposed planning reforms detailed in the recently released White Paper on a new planning system for NSW¹⁴.

Both initiatives will affect regional collaboration in the future.

The joint exercises under the MoU with NSW on regional directions and spatial planning will identify future collaboration options. They will also identify some of the challenges and potential impediments to further development of partnerships in strategic and spatial planning.

¹² Independent Local Government Review Panel 2013, *Future Directions for NSW Local Government – Twenty Essential Steps*, pp. 36, <http://www.localgovernmentreview.nsw.gov.au/documents/LGR/Future%20Directions%20Paper.pdf>.

¹³ NSW Government 2012, *Destination 2036: A Path Together*, <http://www.dlg.nsw.gov.au/dlg/dlghome/documents/information/Destination%202036%20-%20Action%20Plan.pdf>.

¹⁴ Information on the White Paper for a New Planning System for NSW is available at <http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/a-new-planning-system-for-nsw>.

Regional planning will need to encompass urban growth in the ACT and, potentially, growth straddling the border as well as beyond the ACT border. Our region is made up of urban, peri-urban and rural growth with new growth corridors such as Canberra to Yass and Canberra to Cooma in addition to the Sydney to Canberra corridor.

Some areas for further work are evident now. An example is amalgamation of the housing supply and demand models of the ACT and the surrounding markets to enable better forecasting of housing products and ensure sustainable urban growth.

Development and implementation of a shared infrastructure funding agreement will also be required. Both of these are being progressed under the C Plus 1 initiative. A shared transport model is being examined between Queanbeyan and the ACT.

6.3 Regional service delivery

From an ACT perspective, a consistent approach to data collection within the ACT, particularly in relation to geocoding, will enable a more informed evidence base to service planning — identifying service demand and costs as a result of cross-border impacts.

As the region continues to grow, and the ACT's service provision footprint expands, this data will provide an important basis to negotiate different funding models with NSW and the Commonwealth Government.

Exchange of data with NSW Government agencies will further enhance the understanding of service delivery interactions between the jurisdictions.

Shared service planning on a regional basis, with related funding agreements is an area of current and future work.

Apart from some regionally based work in health services, most services with a cross border component are ACT based. Future approaches should forge and support stronger regional approaches — subject to the complexities of resolving funding and government accountability for service delivery.

In particular, roll-out of the National Disability Insurance Scheme more widely across regional NSW will support development of regional approaches and, in particular, opportunities for the development of regional markets to support regional service demand.

6.4 Land management and environmental collaboration

The extensive nature of land and environmental systems makes them ideally suited to cross-border collaboration. In this regard, there are opportunities to build on existing cooperation between the ACT, NSW and adjacent local government and non-government organisations.

Catchment management

The ACT lies within the Murrumbidgee catchment and gaining access to upper catchment water rights has contributed to securing Canberra's long-term water security. Sympathetic catchment management by the NSW Government and local government will be important in ensuring the long-term quantity and quality of that water.

The Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment's Investigation into the State of the Watercourses and Catchments for Lake Burley Griffin highlighted the deterioration in water quality of the ACT's watercourses, particularly Lake Burley Griffin and other urban lakes. The ACT Government will be seeking the essential cooperation of upstream councils and the NSW Government to address the catchment management issues causing these problems.

Environmental management

The ACT Government has been reviewing its Nature Conservation Strategy, and implementation of the next, revised, strategy will depend on cross-border collaboration with government and non-government organisations. This is particularly the case for management of invasive weeds and animal pests, where regional approaches reduce or slow reinvasion.

Scientists are already observing that wildlife is responding to climatic changes, and the maintenance of viable wildlife corridors across the region will be critical to allowing wildlife to respond over time and migrate to suitable new habitat.

Fire management

Climate change projections suggest the ACT's fire risk will increase over time. Ongoing cross-border cooperation will be vital to protecting Canberra, through both fuel reduction burns and wildfire responses.

6.5 Building the evidence base

Monitoring demographic trends across the region in addition to service data is a critical component of ongoing work.

A strong evidence base about demographic change and the drivers of growth will inform not only specific policy and service impacts, it will test the reality of our regional boundary. This evidence will identify where inter-relationships and inter-dependencies are the strongest and in what areas.

Population forecasts for the ACT need to reflect an appreciation of the patterns of growth and development within the surrounding LGAs.

This Submission sets out ongoing demographic work in the ACT Government. By 2014 both ACT and NSW will have new demographic projections to support analysis of implications of projected population change on a regional basis. This will inform further work.

6.6 Economic development

The current work being undertaken through the ACT–NSW MoU for Regional Collaboration, in conjunction with the three regional RDA committees and SEROC, will inform the future activities to support a regional approach to economic development.

Across the region there are a wide range of opportunities for economic diversification, infrastructure investment, training and skills development, and strengthening economic linkages. Possible regional economic development directions for further exploration and discussion include:

- enhancing and leveraging the world class education and training sector in the region, improving integration and connections within the region and more broadly;
- positioning the region to take advantage of the economic opportunities offered by the Asian Century;
- driving regional economic transformation through leadership in renewable energy and green economy initiatives;
- developing the region's export markets;
- building and promoting the region's innovation, digital and ICT capabilities; and
- developing the region as a transport, freight and/or logistics hub.

7. Conclusion

The ACT Government's relationship and interaction with the region continues to evolve, supported by a more focused and collaborative approach with our key stakeholders. While the primary activity of the ACT Government is to serve the people of the ACT, our future economic, social and environmental sustainability is closely tied with that of the surrounding region.

The governance structures and priorities to support regional development will continue to be refined as the regional relationships and interactions strengthen. Ensuring our combined efforts are strategically focused will ensure a sound outcome for the ACT and region.

Appendix A – Demographic profile

1. Current population and recent growth trends

The ACT was estimated to have a population of 374,658 residents at 30 June 2012. Adding the population of the surrounding region brings the total population of the Australian Capital Region (ACR) to an estimated 617,071 (table 1).

The ACT population accounted for 60.7 per cent of the ACR, while other major populations can be found in Queanbeyan (6.5 per cent), Eurobodalla (6.0 per cent), Bega Valley (5.4 per cent) and Goulburn Mulwaree (4.6 per cent).

Table 1: Estimated resident population, Australian Capital Region and constituent areas — 2001, 2006, 2011 and 2012

<i>ACT and NSW LGAs</i>	<i>2001</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2011pr</i>	<i>2012p</i>	<i>2012</i>
	no.	no.	no.	no.	%
ACT	319,317	334,119	367,752	374,658	60.7
Bega Valley (A)	30,703	32,477	32,999	33,112	5.4
Bombala (A)	2,631	2,625	2,458	2,397	0.4
Boorowa (A)	2,455	2,396	2,469	2,514	0.4
Cooma–Monaro (A)	9,752	10,174	10,086	10,114	1.6
Cootamundra (A)	7,695	7,627	7,501	7,571	1.2
Eurobodalla (A)	33,946	36,585	36,993	36,940	6.0
Goulburn Mulwaree (A)	26,623	27,213	28,285	28,628	4.6
Gundagai (A)	3,792	3,844	3,753	3,752	0.6
Harden (A)	3,860	3,739	3,680	3,695	0.6
Palerang (A)	10,896	12,949	14,835	15,053	2.4
Queanbeyan (C)	33,765	38,092	39,826	40,026	6.5
Snowy River (A)	7,207	7,583	7,752	7,894	1.3
Tumbarumba (A)	3,735	3,692	3,440	3,471	0.6
Tumut Shire (A)	11,470	11,273	11,272	11,284	1.8
Upper Lachlan Shire (A)	7,271	7,349	7,378	7,499	1.2
Yass Valley (A)	12,103	13,762	15,516	15,873	2.6
Young (A)	11,850	12,432	12,514	12,590	2.0
Australian Capital Region	539,071	567,931	608,509	617,071	100.0

Source: ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) 2012, *Regional Population Growth, Australia*, cat no. 3218.0.

Notes: p = preliminary; r = revised. The ABS is revising population estimates back to 1991 to reflect improved enumeration processes. These revisions will be available in August 2013.

Over the decade to 2011, the ACR population increased by 69,438 people or 12.9 per cent. ACT, with an increase of 48,435 people over the decade, accounted for nearly 70 per cent (69.8 per cent) of the ACR's population increase. The NSW LGAs comprising the balance of the ACR accounted for a total increase of 21,000 people or 30.2 per cent of the ACR increase. These trends continued in 2011-12 with the ACT accounting for 80.7 per cent of the ACR growth of 8562 people.

During the decade to 2011, population growth in the ACT has increased while growth in the balance of the ACR has declined. In the five years to 2006, the population of the ACT increased by 14,802 people, increasing to 33,633 people in the five years to 2011. In the same periods, growth in the NSW LGAs comprising the balance of the ACR declined from 14,058 people to 6945 people.

2. Projected growth trends

Population projections are currently being reviewed to incorporate new data and, in particular, to take account of 2011 Census results. Current projections, compiled by the ACT and NSW Governments, indicate that the ACR will reach 688,200 people by 2021 and 756,000 people by 2031.

For the ACR, increased growth is projected in the coming decade compared with growth in the past ten years. Projected growth of 7760 people each year for the decade ending 2021 is up from actual growth recorded in the decade to 2011 of 6944 people. Growth rates are projected to remain at an annual average of 1.2 per cent in the next decade, the same level as growth in the ten years to 2011. Growth is then anticipated to ease to 6780 people each year or 0.9 per cent between 2021 and 2031 (table 2). In the decade to 2021, the ACT is projected to grow by over 5000 people annually and account for 65.3 per cent of the ACR's growth. Queanbeyan (annual growth of 920 people), Eurobodalla (660 people) and Bega Valley (460 people) are the other areas projected to record most growth.

Table 2: Projected populations, Australian Capital Region and constituent areas — 2021 and 2031

	2021	2031	Average annual change		Average annual change	
			2011-21(a)		2021-31(a)	
	no.	no.	no.	%	no.	%
ACT	414,498	457,300	5,070	1.3	4,280	1.0
Bega Valley (A)	39,400	43,500	460	1.2	410	1.0
Bombala (A)	2,300	2,100	-20	-0.8	-20	-0.9
Boorowa (A)	2,200	2,100	-10	-0.4	-10	-0.5
Cooma-Monaro (A)	10,400	10,500	10	0.1	10	0.1
Cootamundra (A)	7,200	6,700	-30	-0.4	-50	-0.7
Eurobodalla (A)	46,500	52,400	660	1.5	590	1.2
Goulburn Mulwaree (A)	27,900	28,200	50	0.2	30	0.1
Gundagai (A)	3,600	3,400	-20	-0.5	-20	-0.6
Harden (A)	3,400	3,100	-20	-0.6	-30	-0.9
Palerang (A)	17,300	20,300	300	1.9	300	1.6
Queanbeyan (C)	51,600	60,900	920	2.0	930	1.7
Snowy River (A)	9,500	10,800	130	1.5	130	1.3
Tumbarumba (A)	3,400	3,100	-20	-0.6	-30	-0.9
Tumut Shire (A)	10,700	10,200	-40	-0.4	-50	-0.5
Upper Lachlan Shire (A)	7,300	7,200	0	0.0	-10	-0.1
Yass Valley (A)	17,500	20,000	250	1.6	250	1.3
Young (A)	13,500	14,200	70	0.5	70	0.5
ACR	688,198	756,000	7,760	1.2	6,780	0.9

Source: ACT Government 2011, *ACT Population Projections 2009-2059*, Canberra. NSW Department of Planning 2010, *NSW SLA Population Projections (2006-2036)*, NSW Government.

Notes: Population projections are currently being reviewed with updated projections due out in 2013-14. These updates will incorporate revised population estimates and information from the 2011 Census.

3. Ageing of the population

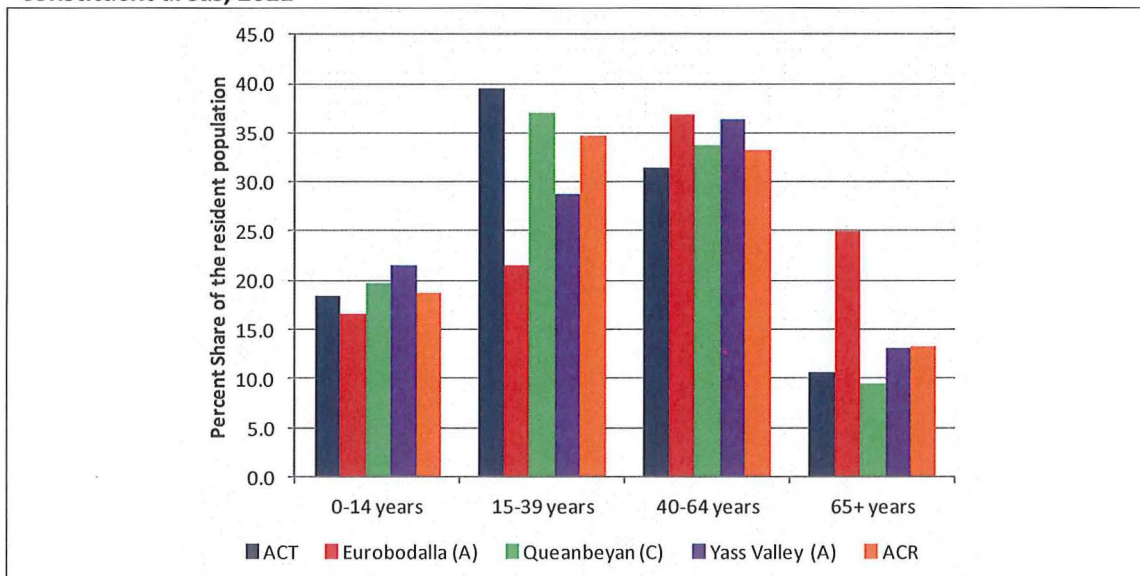
Approximately one-third (34.8 per cent) of the ACR population was aged between 15 and 39 years in 2011. A further third (33.2 per cent) was aged between 40 and 64 years, while the remaining third was split between children aged less than 15 years (18.7 per cent) and older people aged 65 years or more (13.3 per cent).

For children aged less than 15 years, the ACT's population (18.4 per cent) was similar to the regional average of 18.7 per cent. However, some other areas had larger proportions comprising children; for example, Young (22.1 per cent) and Yass Valley (21.6 per cent). Yass Valley also had a larger proportion of the population made up of people aged between 40 and 64 years (36.4 per cent) compared to the ACR level (33.2 per cent). Palerang, at 40.9 per cent, had the largest share of this age group in the ACR.

In contrast, the ACT had the largest share of the population comprising people aged between 15 and 39 years (39.5 per cent), higher than the ACR level of 34.8 per cent. This reflects the importance of the ACT, both within and beyond the region, for education and employment purposes.

While the ACR had 13.3 per cent of the population aged 65 years or more, Eurobodalla (25.1 per cent) and Bega Valley (21.1 per cent) had much larger shares showing their function as retirement destinations. Many of the rural parts of the ACR also had relatively large shares of the population aged 65 years or more as young people traditionally depart these locations in search of jobs or further educational opportunities. For example, Cootamundra (22.7 per cent), Harden (21.8 per cent) and Upper Lachlan (21.2 per cent) each had much higher proportions of older people than the rate for the ACR of 13.3 per cent. The distribution of these broad age groups in selected locations of the ACR is shown in figure 1.

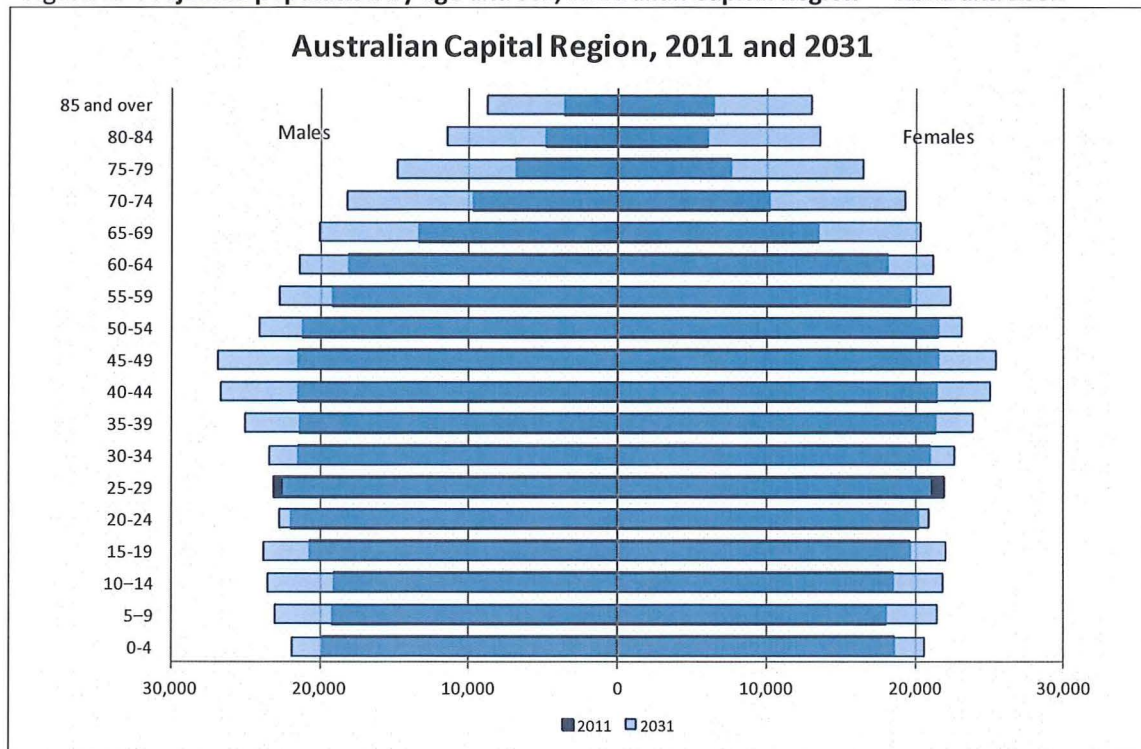
Figure 1: Share of population by broad age group, Australian Capital Region and selected constituent areas, 2011



Source: ABS 2012, *Australian Demographic Statistics*, cat. no. 3101.0, Canberra. ABS 2012, *Regional Population Growth, Australia*, cat. no. 3218.0, Canberra.

In the future the ACR, in common with many other areas of Australia, will experience large increases in the number of older people in the community. The median age is expected to increase as the large cohorts of baby boomers (born between 1946 and 1965) move into the older age groups (figure 2).

Figure 2: Projected population by age and sex, Australian Capital Region — 2011 and 2031

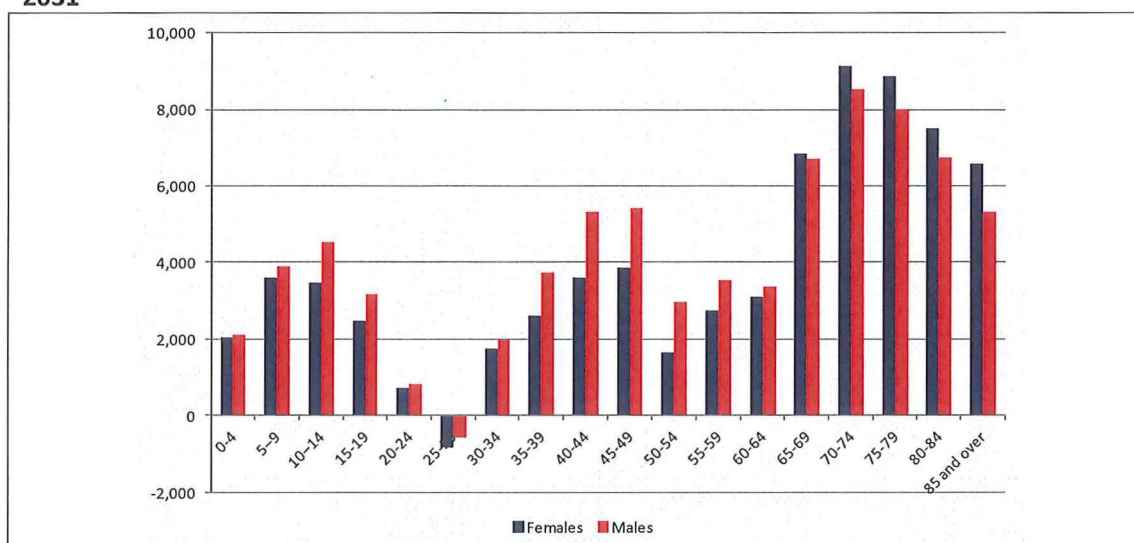


Source: ACT Government 2011, *ACT Population Projections 2009-2059*, Canberra. NSW Department of Planning 2010, *NSW SLA Population Projections (2006-2036)*, NSW Government.

Over the two decades to 2031, the largest increases are projected to be for people in their 70s with the number of females aged between 70 and 79 years increasing by 17,979 people and the number of males increasing by 16,534 people. There will also be large increases in the number of people aged 80 years and over (up by 26,125 people between 2011 and 2031) and those aged between 65 and 69 years (figure 3).

There will also be considerable growth in the number of people in their 40s and young people aged between 5 and 14 years. These means that not only will infrastructure and services to meet the needs of the expanding older population be required, but demands for both school age and working age populations will also increase.

Figure 3: Projected changes in population by age and sex, Australian Capital Region — 2011 and 2031



Source: ACT Government 2011, *ACT Population Projections 2009-2059*, Canberra. NSW Department of Planning 2010, *NSW SLA Population Projections (2006-2036)*, NSW Government.

4. Patterns of migration

Of the 590,137 people counted in the ACR at the time of the 2011 Census, over half (51.3 per cent) had not moved in the previous five years. Around one-third (32.8 per cent), moved from elsewhere in Australia and 4.6 per cent moved from overseas.

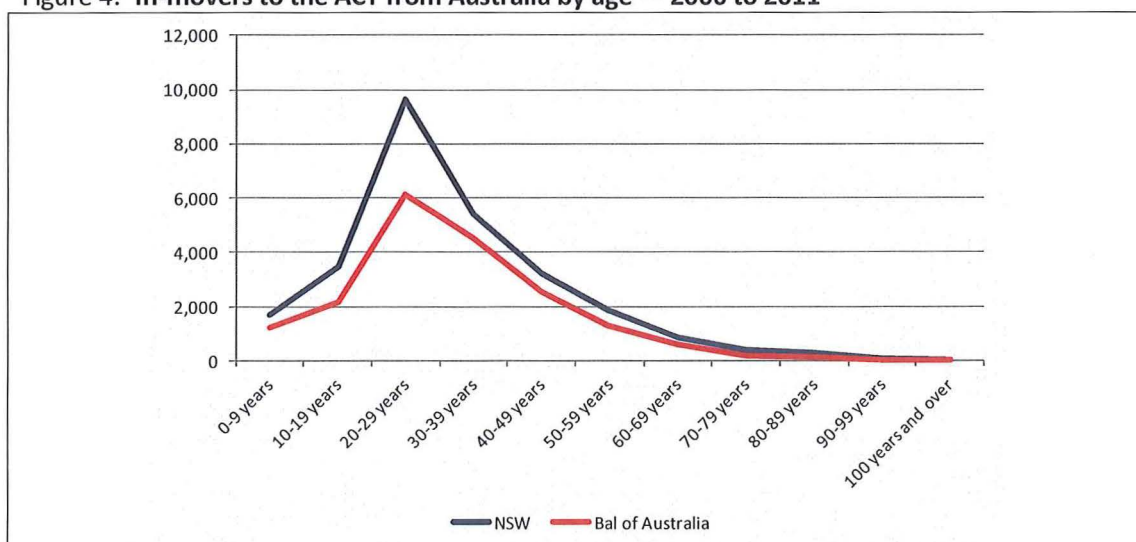
For the people who moved from elsewhere in Australia, important source locations included the Riverina (22,319 people), Sydney (17,043 people), Melbourne (5,846 people), Brisbane (2,858 people), Southern Highlands and Shoalhaven (2,362 people), the NSW Central West (2,296 people) and Perth (2,156 people). In total, the main source states (excluding NSW) were Queensland (9,474 people) and Victoria (8,982 people).

Patterns of migration are age-specific with over half (56.3 per cent) of all movers to the ACT being aged between 20 and 39 years (figure 4). A further 18.7 per cent were aged less than 20 years, while 19.4 per cent were aged between 40 and 59 years.

While most of the in-movers were young people, 2,552 people aged 60 years and over moved to the ACT in the five years to 2011. Over 1,000 people (1,105) aged 70 years and over were part of this in-flow. This may reflect movement to be closer to family, to access retirement or specialist medical facilities available in the ACT.

For people moving away from the ACT, the main age groups were also 20–29 years, followed by 30–39 years. However, more people aged between 50 and 79 years moved away from the ACT than moved in to the ACT, leading to a net internal migration loss for these ages. The main states that people in these age groups moved to were NSW and Queensland.

Figure 4: In-movers to the ACT from Australia by age — 2006 to 2011



Source: ABS 2012, Census of Population and Housing, table builder.

Considerable movement occurred between the ACT and surrounding parts of NSW. Over the five years to 2011, more people moved from the ACT (9634 people) to the Capital Region (excludes Cootamundra, Gundagai, Tumbarumba and Tumut) than in the other direction (7652 people) resulting in a net loss of population to the ACT in exchange with the surrounding areas.

For people aged 50–59 years who moved from the ACT in the five years to 2011, the main destinations were Queanbeyan (260 people), Eurobodalla (259 people), Palerang (211 people), Yass Valley (204 people), and then Brisbane (188 people) and the Gold Coast (155 people). This illustrates the strong connections in the ACR for ACT residents choosing other residential locations. While Eurobodalla probably suggests these people have moved for retirement purposes, the other main destinations were within commuting distance to the ACT.

For those aged 60–69 years, the main destinations were Eurobodalla (373 people), Shoalhaven (144 people), Bega Valley (134 people) and the Gold Coast (130 people) and Sunshine Coast (122 people). These are more clearly retirement destinations reflecting the age of the movers. In total, for people aged between 50 and 69 years who moved from the ACT over the five years to 2011, six of the top ten destinations were in the ACR.

5. Journey to work patterns

In 2011, 27,800 people indicated that they worked in the ACT but lived elsewhere. Some 23,364 people or 84 per cent of these were from the balance of ACR (excluding the ACT) (table 3). This illustrates the strong economic linkages between the ACT and the surrounding parts of the ACR.

Table 3: Employed persons who worked in the ACT but lived in the Australian Capital Region 2011

Home location	Workers	Share of ACR
	no.	%
Bega Valley (A)	143	0.6
Bombala (A)	18	0.1
Boorowa (A)	75	0.3
Cooma–Monaro (A)	595	2.5
Cootamundra (A)	21	0.1
Eurobodalla (A)	244	1.0
Goulburn Mulwaree (A)	901	3.9
Gundagai (A)	20	0.1
Harden (A)	46	0.2
Palerang (A)	3,916	16.8
Queanbeyan (C)	13,229	56.6
Snowy River (A)	77	0.3
Tumbarumba (A)	3	0.0
Tumut Shire (A)	15	0.1
Upper Lachlan Shire (A)	346	1.5
Yass Valley (A)	3,678	15.7
Young (A)	37	0.2
Australian Capital Region	23,364	100.0

Source: ABS 2012, Census of Population and Housing, table builder.

Queanbeyan (13,229 people) was the biggest source area for interstate workers in the ACT accounting for 56.6 per cent of those coming from the ACR. Palerang (3916 people or 16.8 per cent) and Yass Valley (3678 people or 15.7 per cent) were the next two most important source areas. While the number of workers declined with distance and poorer access to the ACT, sizeable numbers travelled considerable distances. For example, 901 people travelled from Goulburn Mulwaree, 595 people travelled from Cooma–Monaro and 346 people travelled from Upper Lachlan Shire to work in the ACT. In addition, 244 people travelled from coastal locations in the Eurobodalla Shire.

The main industries of employment reflected the dominant industries in the ACT. Thus, central government administration (3799 workers resident in the Capital Region — excludes Cootamundra, Gundagai, Tumbarumba and Tumut), defence (2005 workers), state government administration (891 workers) and computer system design and related services (638 people) were the main industries for interstate workers resident in adjacent areas in NSW. Education was also important with higher education ranking sixth, primary education ranking tenth and combined primary and secondary education ranking 17th in terms of the number of interstate workers from the area surrounding the ACT.

6. School age population

The following analysis refers to the six NSW LGAs closest to the ACT. It is most likely that school students accessing services in the ACT would reside in these areas. For convenience, age groups have been aggregated into three broad groups (0–4 year olds, 5–14 year olds and 15–19 year olds). These groups broadly correspond to those requiring child care, kindergarten or pre-school services (0–4 years), primary and secondary education (5–14 years) and late secondary, early tertiary or further education (15–19 years). Of course, many young people continue to access educational and training services into their 20s.

For the ACT and the six surrounding NSW LGAs (the C Plus 1 region) in 2011, there were 32,324 children aged less than five years, 58,004 aged between five and 14 years and 31,635 people aged

between 15 and 19 years (table 4). Three-quarters (75.2 per cent) of these young people lived in the ACT. Key locations in the surrounding areas were Queanbeyan (with 8.5 per cent) and Goulburn Mulwaree (5.8 per cent).

Table 4: School age population by broad age groups, ACT and the six surrounding NSW LGAs — 2011

	0–4 years	5–14 years	15–19 years	Total
	no.	no.	no.	no.
ACT	24,753	42,644	24,028	91,425
Cooma–Monaro (A)	626	1,299	670	2,595
Goulburn Mulwaree (A)	1,718	3,555	1,840	7,113
Palerang (A)	956	2,176	983	4,115
Queanbeyan (C)	2,747	5,120	2,577	10,444
Upper Lachlan Shire (A)	425	958	489	1,872
Yass Valley (A)	1,099	2,252	1,048	4,399
Total	32,324	58,004	31,635	121,963

Source: ABS 2012, *Regional Population Growth, Australia*, cat. no. 3218.0, Canberra.

Current projections show that each of these age groups will grow in the coming years (table 5). The majority of growth will occur in the primary and secondary education group, or those aged between five and 14 years where an additional 10,039 children will become resident of the area over the decade to 2021. Younger children aged less than five years are projected to increase by 3856 people during the same period. However, 15–19 year olds will only increase by a small number (314 people).

If fertility rates decline in line with current assumptions, there will be little increase in the 0–4 years age group in the decade to 2031 (up 193 people), the 5–14 years age group will increase by half as many as in the previous decade (5115 people), while the 15–19 years age group will see solid increases as the younger cohorts move through (up 5818 people).

Table 5: Projected change in school age population by broad age groups, C Plus 1 region — 2011-21 and 2021-31

	2011-21	2021-31
	no.	no.
0–4 years	3,856	193
5–14 years	10,039	5,115
15–19 years	314	5,818
Total (0–19 years)	14,209	11,126

Source: ACT Government 2011, *ACT Population Projections 2009-2059*, Canberra. NSW Department of Planning 2010, *NSW SLA Population Projections (2006-2036)*, NSW Government.

Notes: Population projections are currently being reviewed with updated projections due out in 2013-14. These updates will incorporate revised population estimates and information from the 2011 Census.

In the NSW areas surrounding the ACT, growth is projected in both the 0–4 years and the 5–14 years age groups over the decade to 2021, but not for 15–19 year olds. In the decade to 2031, each of the three broad age groups are projected to grow (table 6).

Table 6: Projected change in school age population by broad age groups, NSW component of the C Plus 1 region — 2011-21 and 2021-31

	2011-21	2021-31
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	no.	no.
0-4 years	830	560
5-14 years	1,380	1,570
15-19 years	-10	830
Total (0-19 years)	2,200	2,960

Source: NSW Department of Planning 2010, *NSW SLA Population Projections (2006-2036)*, NSW Government.

Notes: Population projections are currently being reviewed with updated projections due out in 2013-14. These updates will incorporate revised population estimates and information from the 2011 Census.

7. 'Canberra plus one' recent growth figures

New data for June 2012 (released on 30 April 2013) show that the C Plus 1 region had a population of 491,851, having increased by 8173 people or 1.7 per cent over the previous year. This is comparable to average annual growth recorded between 2006 and 2011 of 8004 people or 1.7 per cent each year, but considerably above growth of 4786 people or 1.1 per cent recorded between 2001 and 2006.

(Note: the analysis below compares the C Plus 1 region to Statistical Area 4s in NSW. Greater Sydney is also included for comparison purposes.)

The C Plus 1 region's rate of growth was fast compared with much of NSW. Only three statistical areas grew faster: Parramatta, Sydney City and Inner South, and the Hunter Valley excluding Newcastle. All other areas of NSW were slower growing than the C Plus 1 region (table 7).

The rate of population growth in the C Plus 1 region (1.7 per cent) between 2001 and 2012 was faster than Newcastle and Lake Macquarie (0.9 per cent), the Central Coast (0.8 per cent), the Southern Highlands and Shoalhaven (0.6 per cent) and the Illawarra (0.5 per cent). The C Plus 1 region (1.7 per cent) also grew faster than the Greater Sydney region (1.3 per cent).

In terms of total population growth, the C Plus 1 region increased by 8173 people between 2011 and 2012. Only the Parramatta Statistical Area had a larger population increase (9425 people) with all other statistical areas in NSW growing by smaller amounts (Coffs Harbour – Grafton declined by 94 people).

Absolute population growth in the C Plus 1 region (8173 people) was larger than most NSW areas. The Hunter Valley excluding Newcastle area grew by 4456 people, the Newcastle and Lake Macquarie area grew by 3126 people, the Central Coast by 2464 people and the Southern Highlands and Shoalhaven by 918 people. Growth in the C Plus 1 region was also above that recorded in Sydney's inner west (5214 people) and Blacktown (5101 people).

**Table 7: Recent population growth, C Plus 1 region and NSW Statistical Area 4s — 2011-2012
(ranked by percentage growth 2011-2012)**

STATISTICAL AREAS LEVEL 4 (SA4)	ERP at 30 June		Change	
	2011pr	2012p	2011pr-2012p	
	no.	no.	%	no.
TOTAL SYDNEY - PARRAMATTA	414,096	423,521	2.3	9,425
TOTAL SYDNEY - CITY AND INNER SOUTH	284,457	289,832	1.9	5,375
TOTAL HUNTER VALLEY EXC NEWCASTLE	251,196	255,652	1.8	4,456
C+1 Region	483,678	491,851	1.7	8,173
TOTAL SYDNEY - BLACKTOWN	314,998	320,099	1.6	5,101
TOTAL SYDNEY - RYDE	170,997	173,703	1.6	2,706
TOTAL SYDNEY - INNER WEST	278,974	282,837	1.4	3,863
TOTAL SYDNEY - OUTER SOUTH WEST	243,569	247,053	1.4	3,484
TOTAL SYDNEY - SOUTH WEST	376,539	381,753	1.4	5,214
TOTAL SYDNEY - INNER SOUTH WEST	550,209	557,138	1.3	6,929
TOTAL GREATER SYDNEY	4,605,992	4,667,283	1.3	61,291
TOTAL SYDNEY - BAULKHAM HILLS AND HAWKESBURY	218,742	221,259	1.2	2,517
TOTAL SYDNEY - NORTH SYDNEY AND HORNSBY	396,273	401,186	1.2	4,913
TOTAL SYDNEY - NORTHERN BEACHES	250,402	253,411	1.2	3,009
TOTAL SYDNEY - EASTERN SUBURBS	267,974	270,935	1.1	2,961
TOTAL CENTRAL WEST	203,329	205,427	1.0	2,098
TOTAL NEWCASTLE AND LAKE MACQUARIE	356,041	359,167	0.9	3,126
TOTAL CENTRAL COAST	321,685	324,149	0.8	2,464
TOTAL SYDNEY - OUTER WEST AND BLUE MOUNTAINS	297,940	300,471	0.8	2,531
TOTAL CAPITAL REGION	214,983	216,550	0.7	1,567
TOTAL MID NORTH COAST	207,677	208,892	0.6	1,215
TOTAL NEW ENGLAND AND NORTH WEST	183,116	184,227	0.6	1,111
TOTAL SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS AND SHOALHAVEN	141,879	142,797	0.6	918
TOTAL ILLAWARRA	288,036	289,472	0.5	1,436
TOTAL RICHMOND - TWEED	236,557	237,487	0.4	930
TOTAL MURRAY	113,700	114,017	0.3	317
TOTAL FAR WEST AND ORANA	118,768	119,018	0.2	250
TOTAL RIVERINA	155,123	155,379	0.2	256
TOTAL COFFS HARBOUR - GRAFTON	135,071	134,977	-0.1	-94

Source: ABS 2013, *Regional Population Growth*, cat. no. 3218.0 — downloaded file estimated resident population growth in statistical area 4s, 2011-12, estimated resident population growth in LGAs, 2011-12. ABS 2013, *Australian Demographic Statistics*, cat. no. 3101.0 (for ACT population growth).

Recent estimates of the resident population and growth for the ACT, LGAs in the C Plus 1 region and the C Plus 1 region in total are shown in table 8.

ACT Government Submission

Table 8: Estimates of the Resident Population, ACT, selected NSW LGAs and the C Plus 1 region — 2001-2012

	ERP at 30 June												Population change							
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007pr	2008pr	2009pr	2010pr	2011pr	2012p	2001-11(a)		2001-06(a)		2006-11(a)		2011-12	
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%
ACT	319,317	322,675	325,661	327,475	330,164	334,119	341,567	347,308	353,806	360,753	367,752	374,658	4,844	1.4	2,960	0.9	6,727	1.9	6,906	1.9
Cooma-Monaro (A)	9,752	9,778	9,929	9,958	10,061	10,174	10,088	10,072	10,123	10,088	10,086	10,114	33	0.3	84	0.9	-18	-0.2	0.3	28
Goulburn Mulwaree (A)	26,623	26,755	26,834	26,884	27,018	27,213	27,157	27,509	27,878	28,128	28,285	28,628	166	0.6	118	0.4	214	0.8	1.2	343
Palerang (A)	10,896	11,311	11,640	11,982	12,356	12,949	13,495	13,963	14,358	14,629	14,835	15,053	394	3.1	411	3.5	377	2.8	1.5	218
Queanbeyan (C)	33,765	34,753	35,958	36,385	37,270	38,092	38,269	38,821	39,244	39,681	39,826	40,026	606	1.7	865	2.4	347	0.9	0.5	200
Upper Lachlan Shire (A)	7,271	7,265	7,265	7,280	7,274	7,349	7,353	7,378	7,399	7,392	7,378	7,499	11	0.1	16	0.2	6	0.1	1.6	121
Yass Valley (A)	12,103	12,473	12,896	13,217	13,448	13,762	14,114	14,467	14,799	15,205	15,516	15,873	341	2.5	332	2.6	351	2.4	2.3	357
Canberra plus one ¹	419,727	425,010	430,183	433,181	437,591	443,658	452,043	459,518	467,607	475,876	483,678	491,851	6,395	1.4	4,786	1.1	8,004	1.7	8,173	1.7
Notes:																				
(a) - average annual growth																				
p - preliminary																				
r - revised																				
(A) - area																				
(C) - city																				
1. "Canberra plus one" represents ACT plus those Local Government Areas within approximately one hour's travelling time (Cooma-Monaro, Goulburn Mulwaree, Palerang, Queanbeyan, Upper Lachlan and Yass Valley).																				
Source: compiled from Australian Bureau of Statistics, Cat No 3218.0, April 2013 and earlier editions (ASGS 2011)																				
Note: Estimates from 2007-2010 have been re-based following the 2011 Census. Revisions to these figures will be released in August 2013.																				
As a result, these estimates are not strictly comparable to estimates for earlier periods.																				
See Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian Demographic Statistics December quarter 2011																				
(2011 Census Edition - Preliminary), Cat No 3101.0 for further information.																				