

# Camden LGA Snapshot 2010

*Working together towards a connected cohesive community*



[www.camden.nsw.gov.au](http://www.camden.nsw.gov.au)



# LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND SHIRES ASSOCIATION NSW POLICY STATEMENT ON COMMUNITY PLANNING AND SERVICES<sup>1</sup>

## Vision

Local Government commits to pursuing the Australian vision of a fairer, more just and more equal society

Local Government recognises that unless the pursuit of economic development is accompanied by both strong support for social justice and strong support for ecologically sustainable development (ESD), the Australian vision of a fair, just and equal society will be diminished.

For Local Government 'social justice' is based on the application of the following four principles:

- *Equity* – fairness in the distribution of resources, particularly for those in need
- *Rights* – equality of rights established and promoted for all people.
- *Access* – fair access for all people to economic resources, services and rights essential to their quality of life
- *Participation* – opportunity for all people to genuinely participate in the community and be consulted on decisions which affect their lives.

Local Government acknowledges and supports:

- the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (especially Article 25, which recognises that everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for their health and wellbeing including food, clothing, housing, the right to health, the right to work and the right to rest and leisure).
- the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (the right to social security, the right to a reasonable living standard, the right to food, the right to education, the right to housing, the right to health, the right to work and the right to rest and leisure)
- the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (freedom of speech and other civil political rights).

Local Government further acknowledges and supports the Commonwealth and State legislative frameworks that reflect these international instruments, such as the Race Discrimination Act (Commonwealth) 1975, Sex Discrimination Act (Commonwealth) 1984, Disability Discrimination Act (Commonwealth) 1992, Anti-Discrimination Act (NSW) 1977, Library Act 1939 and the like.

---

<sup>1</sup> As at conclusion of the 2005 Annual Conference

## ABOUT THE CAMDEN LGA

The Camden Council area is located in Sydney's south-western suburbs, about 60 kilometres from the Sydney CBD. The Camden Council area is bounded by Liverpool City in the north, Campbelltown City in the east, and Wollondilly Shire in the south and west.

The Camden Council area includes the suburbs and localities of Bickley Vale, Bringelly (part), Camden, Camden South, Catherine Field, Cawdor (part), Cobbitty, Currans Hill, Elderslie, Ellis Lane, Grasmere, Harrington Park, Kirkham, Leppington (part), Mount Annan, Narellan, Narellan Vale, Oran Park, Rossmore (part), Smeaton Grange and Spring Farm.

The Camden Council area is a rapidly growing residential area, with rural, industrial and commercial areas. The Council area encompasses a total land area of about 200 square kilometres. Rural land is used largely for agriculture.

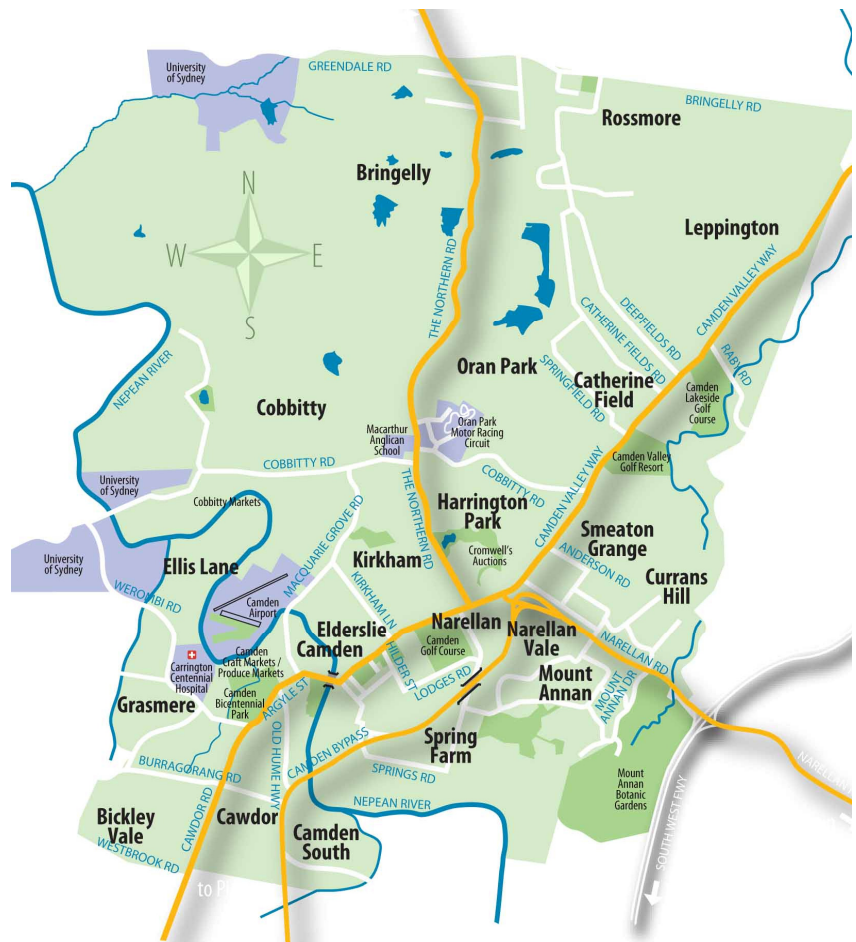
Camden is named after Lord Camden, former Secretary of State for War and the Colonies. Camden is called the "Birthplace of the Wealth of the Nation" in recognition of the commencement of Australia's wool industry in the area.

The original inhabitants of the Camden area were the Tharawal and Gundungurra Aboriginal people. European settlement dates from 1805 when John Macarthur was granted 5,000 acres of land for sheep breeding. Population was minimal until the 1840s when land was subdivided. Gradual growth took place in the late 1800s.

Significant development occurred from the 1980s. Rapid growth has taken place since the early 1990s, with the population of the Council area increasing from about 22,000

in 1991 to about 49,000 in 2006. Most of this growth has been in Currans Hill, Harrington Park, Mount Annan and Narellan Vale. Growth is expected to continue, as existing release areas continue to be developed and new release areas in the north of the Council area begin development.

Major features of the Council area include the Nepean River, Mount Annan Botanic Garden, William Howe Regional Park, The Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park, Camden Airport, The Camden Town Farm, University of Sydney Cobbitty, Coates Park Farm (The University of Sydney), Belgenny Farm (Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute) and various wineries.



## SUMMARY OF POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS AT LAST CENSUS

At the last ABS Census (2006) the population of Camden LGA was 49, 651 at 2006 ABS Census. Significant characteristics at that time included –

- A high proportion of Australian born (79.9%) and a low proportion of overseas born population<sup>2, 3</sup> (15.5%) compared to the Sydney Statistical Division (60.3% and 31.8% respectively).
- A similar proportion of Indigenous population<sup>4</sup> (1.3%) compared to the Sydney Statistical Division (1.1%).
- A high proportion of English only speakers (87.5%) and a low proportion of other than English language speakers (9.2%)<sup>5</sup> compared to the Sydney Statistical Division (63.9% and 29.3% respectively).
- A high proportion of residents claiming an affiliation with Christian denominations (78.9%) and a low percentage of residents claiming an affiliation with non-Christian religions<sup>6</sup> (2.9%) compared to the Sydney Statistical Division (64% and 10.9% respectively).
- A high proportion of couple families with children (56.6%) and a slightly lower proportion of one parent families (14%) compared to the Sydney Statistical Division (49.3% and 15.5% respectively)
- A high proportion of children 0-4 years (8.5%) and 5-11 years of age (20.5%) compared to the Sydney statistical division (6.6% and 15.7% respectively).
- A high proportion of secondary school aged young people 12-17 years of age (10%) compared to the Sydney Statistical Division (7.9%).
- A similar proportion of people who require assistance with self-care, body movements or communication because of disability, long term health condition or old age (3.2%) as the Sydney Statistical Division (3.8%).
- A high proportion of persons 64-70 years of age in the areas of -Rossmore-Catherine Field (13.7%), Elderslie (13.0%) and Cobbitty-Bringelly-Kirkham-Oran Park (11.5%) compared to the Sydney Statistical Division (10.6%).
- A high proportion of persons 75 years and over in the suburbs of Grasmere – Ellis Lane – Cawdor – Bickley Vale (18.3%) and Camden (14.5%) compared to the Sydney Statistical Division (6.1%).
- A high proportion of people with vocational qualifications (22.2%) compared to the Sydney Statistical Division (14.9%) and a much lower percentage of people with Bachelor or Higher Degrees (10.9%) compared to the Sydney Statistical Division (20.0%)

---

<sup>2</sup> Top ten overseas countries of birth include: New Zealand, Italy, China, Malta, Germany, Philippines, South Africa, Ireland, Lebanon

<sup>3</sup> Camden LGA has a very low proportion of new arrivals (74.4% of the overseas born population arrived before 1991 and 7.0% arrived during or after 2001, compared with the Sydney Statistical Division (54.3% and 17.9% respectively)

<sup>4</sup> Camden area is intersected by three Aboriginal tribal boundaries: Gundungarra, Tharawal and Dharug. The area was used extensively as a hunting area by Aboriginal people prior to colonisation and was called Belkennie, meaning dry land.

<sup>5</sup> Top ten languages other than English at 2006 ABS census were: Italian, Spanish, Arabic, Cantonese, Croatian, Maltese, Serbian, Greek, Filipino, German – these are very established communities, often with links to market gardens

<sup>6</sup> Other religions cited in the 2006 ABS Census include Islam (0.8%), Buddhism (0.7%), Hindu (0.3%)

- A high proportion of employed persons 15 years and over (96.1%) and low proportion of unemployed persons 15 years and over (3.9%) compared to the Sydney Statistical (94.7% and 5.3% respectively).
- A larger percentage of persons employed as Technicians and Trades Workers (15.7% compared to 12.7% in the SSD); as Machinery Operators And Drivers (8.5% compared to 6.0% in the SSD); and Sales Workers (10.9% compared to 9.5% in the SSB), and *smaller* percentage persons employed as Professionals (16.1% compared to 23.7% in the SSD).
- A high proportion of high-income households<sup>7</sup> (32.9%) and a smaller proportion of low-income households<sup>8</sup> (11.3%) compared to the Sydney Statistical Division (29.6% and 16.8% respectively).
- A high proportion of females in the labour force (61.4%) compared to the Sydney Statistical Division (54%)
- A significantly high proportion of home purchasers (50.1%) compared to the Sydney Statistical division (31.1%)
- A high proportion of households with high mortgage repayments<sup>9</sup> in areas such as Harrington Park (52.3%), Cobbitty – Bringelly – Kirkham – Oran Park (51.7%), Grasmere – Ellis Lane – Cawdor – Bickley Vale (44.8%) and Mount Annan (42.3%) compared to the Sydney Statistical Division (40.4%).
- A high proportion of households in mortgage stress<sup>10</sup> in areas such as Leppington – Rossmore – Catherine Field (16%), Currans Hill (11%) and Elderslie Spring Farm (11%) compared to the Sydney Statistical Division (10.4%).
- A low proportion of private rental properties across Camden LGA (16.5%) except for Currans Hill (24.9%) compared to the Sydney Statistical Division (24.6%)
- A high proportion of private renting households paying high rental<sup>11</sup> in the suburb of Harrington Park (51.8%) compared to the Sydney Statistical Division (21.7%).
- A high proportion of households renting their dwelling from a government authority in the suburbs of Camden (7%), Elderslie-Spring Farm (6.2%) compared to the Sydney Statistical Division (4.5%).
- A high proportion of low income households<sup>12</sup> in Camden (24%), Grasmere-Ellis-Lane-Cawdor-Bickley Vale (17.7%) and Elderslie Spring Farm (17.3%) compared to Sydney Statistical Division (16.7%).
- A high proportion of households owning 2 cars (44.9%) and 3 cars or more (20.6%) compared to the Sydney Statistical Division (30.2% and 11.5% respectively).
- The majority of employed persons living in Camden LGA have to travel outside of the area to work (62.1%)
- A high proportion of households with broadband internet connection (46.6%) compared to the Sydney Statistical Division (45%).

---

<sup>7</sup>Those earning \$1,700 per week or more

<sup>8</sup> Those earning less than \$500 per week

<sup>9</sup> More than \$2,000 per month

<sup>10</sup> Paying more than 30% of their income on home loan repayments

<sup>11</sup> More than \$350 per week

<sup>12</sup> Less than \$500 per week before tax

## POPULATION GROWTH

Camden's population has grown from 31,504 at the 1996 Census to 49,651 at the 2006 Census and is estimated to have grown to 53,054 by November 2009.

*Table 1: Estimated population of Camden LGA at November 2009<sup>13</sup>*

LOCALITY	1996 Census			2001 Census			2006 Census			Current estimates	
	Occupied Dwellings	Population	Occupancy Rates	Occupied Dwellings	Population	Occupancy Rates	Occupied Dwellings	Population	Occupancy Rates	Occupied Dwellings	Population
Bickley Vale/Cawdor	163	317	1.94	226	404	1.79	234	620	2.65	237	628
Bringelly	148	444	3.00	160	495	3.09	161	510	3.17	163	516
Camden	1,245	3,056	2.45	1,227	2,844	2.32	1,272	3,166	2.49	1,278	3,179
Camden South	1,588	4,917	3.10	1,566	4,621	2.95	1,553	4,364	2.81	1,555	4,370
Catherine Field	259	859	3.32	294	971	3.30	310	1,057	3.41	319	1,088
Cobbitty	194	603	3.11	217	636	2.93	195	655	3.36	200	672
Currans Hill	620	1,911	3.08	1,424	4,403	3.09	1,635	4,976	3.04	1,641	4,994
Elderslie	907	2,608	2.88	967	2,636	2.73	998	2,649	2.65	1,201	3,220
Ellis Lane	201	714	3.55	224	747	3.33	245	797	3.25	252	820
Grasmere	179	655	3.66	226	823	3.64	255	906	3.55	294	1,045
Harrington Park	145	473	3.26	902	3,013	3.34	1,794	6,060	3.38	2,087	7,092
Kirkham/Smeaton Grange	137	398	2.91	130	434	3.34	183	655	3.58	191	684
Leppington	620	1,841	2.97	615	1,868	3.04	634	1,892	2.98	638	1,903
Mount Annan	907	2,915	3.21	2,032	6,647	3.27	2,550	8,385	3.29	2,866	9,468
Narellan	1,212	3,811	3.14	1,223	3,616	2.96	1,239	3,509	2.83	1,242	3,518
Narellan Vale (including Spring Farm)	1,310	4,115	3.14	2,293	7,267	3.17	2,440	7,637	3.13	2,561	8,005
Oran Park	280	967	3.45	295	994	3.37	292	966	3.31	300	992
Rossmore	256	900	3.52	265	863	40147.00	256	847	3.31	260	860
<b>Total for Camden LGA</b>	<b>10,371</b>	<b>31,504</b>	<b>3.04</b>	<b>14,286</b>	<b>43,282</b>	<b>3.03</b>	<b>16,246</b>	<b>49,651</b>	<b>3.06</b>	<b>17,285</b>	<b>53,054</b>

## Migration

According to ABS Census data, a significant proportion of the Camden LGA population migrated from other parts of NSW between 2001 and 2006 (25.2%). The top ten Local Government Areas that people moved to Camden LGA from are: Campbelltown (2609); Liverpool (1254); Fairfield (442); Bankstown (395); Blacktown (88); Canterbury (87); Sutherland Shire (81); Penrith (76); Parramatta (63) and Holroyd (51). Only a very small percentage has migrated to the Camden LGA directly from another country (1.5%) or another part of Australia (1.2%)

<sup>13</sup> Data source: Camden Council based on ABS Census data and Building Development Applications.

## Building Development

Forecasts based on Metropolitan Development Program (MDP) Estimates<sup>15</sup> and Development Applications received by Camden Council at April 2008, indicate that there is potential for Camden's population to reach 179,319 by 2021.<sup>16</sup>

*Table 2: Camden LGA – Building Lot Projections 2006 - 2021<sup>17</sup>*

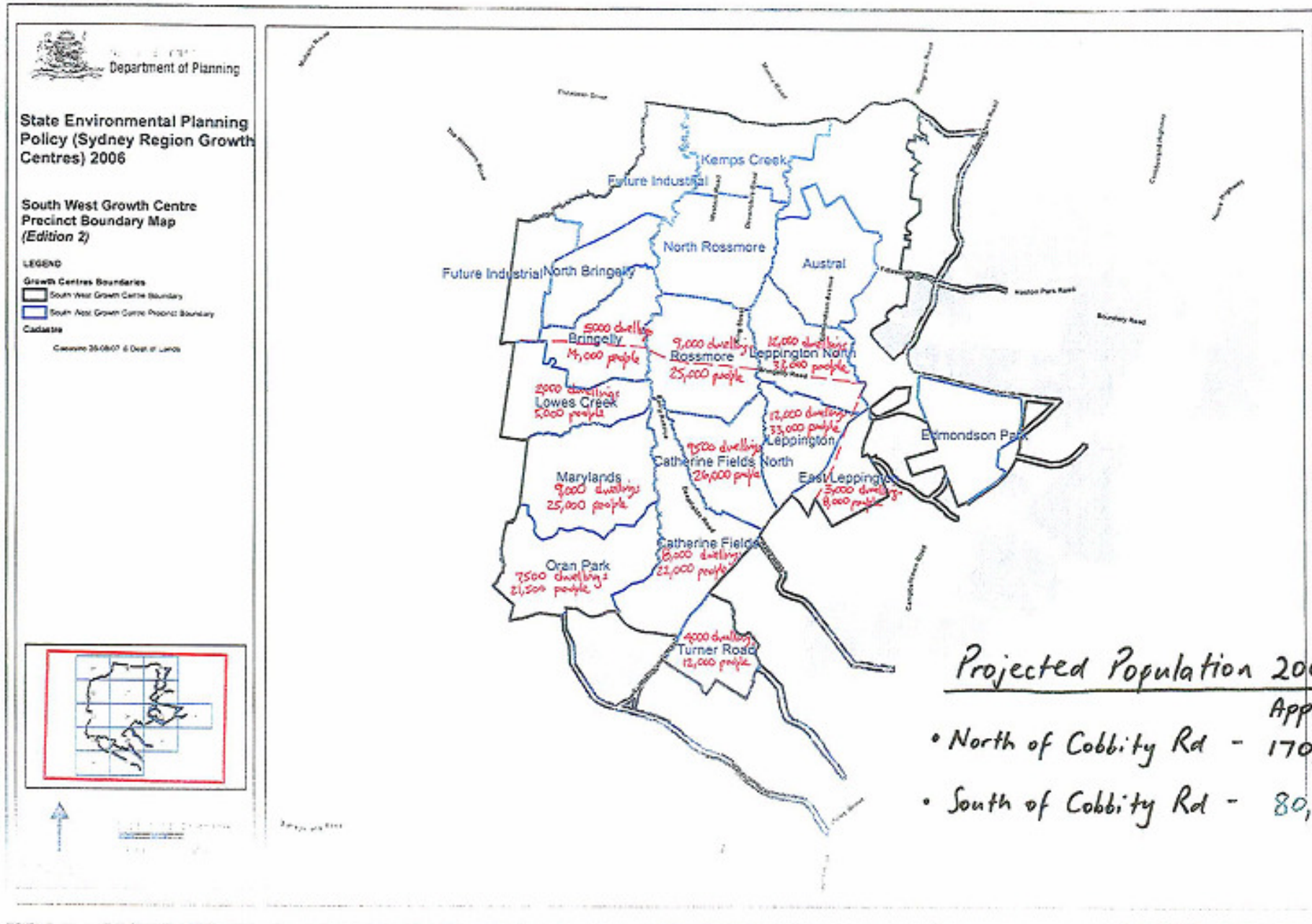
Area	Total Potential Lots 2006-2021	Total potential dwellings	Population Forecast 2006-2021 <sup>14</sup>
<b>Land zoned for residential purposes</b>			
Elderslie	1918	1978	6060
Harrington Park 1	600	600	1860
Harrington Grove	1150	1150	3565
Harrington Park South	180	200	593
Manooka Valley	400	400	1240
Mater Dei	210	210	651
Mount Annan South	445	445	1380
Narellan	147	147	456
Narellan Release Area	155	155	481
Mount Annan Business Centre	149	149	328
Camden Infill	50	50	155
Spring Farm	3747	3747	11616
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>9151</b>	<b>9231</b>	<b>28383</b>
<b>Land proposed to be rezoned for residential purposes</b>			
Central Hills	870	920	2780
Yamba	25	25	78
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>895</b>	<b>945</b>	<b>2858</b>
<b>Growth Centres</b>			
Oran Park	7541	7541	21470
Turner Road	4020	4020	12266
Bringelly	1000	1000	2800
Catherine Fields	8000	8000	22000
Catherine Fields North	9500	9500	2600
East Leppington	300	300	800
Leppington North	2400	2400	6600
Leppington South	12000	12000	33000
Lowes Creek	400	400	1000
Marylands	4500	4500	12500
Rossmore	4500	4500	12500
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>54161</b>	<b>54161</b>	<b>150936</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>63312</b>	<b>63392</b>	<b>179319</b>

<sup>14</sup> This figure is based upon standard estimates of number of persons likely to inhabit potential dwellings.

<sup>15</sup> MDP 2007/8 Databook, Residential Forecasts 2007/8-2016/17, Dept. of Planning 2009

<sup>16</sup> Given the current economic climate, take up rates of available building lots cannot be predicted. However Camden LGA's population has already been estimated to have increased from 49,645 at the 2006 ABS census to an estimated 52,529 in 2009.

<sup>17</sup> Indicative figures from the Draft Metropolitan Development Program Estimate 2009 and DA's lodged with Camden Council, last updated April 2008



<sup>18</sup> Provided by Camden Council's Strategic Planning Unit

## COUNCIL OWNED COMMUNITY FACILITIES - CAMDEN LGA

Facility type	Location	Details
Civic Centre	Camden	Auditorium, gallery, foyer, memorial garden, meeting rooms. Used for weddings, large events and meetings.
Family day care centre	Camden (1)	Office space for Council operated service coordinating family day care in the area.
Playgrounds (65)	Camden, Narellan, Elderslie, Catherine Fields, Currans Hill, Narellan Vale, Camden South, Spring Farm, Rossmore, Harrington Park, Mt Annan, Leppington	New play grounds to be established in Oran Park as it develops.
Sporting ovals/reserves (18)	Camden (2), Mt Annan, Catherine Field, Cobbitty, Narellan Vale, Elderslie (2), Currans Hill, Leppington, Narellan, South Camden, Rossmore, Harrington Park (2)	The sporting oval at Elderslie includes a skate park and nearby there is land has been reserved for the building of a PCYC.
Picnic and recreation areas (6)	Camden (2), Camden South, Elderslie, Harrington Park (2)	BBQ's, toilets, open grassed areas.
Community centres (5)	Harrington Park, Currans Hill, Mt Annan, Catherine Fields, Narellan	Halls and meeting rooms hired to community for groups, meetings and functions, not staffed. Use by numerous play groups in the area.
Clubrooms (2)	Harrington Park, Currans Hill	On ovals, one room with kitchen facilities. Available for meetings and functions. Used by numerous sporting clubs in the area.
Leisure Centres (2)	Mt Annan Leisure Centre Camden Pool	Either end of the most populated sections of the LGA. MALC is a new center with gym. Camden pool is an old facility, currently undergoing refurbishment.
Libraries (2)	Narellan and Camden	Access to library resources including books, DVD's, CD's, computer and internet, desks, children and youth librarians. Several meeting rooms.
Youth Space (1)	Upstairs @ Narellan Library	Mon-Fri 3pm – 6pm, staffed by Council and Camden Youth Services workers.
Creative Camden Studios	Upstairs @ Narellan Library	Equipped with Apple computers for digital sound and imaging. Can be hired by community groups.
ARTyCaf@Narellan Library	Forecourt, Narellan Library	Training café inclusive of people with disabilities. Open to public.
Bi-centennial Equestrian Park	Camden	Facilities for equestrian groups. Hall/barn for hire for community events.
Camden Town Farm	Camden	Community space, outdoor education spaces for school groups, produce gardens.

## **ISSUES FOR THE COMMUNITY**

The following issues have been identified through broad community consultation -

### **General (across all target groups)**

- Enough facilities and services as population grows
- Community harmony as population diversifies
- Adequate public transport
- Local, accessible services
- Local employment opportunities
- Affordable housing, particularly for seniors

### **Families with Children**

- Financial stress due to high mortgages and private transport costs
- Balancing work commitments and family life
- Childcare for 0 – 4 year olds that is affordable and geographically accessible from home or work place
- After school care and vacation care for 5 – 11 year olds as there is a lack of services
- Health and wellbeing of children especially increasing rate of child obesity
- Access to affordable recreational activities

### **Young people**

- Access to local youth services that address social, recreational, educational, health and cultural needs as most services are located in Campbelltown and there is only one dedicated youth space and service in this area
- Access to local, affordable entertainment and recreation
- Social Inclusion/sense of belonging
- Community safety

### **Older people**

- Access to information about retirement options
- Access to health services due to location, transport and/or costs
- Access to employment due to discrimination or unavailable places
- Access to training on how to use new technologies
- Support for grand parents as carers
- Access to parks and recreation blocked by lack of public toilets
- Access to essential amenities such as shops and post office blocked by lack of accessible parking, adequate signage and/or lack of road crossings
- Potential isolation/depression due to mobility issues, loss of friends and family, loss of employment
- Increasing health issues due to aging

## **Culturally and Linguistically Diverse People**

- Settlement of new residents (familiarity with place, social inclusion)
- Community acceptance of cultural and religious diversity
- Mutual respect of cultural and religious values and norms
- Opportunities to share social experiences with others from CALD backgrounds
- Potential social isolation due to non-acceptance

## **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People**

- Statistically low numbers in the community mean that this group is often not recognised or resourced
- Education retention rates are low nationally
- High rates of health issues e.g. diabetes nationally
- Historical legacy of Australian Government involvement with Aboriginal people is such that they are usually distrustful of all levels of government
- Anecdotal reports from local Aboriginal support agencies indicate that there is a perception in the Macarthur region that Council and the community of Camden LGA generally has limited respect for Aboriginal people.
- Social justice

## **People with disabilities**

- Access to facilities, amenities and services due to stigma surrounding physical, intellectual and emotional disabilities and/or lack of local services or information about services
- Women with disabilities identified as being most susceptible to domestic violence
- Social inclusion
- Access to respite for carers

## **INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS CAMDEN LGA**

### **Transport**

Transport disadvantage can occur at three scales, household, local and regional and at the metropolitan scale. At the household level, people may experience transport disadvantage as a mobility constraint. At the local and regional levels people may experience transport disadvantage depending on the level of accessibility. At the metropolitan level, people in certain areas or regions may be transport disadvantaged because their area has poorer urban connectivity to specific activities, such as the airport, specialized job opportunities, universities and government departments, specialized medical facilities and unique cultural and recreational facilities.

- 61% of Camden's population live in "transport disadvantaged" areas<sup>19</sup>

The South West Rail Link (SWRL) is a proposed new 13-kilometre twin track passenger rail line from Glenfield to Leppington via Edmondson Park. It includes two

---

<sup>19</sup> Transport and Social Disadvantage in Western Sydney, Anne Hurni, UWS & WSCF, November 2006

new stations at Edmondson Park and Leppington, an upgrade to Glenfield Station and new train stabling (train parking) facility west of Leppington.

Stage A Works includes commencement of early works at Glenfield North and South junction and construction of new car park of up to 280 spaces on the western side of Glenfield Station.

Stage B comprises the construction and operation of the remaining portion of the proposed SWRL.

When complete, the project will provide benefits to the areas directly serviced by the stations as well as the broader South West Sydney region including:

- Promoting viability of higher residential densities close to the future Leppington and Edmondson Park town centres,
- Improving viability of affordable housing in close proximity to the rail line and future town centres,
- Supporting development of large retail outlets at the future Edmondson Park and Leppington town centres,
- Reducing reliance on the private vehicle and road based transport,
- Reducing air pollution in western Sydney,
- Improving mobility and independence for the community (particularly teenagers and the elderly), and
- Reducing congestion on all roads, particularly motorway systems.

The November 2008 State Government Mini Budget has delayed Stage B of the project but retains funding for Stage A Works. The State Government has not yet provided timeframes for the finalisation of this critical piece of infrastructure.<sup>20</sup>

In the meantime, Camden residents rely predominantly upon private modes of transport<sup>21</sup>. Although Busways provides a public bus service and a number of bus routes that link Camden to Campbelltown Railway, operating hours are limited, especially on those routes that link Camden to a number smaller townships in the surrounding region. Also limited, are the public bus services provided by Picton Buslines and Busabouts, linking Camden Town Centre with Picton Railway in the South and Liverpool Train Station in the North.

### **Community facilities and services**

Camden LGA's population growth will lead to changes in the provision of facilities. Locations and methods of community service provision will be required to change in order to accommodate this planned growth. The LGA faces significant challenges in delivering this growth in a manner that is socially sustainable. Recent changes to community infrastructure plans in an effort to maintain housing affordability have further inhibited the community's ability to provide critical social infrastructure. That challenge has become even more significant in 2009 as Council has been forced to cut \$1.4 million worth of capital works and community services in order to service a budget deficit.<sup>22</sup>

Non-government community organizations in the Campbelltown LGA have often included outreach to the Camden LGA in their applications for funding to service the

---

<sup>20</sup> See <http://www.liverpool.nsw.gov.au/strategicplanning/southwestrailink>

<sup>21</sup> At the 2006 ABS Census, 25.1% of the households in Camden LGA owned one car; 44.9% owned two cars; and 20.6% owned three cars or more, compared with 36.4%; 30.2% and 11.5% respectively for the Sydney Statistical Division.

<sup>22</sup> Council recently received approval to increase rates but only by 3.5%, not enough revenue to maintain current works & services

entire 'Macarthur' Area<sup>23</sup>. The reality is though, that proposed outreach services are not always delivered in Camden LGA by out of area services, either because demand for resources in their own service area is already too high, and/or because resources across the vast Macarthur area are too stretched, and/or because there is not yet an appropriate, affordable facility available in the Camden LGA.

Some State and Federal Departments have sought value for money by putting resources into regional centers such as Campbelltown, yet residents of other Council areas of Macarthur will not always travel out of the area to access services. Out of area is often seen to be too far to travel with limited public transport<sup>24</sup>, or it is seen to be unsafe to travel to, particularly for children and young people. As well, the hours services tend to operate within are not necessarily suited to those of working parents or school students.

## **FUNDING ISSUES**

Camden LGA does not easily access funding for local infrastructure as it is not considered to be a highly disadvantaged area according to Socio Economic Index for Areas (SEIFA) rankings 2006.

The Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage is derived from attributes such as low income, low educational attainment, high unemployment, jobs in relatively unskilled occupations and variables that reflect disadvantage rather than measure specific aspects of disadvantage (e.g., Indigenous and Separated/Divorced).

SEIFA is used in social analysis, to rank and prioritise areas in terms of service need and is useful to refer to in social planning documents and in funding applications. Camden Council has not been able to refer to the SEIFA to attract funding, even if funding is needed.

Camden LGA is bordered by two of the most disadvantaged Councils in NSW according to SEIFA - Campbelltown, which is ranked the 5<sup>th</sup> most disadvantaged Council in NSW and Liverpool, ranked the 7<sup>th</sup>. These Council's have been able to attract state and federal funding for community facilities and services far more easily than Camden Council, due to their higher SEIFA ranking. Ironically, the majority of people who are moving to Camden LGA are moving from these surrounding areas, or others also ranking as highly disadvantaged using the SEIFA.

---

<sup>23</sup> Macarthur includes Campbelltown, Camden and Wollondilly areas and very recently, has been extended by some funders to include Wingecaribee.

<sup>24</sup> Camden is not on any train line, though both Liverpool and Campbelltown are. Campbelltown is connected to the Wollondilly LGA (which borders the other end of Camden LGA) by the Sydney-Melbourne train line that goes through both Campbelltown and Picton.

## **HIDDEN POPULATIONS IN CAMDEN LGA**

The following disadvantaged populations have been identified through data sources other than ABS Census.

### **Pensioners and low income earners**

Centrelink statistics<sup>25</sup> tell us that at May 2009 –

- More than 2,500 people in the Camden LGA held a healthcare or pensioner concession card (an indicator of low income). 543 of these were young people 16-24 years of age and most of these young people are females living in one of the new release estates or in the Leppington and Catherine Field areas.
- More than 200 people were in receipt of rent assistance (indicating low income) and 51 were young people 16-24 years of age living in new release areas of Camden LGA (indicating that they are living independently of their parents).
- More than 750 people in Camden LGA were in receipt of the Disabilities pension. 499 of these reside in new release areas. 72 of these are young people 16-24 years of age.

### **Carers**

- 1,372 persons (222 males and 1,150 females) were in receipt of a Carer Allowance - a supplementary payment for carers who provide daily care and attention at home for a person with a disability, severe medical condition or who is frail and aged.

### **Sole Parents**

- 467 people in new release areas and 76 people in the Leppington area were in receipt of Single Parent Payments. 58 of these were young people 16-24 years of age.

### **Commonwealth Rent Assistance (CRA) recipients**

Information provided by Housing NSW in May 2009<sup>26</sup> tells us that -

- Camden has over 1,420 residents who are in receipt of Commonwealth Rent Assistance from Centrelink and 40% (568) are in housing stress.<sup>27</sup>
- Single person households form the largest number and proportion of households in housing stress in Camden, comprising 42% of all those in stress, closely followed by single parent households, comprising 40%. Around 12% (or 170) of CRA recipients in housing stress are aged under 25.

---

<sup>25</sup> Provided by Strategic performance and information branch, Centrelink May, 2009

<sup>26</sup> Report from Housing NSW, 'Information on Camden Housing Market', May 2009

<sup>27</sup> Paying more than 30% of their income on housing per week

## **Mortgagees**

- At June 2008, the proportion of dwellings theoretically affordable for purchase to households at 80% of median income was 0.4% in Camden compared to an average of 0.9% across the Greater Metropolitan Region (GMR).
- Purchase affordability has declined to the point that it is extremely difficult for lower income households to purchase housing in Camden. The proportion available for affordable purchase in Camden at June 2008 is lower than Campbelltown with 2.6%, Wingecarribee with 1.1% and marginally above Wollondilly with 0%.

2006 Census data shows that -

- 65% of low and moderate income households in Camden who are purchasing are in housing stress. This is an increase of 18.1% from the 2001 Census. Camden has a higher proportion of low and moderate income households purchasing and in housing stress than the average for the GMR (61%) and compares with 58% in Campbelltown, 61% in Wollondilly and 60% in Wingecarribee.

## **Social and public housing tenants**

- There are currently around 363 social housing dwellings in Camden, with 349 public housing dwellings, 3 Aboriginal Housing Office properties and 21 community housing properties
- A significant proportion of public housing tenants in Camden are in the 55 plus age group (51.6%) and the majority are single person households (46.9%), followed by single parents (16.8%). The proportion of couples with children in public housing in Camden is (7.4%).

## **Caravan Park tenants**

As housing affordability reaches record lows and with public and community housing struggling to meet demand, people are increasingly turning to caravan parks as 'last resort' housing.<sup>28</sup>

At the 2006 ABS Census 115 people of an undisclosed age indicated that they were living in a "caravan, cabin or houseboat" in Camden LGA.

A telephone survey carried out by Camden Council in August 2010, indicates that there are two caravan parks in the Camden LGA, one at Elderslie and another at Leppington and that 90% (or **24**) of all residents at the 'Poplar' Caravan Park at Elderslie are 60 years of age or over and 75% (or **115**) residents of the '4 Lanterns' Caravan Park at Leppington 60 years of age or over.

---

<sup>28</sup> see [www.homelessnessinfo.net.au](http://www.homelessnessinfo.net.au)



Customer Service offices at  
37 John Street, Camden and 19 Queen Street, Narellan  
PO Box 183, Camden NSW 2570

24 hours Phone: (02) 4654 7777  
Fax: (02) 4654 7829  
Email: [mail@camden.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mail@camden.nsw.gov.au)  
Website: [www.camden.nsw.gov.au](http://www.camden.nsw.gov.au)

Hours: 8:30am - 5:00pm Monday to Friday



[www.camden.nsw.gov.au](http://www.camden.nsw.gov.au)