

**Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Budget Estimates May 2011

**Infrastructure and Transport**

**Question no.:** 98

**Program:** 1.1

**Division/Agency:** (MCU) Major Cities Unit

**Topic:** Non Capital Major Cities

**Proof Hansard Page/s:** 87 (26/05/2011)

**Senator Back asked:**

**Senator BACK:** My final question relates to the criterion of 100,000 people. Are there any other cities in Australia that are reaching or getting close to reaching that target figure which could then enjoy the benefit of your input?

**Ms Ekelund:** There are a few. I cannot recall which ones they are but there are certainly a number of cities that will reach a population of 100,000 over the next five to 10 years.

**Senator BACK:** Is it possible to tell me what the non-metropolitan capitals are? You can tell me on notice, if you like.

**Mr Wilson:** If you like, we will provide you with a copy of the documentation.

**Answer:**

Non-capital major cities are:

- Gold Coast-Tweed (QLD/NSW)
- Newcastle (NSW)
- Wollongong (NSW)
- Sunshine Coast (QLD)
- Geelong (VIC)
- Townsville (QLD)
- Cairns (QLD)
- Toowoomba (QLD)
- Launceston (TAS)
- Albury-Wodonga (NSW/VIC)

According to Australian Bureau of Statistics 2007 projections, the next cities projected to reach 100,000 people are:

	<b>Year</b>	<b>Projected Population</b>
Ballarat (VIC)	2017	101064
Mandurah (WA)	2018	100963
Mackay (QLD)	2018	100660
Bendigo (VIC)	2018	100628
Bunbury (WA)	2026	101541
Hervey Bay (WA)	2026	101188

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**Division/Agency:** (MCU) Major Cities Unit

**Topic:** National Urban Policy and Population Growth

**Proof Hansard Page/s:** Written

**Senator Ryan asked:**

- 1) Why is the challenge of managing Australia's surging tourism numbers not discussed in the National Urban Policy Paper?
- 2) Why is the challenge of managing Australia's international student population not discussed in the National Urban Policy Paper?
- 3) How can the Commonwealth responsibly plan for the infrastructure, productivity, sustainability and liveability needs of Australia's urban population if it refuses to discuss specific population targets, forecasts or projections?
- 4) What are the ten fastest growing cities in Australia?
- 5) For the above ten cities, what is their likely population ranges for each of:
  - a. 2030;
  - b. 2040; and
  - c. 2050?
- 6) If not, how can the Commonwealth's National Urban Policy successfully manage the growth of these cities without knowing how large they will become?
- 7) How would you define unsustainable population growth?
- 8) Have any Australian cities have experienced unsustainable population growth over the past ten years? If so, which ones? If not, why does Australia need a National Urban Policy if current policies are already working?

**Answer:**

- 1-3) *Sustainable Australia – Sustainable Communities* - A Sustainable Population Strategy for Australia, released by the Government on 13<sup>th</sup> May, discusses the composition of Australia's population, including the roles of tourism and students. This document complements the National Urban Policy.
- 4) According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics cat no 3218.0, the 10 fastest growing cities by annual percentage change between 2005 and 2010 were:

**Statistical Division or District\***

Hervey Bay	Townsville
Mandurah	Sunshine Coast
Bunbury	Mackay
Cairns	<b>Darwin</b>
Gold Coast-Tweed	<b>Perth</b>

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\*Statistical Divisions used for capital cities (indicated in Bold) and Statistical Divisions used for non-capital cities.

5) Population projections have been calculated by the Australian Bureau of Statistics for Capital Cities and the balance of States only. This is available in ABS Cat No 3222.0.

6) N/A.

7-8) *Sustainable Australia – Sustainable Communities* - A Sustainable Population Strategy for Australia, discusses the concept of a sustainable population. This document complements the National Urban Policy and reinforces the need to plan for population and demographic change.