



T R E A S U R E R

MEDIA RELEASE

NSW population: reach 10 million by 2049

The population of NSW is expected to reach almost 10 million by 2049, NSW Treasurer Eric Roozendaal told State Parliament today.

Mr Roozendaal released data from NSW Treasury prepared in response to research released last week by Federal Treasurer Wayne Swan.

Nationally, the Australian population is expected to rise from 21.5 million to 35 million by 2049 – revised up from previous projections of 28.5 million.

The population of NSW and Sydney are both expected to grow significantly. Overall, NSW will increase from 7 million to 9.8 million and Sydney will grow from 4.4 million to 6.566 million by mid-century.

The population increases are due largely to immigration and higher birth rates.

The Australian fertility rates have increased from 1.79 births per female in 2005 to 1.93 in 2007. In NSW, it has increased from 1.79 to 1.84.

Overall, migration to Australia has significantly increased over the last couple of years from 205,000 in the year to March 2007 to 278,000 in the year to March 2009.

Almost 30 per cent (29 per cent) of all overseas migrants settled in NSW. This means 82,000 migrants are settling in NSW every year – or the equivalent of 1,600 new residents a week.

Mr Roozendaal said our ever increasing and ever ageing population poses challenges that must be confronted and addressed.

Australians now have the longest life expectancy in the English speaking world due to:

- low levels of smoking and drinking;
- a healthy lifestyle; and
- medical advances and technological advances.

By 2049, the proportion of Australian's aged 65 or over will increase from 13 per cent to 22 per cent. The proportion of those aged 85 or over will rise to 5 per cent.

“A healthy long life expectancy is something to be welcomed, but we must recognise that with it comes extra pressures on the NSW Government and its workforce. The NSW Government stands ready to meet those challenges,” Mr Roozendaal said.

“The NSW Government will continue to deliver essential frontline services to respond to our changing society. “

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