

CHAPTER 4: DEMOGRAPHY

4.1 AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION

The Current Situation

- The current age profile of the Central Coast reflects the region's popularity with families with young children and older people.
- Both Gosford (21.3%) and Wyong (21.6%) have a marginally higher percentage of children aged 0 to 14 than New South Wales (20.9%).
- Across the Central Coast 21.9% of the population is aged 0 to 14 years.
- Both Gosford (26.9%) and Wyong (27.2%) have a higher percentage of people aged 55 years and over, than New South Wales (22.5%).
- Across the Central Coast 27% of the population is aged 55 years and over.
- In both Gosford and Wyong and across the Central Coast as a whole, males account for 48% of the population while females make up 52%
- The male population decreases sharply in those aged 70 years and over, where they account for 42%, compared with females who account for 58% of this age group. This is illustrated in the graph below.

Trends

- Between 1991 and 2001 there has been an increase of 16,981 people aged 55 years and over across the Central Coast.
- In Gosford over this period, the increase was 9,293 and in Wyong the 55 and over age group increased by 7,688.
- This population group has continued to represent around 27% of the population on the Central Coast over the last decade.
- The Central Coast continues to be under represented in the 20 to 29 year age group with 10.6% in 2001 compared with 13.5% across New South Wales.
- The graphs below illustrate very clearly the aging trend in the population on the Central Coast over the past decade, as well as the continuing trend for those aged 20 to 29 to leave the Central Coast.

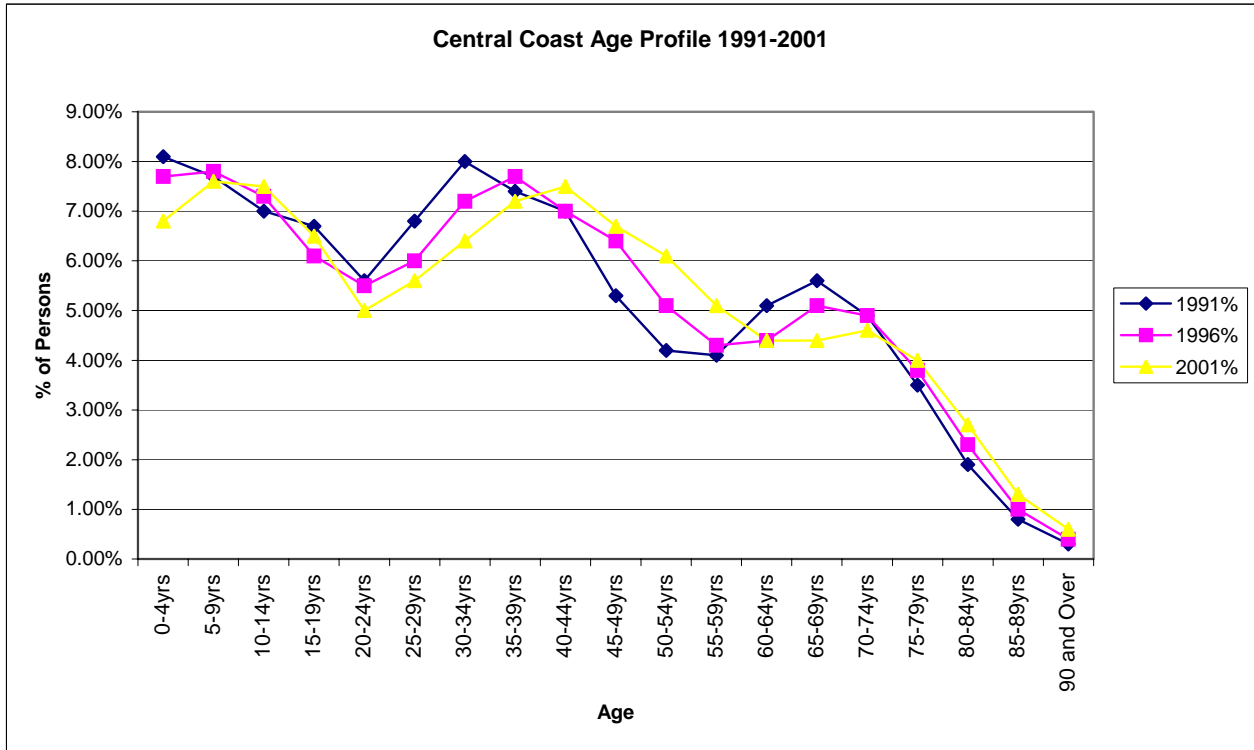
- Looking at the trend with regard to children aged 0 to 4 years on the Central Coast between 1991 and 2001, there was a decline in the most recent Census in the proportion of this group compared with previous years. Indications are that this trend will continue over the next two decades.

Table 4.1: Age Profile of Central Coast, Sydney and NSW, 1991 to 2001

	Central Coast		1996	1996 %	2001	2001 %	Sydney	NSW
	1991	1991 %					Statistical	
0-4 years	18,525	8.1%	19,936	7.7%	19,491	6.8%	6.7%	6.7%
5-9 years	17,555	7.7%	20,268	7.8%	21,714	7.6%	6.8%	7.1%
10-14 years	16,137	7.0%	19,034	7.3%	21,260	7.5%	6.7%	7.1%
15-19 years	15,396	6.7%	15,914	6.1%	18,608	6.5%	6.9%	6.9%
20-24 years	12,769	5.6%	14,404	5.5%	14,145	5.0%	7.0%	6.5%
25-29 years	15,622	6.8%	15,529	6.0%	15,853	5.6%	7.9%	7.1%
30-34 years	18,208	8.0%	18,768	7.2%	18,334	6.4%	8.0%	7.4%
35-39 years	16,964	7.4%	20,084	7.7%	20,515	7.2%	8.0%	7.7%
40-44 years	15,997	7.0%	18,264	7.0%	21,266	7.5%	7.7%	7.6%
45-49 years	12,169	5.3%	16,659	6.4%	19,008	6.7%	6.9%	6.9%
50-54 years	9,674	4.2%	13,229	5.1%	17,423	6.1%	6.5%	6.5%
55-59 years	9,384	4.1%	11,102	4.3%	14,467	5.1%	4.9%	5.2%
60-64 years	11,772	5.1%	11,340	4.4%	12,603	4.4%	3.9%	4.2%
65-69 years	12,891	5.6%	13,223	5.1%	12,433	4.4%	3.2%	3.6%
70-74 years	11,115	4.9%	12,760	4.9%	13,070	4.6%	3.0%	3.4%
75-79 years	8,058	3.5%	9,799	3.8%	11,359	4.0%	2.6%	2.8%
80-84 years	4,337	1.9%	6,109	2.3%	7,688	2.7%	1.7%	1.8%
85-89 years	1,774	0.8%	2,713	1.0%	3,761	1.3%	0.9%	1.0%
90 & Over	652	0.3%	1,030	0.4%	1,583	0.6%	0.5%	0.5%
Total	228,979		260,165	100.0%	284,581	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: ABS Census 2001, Time Series Profile, Table T02.

Graph 4.1: Central Coast Age Profile, 1991 to 2001



Graph 4.2: Comparative Age Profile - Central Coast, Sydney SD and NSW, 2001

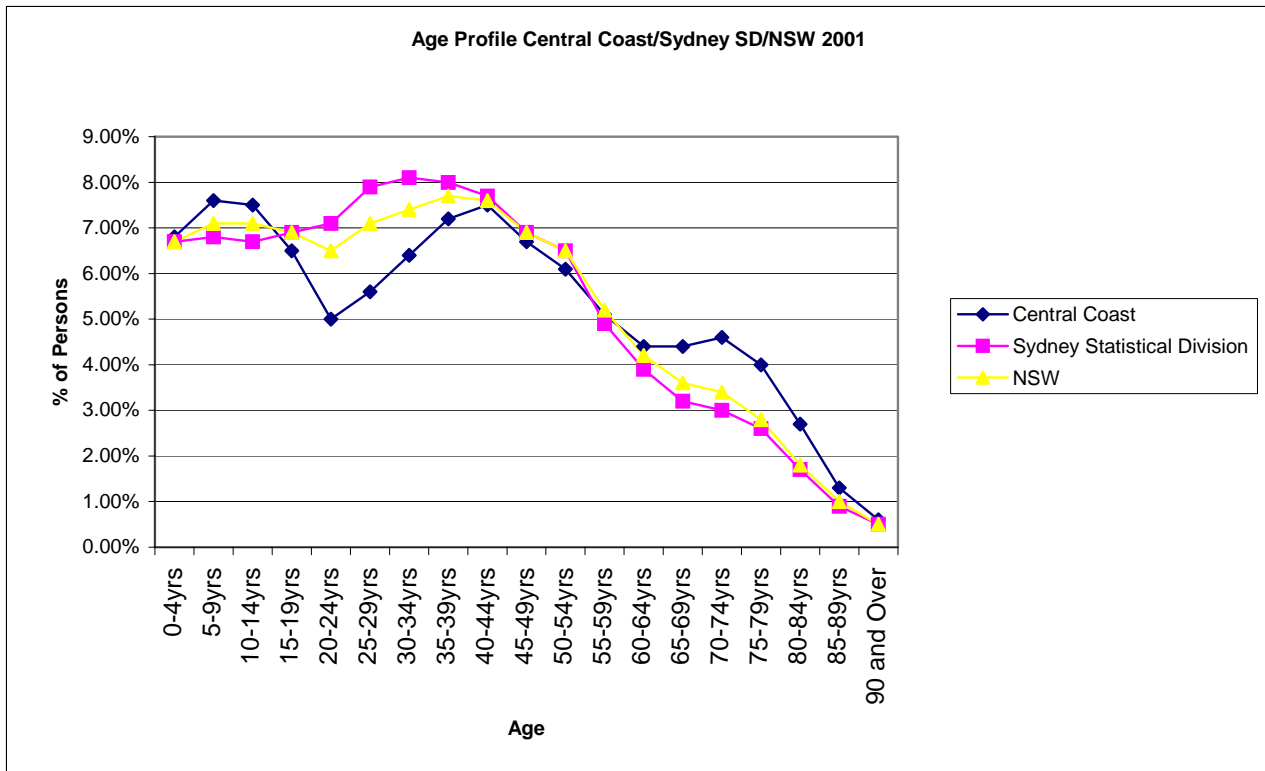


Table 4.2: Age Profile of Gosford and Wyong LGAs, 1991 to 2001

	Gosford						Wyong					
	1991	1991 %	1996	1996 %	2001	2001 %	1991	1991 %	1996	1996 %	2001	2001 %
0-4 years	10,273	8.0%	10,684	7.4%	10,072	6.5%	8,252	8.2%	9,252	8.0%	9,419	7.2%
5-9 years	9,697	7.5%	11,179	7.7%	11,340	7.4%	7,858	7.8%	9,089	7.9%	10,374	7.9%
10-14 years	9,006	7.0%	10,504	7.3%	11,454	7.4%	7,131	7.1%	8,530	7.4%	9,806	7.5%
15-19 years	8,963	7.0%	9,066	6.3%	10,162	6.6%	6,433	6.4%	6,848	5.9%	8,446	6.5%
20-24 years	7,247	5.6%	8,095	5.6%	7,743	5.0%	5,522	5.5%	6,309	5.5%	6,402	4.9%
25-29 years	8,803	6.9%	8,391	5.8%	8,443	5.5%	6,819	6.8%	7,138	6.2%	7,410	5.7%
30-34 years	10,222	8.0%	10,346	7.2%	9,680	6.3%	7,986	7.9%	8,422	7.3%	8,654	6.6%
35-39 years	9,834	7.7%	11,387	7.9%	11,244	7.3%	7,130	7.1%	8,697	7.5%	9,271	7.1%
40-44 years	9,483	7.4%	10,532	7.3%	11,881	7.7%	6,494	6.5%	7,732	6.7%	9,385	7.2%
45-49 years	7,294	5.7%	9,766	6.8%	10,767	7.0%	4,875	4.9%	6,893	6.0%	8,241	6.3%
50-54 years	5,519	4.3%	7,722	5.3%	9,820	6.4%	4,155	4.1%	5,507	4.8%	7,603	5.8%
55-59 years	5,047	3.9%	6,061	4.2%	7,930	5.1%	4,337	4.3%	5,041	4.4%	6,537	5.0%
60-64 years	6,088	4.7%	5,843	4.0%	6,558	4.3%	5,684	5.7%	5,497	4.7%	6,045	4.6%
65-69 years	6,810	5.3%	6,849	4.7%	6,257	4.1%	6,081	6.1%	6,374	5.5%	6,176	4.7%
70-74 years	5,973	4.6%	6,966	4.8%	6,852	4.4%	5,142	5.1%	5,794	5.0%	6,218	4.8%
75-79 years	4,389	3.4%	5,467	3.8%	6,363	4.1%	3,669	3.7%	4,332	3.7%	4,996	3.8%
80-84 years	2,463	1.9%	3,393	2.3%	4,448	2.9%	1,874	1.9%	2,716	2.3%	3,240	2.5%
85-89 years	999	0.8%	1,592	1.1%	2,091	1.4%	775	0.8%	1,121	1.0%	1,670	1.3%
90 & over	377	0.3%	572	0.5%	940	0.6%	275	0.3%	458	0.4%	643	0.5%
Total	128,487	100.0%	144,415	100.0%	154,045	100.0%	100,492	100.0%	115,750	100.0%	130,536	100.0%

Source: ABS Census 2001, Time Series Profile, Table CT02

Table 4.3: Age Distribution of Male and Females, 2001 (% of Total Population)

	Central Coast %		Gosford %		Wyong %	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
0-4 years	3.4%	3.4%	3.3%	3.3%	3.6%	3.6%
5-9 years	3.9%	3.7%	3.8%	3.6%	4.0%	3.9%
10-14 years	3.9%	3.6%	3.8%	3.6%	3.9%	3.6%
15-19 years	3.4%	3.2%	3.5%	3.1%	3.3%	3.2%
20-24 years	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.4%	2.5%
25-29 years	2.7%	2.9%	2.7%	2.8%	2.7%	3.0%
30-34 years	3.1%	3.4%	3.0%	3.3%	3.2%	3.5%
35-39 years	3.5%	3.8%	3.5%	3.8%	3.4%	3.7%
40-44 years	3.6%	3.9%	3.7%	4.0%	3.5%	3.7%
45-49 years	3.3%	3.4%	3.4%	3.6%	3.1%	3.2%
50-54 years	3.0%	3.1%	3.1%	3.3%	2.8%	3.0%
55-59 years	2.5%	2.6%	2.6%	2.6%	2.4%	2.6%
60-64 years	2.1%	2.3%	2.0%	2.2%	2.2%	2.4%
65-69 years	2.0%	2.3%	1.9%	2.2%	2.2%	2.5%
70-74 years	2.1%	2.5%	2.0%	2.5%	2.2%	2.5%
75-79 years	1.8%	2.2%	1.8%	2.3%	1.7%	2.1%
80-84 years	1.1%	1.6%	1.1%	1.8%	1.0%	1.5%
85-89 years	0.5%	0.8%	0.5%	0.9%	0.5%	0.8%
90 & over	0.2%	0.4%	0.2%	0.4%	0.1%	0.4%

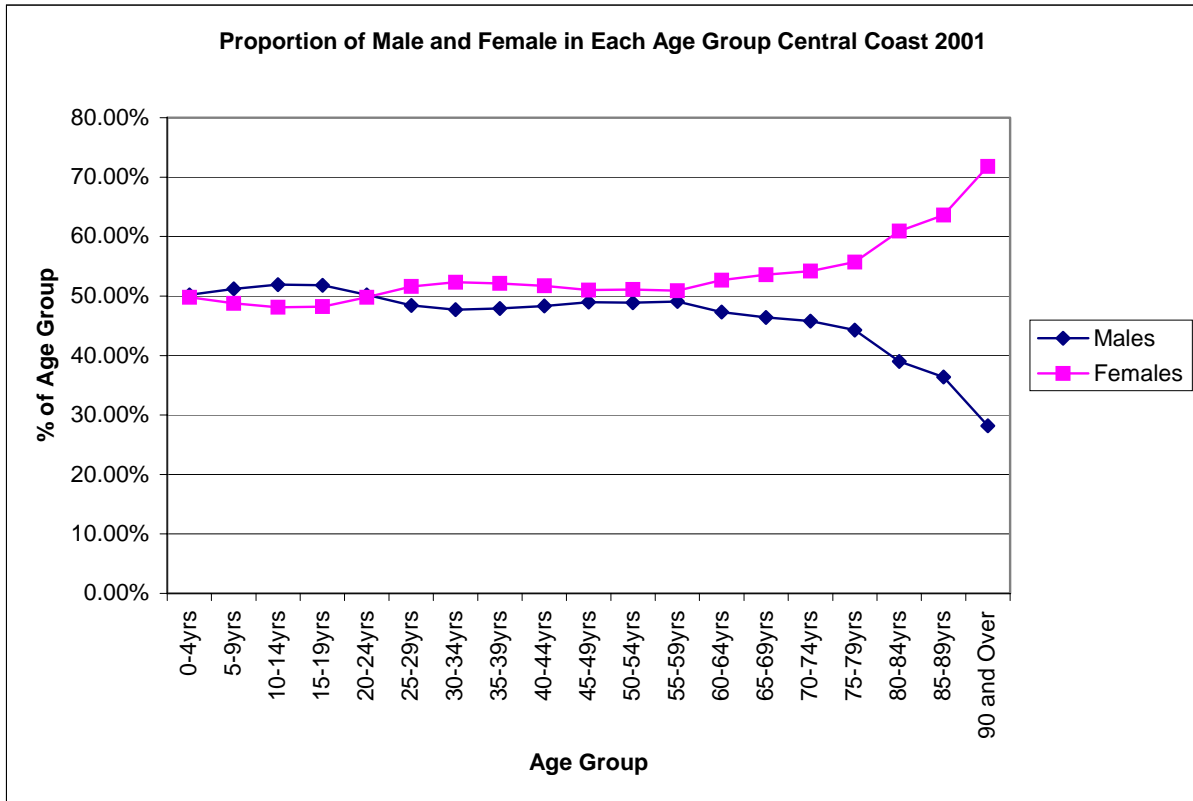
Source: ABS Census 2001, Basic Community Profile, Table B03.

Table 4.4: Proportion of Males and Females in each Age Group, 2001

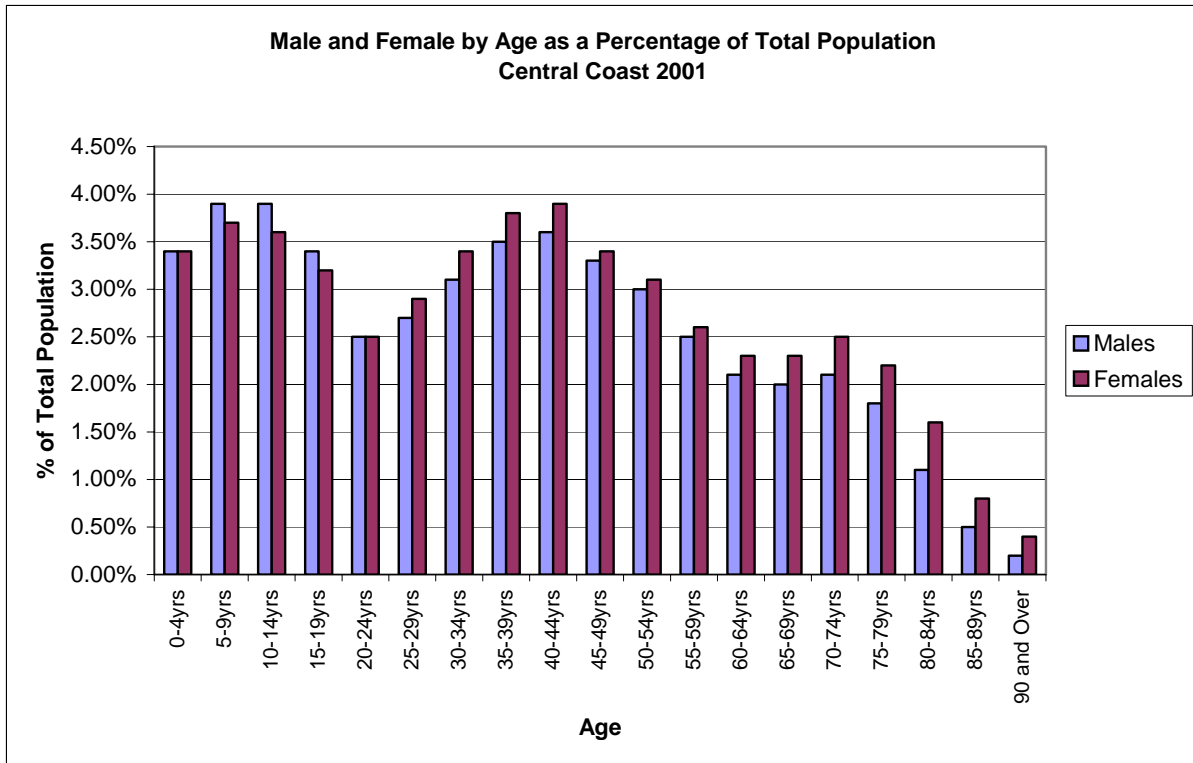
	Central Coast %		Gosford %		Wyong %	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
0-4 years	50.2%	49.8%	50.2%	49.8%	50.1%	49.9%
5-9 years	51.2%	48.8%	51.5%	48.5%	50.9%	49.1%
10-14 years	51.9%	48.1%	51.7%	48.3%	52.3%	47.7%
15-19 years	51.8%	48.2%	52.4%	47.6%	51.0%	49.0%
20-24 years	50.2%	49.8%	50.5%	49.5%	49.9%	50.1%
25-29 years	48.4%	51.6%	49.1%	50.9%	47.6%	52.3%
30-34 years	47.7%	52.3%	47.5%	52.5%	47.8%	52.2%
35-39 years	47.9%	52.1%	47.4%	52.6%	48.4%	51.6%
40-44 years	48.3%	51.7%	48.2%	51.8%	48.3%	51.7%
45-49 years	49.0%	51.0%	48.9%	51.1%	49.1%	50.9%
50-54 years	48.9%	51.1%	49.0%	51.0%	48.8%	51.2%
55-59 years	49.1%	50.9%	49.8%	50.2%	48.1%	51.9%
60-64 years	47.3%	52.7%	47.3%	52.7%	47.3%	52.7%
65-69 years	46.45	53.6%	46.3%	53.7%	46.6%	53.4%
70-74 years	45.8%	54.2%	44.7%	55.3%	47.0%	53.0%
75-79 years	44.3%	55.7%	43.2%	56.8%	45.6%	54.4%
80-84 years	39.0%	60.9%	39.0%	61.0%	39.1%	60.9%
85-89 years	36.4%	63.6%	35.5%	64.5%	37.4%	62.6%
90 & over	28.2%	71.8%	27.8%	72.2%	28.9%	71.1%

Source: ABS Census 2001, Basic Community Profile, Table B03

Graph 4.3: Proportion of Males and Females in Each Age Group - Central Coast, 2001



Graph 4.4: Male and Female by Age as a Percentage of Total Population - Central Coast, 2001



4.2 PROJECTED AGE STRUCTURE

Population projections by age are included in Appendix B and C. Table 4.5 provides a breakdown by age groups of the projected age structure of the population in 2026.

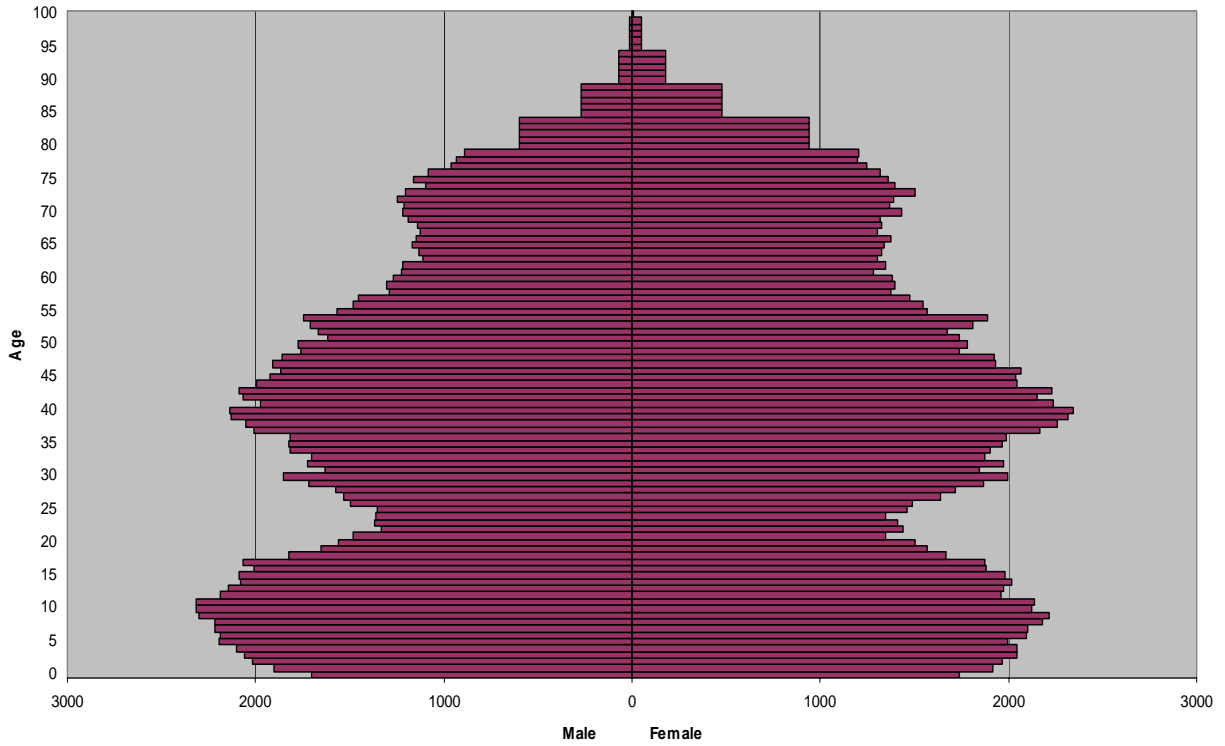
Table 4.5: Projected Age Structure, 2026

	Wyong LGA		Gosford LGA		Central Coast	
0-4 years	10,795	5.2%	8,332	4.7%	19,127	5.0%
5-9 years	11,542	5.6%	8,942	5.1%	20,484	5.3%
10-14 years	11,434	5.5%	9,193	5.2%	20,267	5.3%
15-19 years	10,849	5.2%	9,037	5.1%	19,886	5.2%
20-24 years	10,082	4.9%	8,377	4.7%	18,459	4.8%
25-29 years	11,221	5.4%	8,459	4.8%	19,680	5.1%
30-34 years	12,139	5.9%	9,556	5.4%	21,695	5.6%
35-39 years	12,513	6.0%	10,317	5.8%	22,830	5.9%
40-44 years	12,906	6.2%	10,800	6.1%	23,706	6.2%
45-49 years	12,252	5.9%	10,438	5.9%	22,690	5.9%
50-54 years	12,759	6.2%	11,343	6.4%	24,102	6.3%
55-59 years	13,199	6.4%	11,892	6.7%	25,091	6.5%
60-64 years	14,183	6.8%	12,660	7.2%	26,843	7.0%
65-69 years	14,506	7.0%	13,011	7.4%	27,517	7.2%
70-74 years	12,875	6.2%	11,766	6.6%	24,641	6.4%
75-79 years	11,006	5.3%	10,167	5.7%	21,173	5.5%
80-84 years	7,279	3.5%	6,756	3.8%	14,035	3.7%
85 years & over	5,516	2.7%	5,935	3.3%	11,451	3.0%
Total	207,056	100.0%	176,981	100.0%	384,037	100.0%

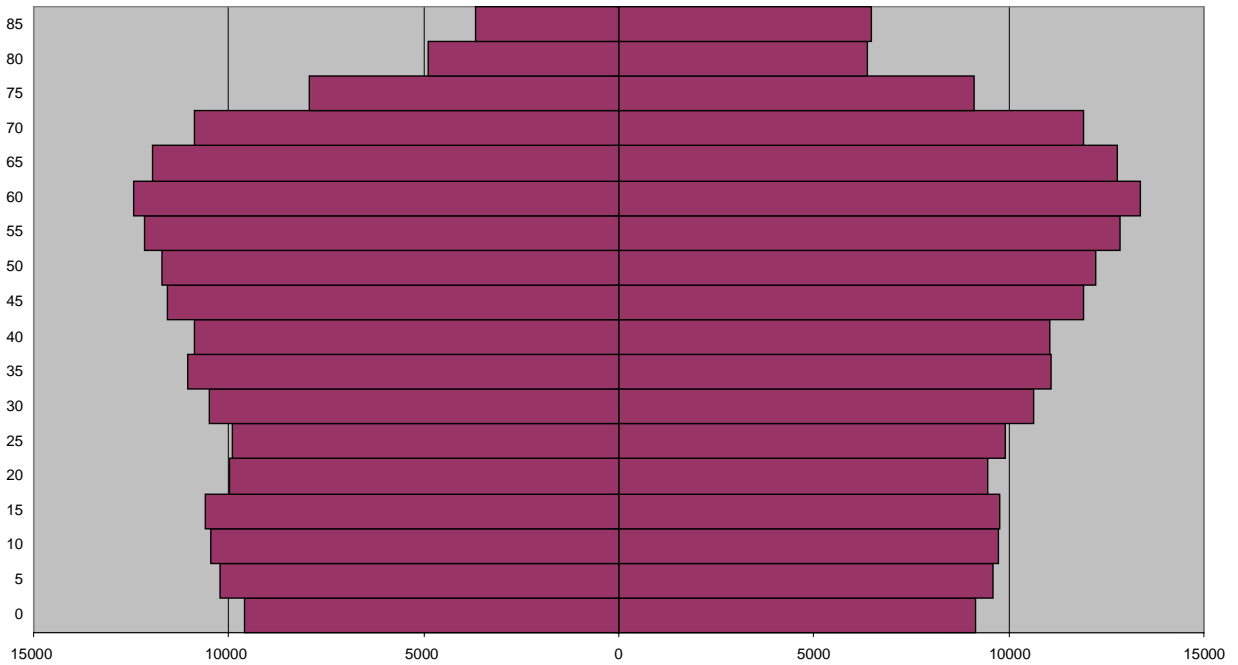
Source: DIPNR, *Interim Population Projections (April, 2003)*.

- The 0 to 14 years age group is expected to shrink by about 6% over the 24 year period to 2026, a little more than the expected NSW rate of 4%. The 15 to 24 years age group and the 25 to 64 years age group will remain approximately the same, and the 65 and over age group is expected to increase by about 8% higher than the NSW rate of 4%. While the proportional increase of the 65 and over age group is about 8%, it should be noted that the actual numbers are projected to double, from nearly 51,923 to 98,817. It is important that all sectors of the community bear this in mind.

Graph 4.5: Age Distribution - Central Coast, 2001



Graph 4.6: Projected Age Distribution - Central Coast, 2021



Impact

- The trends illustrated in the graphs above, tell a story of an older population on the Central Coast that has steadily increased in number over the past decade. As this trend is predicted to continue and increase over the next decade, careful planning and allocation of resources in the areas of housing, health, transport and Home and Community Care services across the Central Coast will need to be a priority.
- Those aged 20 to 29 continue to leave the Central Coast for work, lifestyle and study. This migration, largely to Sydney, will be part of the demographic character of the Coast for the foreseeable future. This kind of movement of young people away from the region impacts on the diversity of ideas, cultural life, and business on the Coast. Improving opportunities for this population group locally is crucial in the areas of education, business, employment and community participation, in order to make the most of local innovation and energy often found in the age group.
- Children remain a significant population group in both Gosford and Wyong in the present and immediate future. This group is a regular user of services including health, education, sport and recreation, support services and cultural activities. Child care, support for families with children (both formal and informal) and planning for children from birth to adulthood, will need to remain priorities on the Central Coast over the next 5 years.