



Mr K P Greene MP  
Member for Georges River  
8 Ormonde Parade  
HURSTVILLE NSW 2220

RML 05/1121

Dear Mr Greene

I refer to your letter dated 3 March 2005, requesting advice regarding infrastructure provision in Coastal Growth Areas.

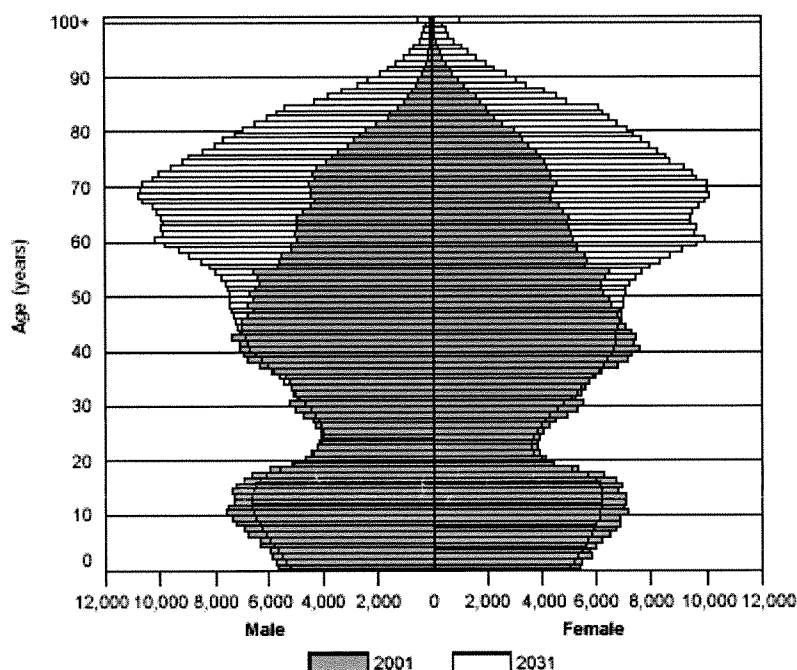
The NSW Government has demonstrated a strong commitment to the establishment of infrastructure in coastal growth areas. Six primary schools and four high schools, currently enrolling almost 5000 students, have been established in the last ten years:

<b>NAME</b>	<b>Enrolment 2005</b>
Centaur Public School	596
Broulee Public School	336
Tacking Point Public School	693
North Nowra Public School	275
Callala Public School	321
Bogangar Public School	328
Wollumbin High School	477
Coffs Harbour Senior College	483
Camden Haven High School	1066
Banora Point High School	382
<b>Enrolments</b>	<b>4957</b>

I am advised that while there are expected to continue to be some large urban developments requiring new schools, ageing of the coastal population and the age characteristics of future new residents will moderate the extent of growth amongst young persons in these areas.

Overall the population of coastal NSW is projected to increase over the next 30 years but much of this growth will be due to in-migration of older persons, while persons aged 0 to 20 years old are projected to fall. These contrary trends are illustrated in the following figure taken from the latest *NSW State and Regional Population Projections* published by the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources (DIPNR):

### Age and Sex Distribution, Coastal NSW, 2001 and 2031



Some Coastal areas are already exhibiting evidence of this change in population trends amongst younger age groups. For example, the population count of 0-4 year old persons in the Mid-North Coast Statistical Division fell 18418 persons in 1991 to 18091 persons in 1996 to 16564 persons in 2001:

	AREA:	Mid-North Coast SD					Change	%Change
	PERSONS	1986	1991	1996	2001	1991-01	1991-01	
	0-4	16203	18418	18091	16564	-1854	-10.1	
	5-9	16251	19472	20623	19955	483	2.5	
	10-14	17543	18706	20871	21999	3293	17.6	
	15-19	14918	15806	16349	18072	2266	14.3	

Source; ABS Census of Population

Despite these broad trends, there will still be some areas of substantial residential development requiring new school infrastructure. However, demand for such infrastructure will need to take careful account of the extent of housing for retirement and tourism/holiday purposes in each particular case.

Residential developments will continue to be assessed and monitored by the Department of Education and Training in conjunction with local government and DIPNR planners and appropriate education infrastructure planned.

I trust the above information helps to clarify the situation for you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Carmel Tebbutt".

Carmel Tebbutt

**Minister for Education and Training**

**20 APR 2005**