

# DISTRICT COUNCIL OF GRANT - RURAL POPULATION POLICY



- Most regional and rural areas are projected to have a population decrease over the next 15 years.
- This will have a significant effect on the number of volunteers for Country Fire Services and other community organizations, school attendance, funding for health and medical services and other human services (based on population) and business growth.
- The change in demographics due to baby boomers, as well as a population decrease will see a shortage of skilled labour in service and business areas.
- The State Government a few years ago announced a Population Policy for the State.
- A Population Policy is a coherent set of objectives with relation to future population size, distribution and structure. It should be a conscious policy to achieve national goals such as ecologically sustainable development.
- It is intended to undertake an analysis of the fertility, mortality and migration rates (inter, intra and overseas) of Mount Gambier and the District Council of Grant.
- The Policy will also look at demographics including baby boomers, service needs and implications and how many will leave the area on retirement. A Population Policy will be undertaken by Professor Graeme Hugo and his Associates from the University of Adelaide. The methodology will be as follows :-
  - Step 1 Analysis of the in- and out-migration from the District Council of Gant and the City of Mount Gambier based on data from the 2001 Census.
  - Step 2 Analysis of fertility trends in the District Council of Gant and the City of Mount Gambier based on age specific fertility trends.
  - Step 3 Analysis of population projections for the District Council of Grant and City of Mount Gambier.
  - Step 4 Presentation of results from Stages 1 – 3 to Council for discussion.
  - Step 5 Preparation of Draft Population Policy for the District Council of Grant and the City of Mount Gambier and Intervention Strategies.

Enquiries :- Russell Peate  
Chief Executive Officer  
District Council of Grant  
Telephone 87210444  
Email – peaterj@dcgrant.sa.gov.au