

BLAYNEY SHIRE DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE (Historical & Projections)

Population & Population Projections

Recent Population Statistics

Table 1 illustrates the population of the Blayney Shire (counted at home on the night of Census) since 1976 and whether it has increased or decreased since the last census (Source: Aust. Bureau of Statistics ('ABS')). The total population of the Shire was decreasing from 1976 to 1991 but has been increasing slowly from 1991 to 2006.

Year	Blayney Part A – (Northern Section)	Blayney Part B - (Southern Section)	Total Shire Population - Place of Residence
1976	4,192	1,893	6,085
1981	↑ 4,223	↓ 1,784	↓ 6,007
1986	↓ 4,179	↓ 1,691	↓ 5,870
1991	↑ 4,261	↑ 1,735	↑ 5,996
1996	↑ 4,366	↓ 1,659	↑ 6,025
2001	↑ 4,473	↓ 1,646	↑ 6,119
2006	↑ 4,862	↓ 1,307	↑ 6,169
	Blayney Part A △ Pop. / Av. Ann △	Blayney Part B △ Pop. / Av. Ann △	Shire Population △ Pop. / Av. Ann △
△ 1976-2006	+670 (0.53%)	-586 (-1.03%)	+84 (0.05%)
△ 1981-2006	+683 (0.82%)	-384 (-1.14%)	+299 (0.25%)
△ 1996-2006	+496 (1.14%)	-352 (-2.12%)	+144 (0.24%)
△ 2001-2006	+389 (1.75%)	-339 (-4.12%)	+50 (0.16%)

Table 1: Population of the Shire, the northern section (Part A) and the southern section (Part B) from 1976 to 2006 and the change in population (Source: ABS – www.abs.gov.au).

Overall, the total Shire population has grown by an average of only 0.05% per year (1976 to 2006) but this has increased to 0.25% per year since 1981. Part A (Northern section of the Shire) has grown positively from an average of 0.53% to 1.75% per year, whereas Part B (Southern section of the Shire) has decreased at a rate of 1.03% to 4.12% per year.

Clearly the areas in closer proximity to Orange and Bathurst (Part A) (including Millthorpe, Blayney & Newbridge) are proving to have the highest attraction for growth. This raises queries about any future growth for the remaining five key settlements in the southern part of the Shire (Part B). However, this Strategy supports a low positive growth outlook for the urban areas with a continued decline in the rural populations.

In 2004 a study was carried out by Newplan on behalf of Cabonne Shire Council to ascertain the demand for settlement within commuting distance from Orange. The study defined the 'Orange Commuter Zone' as the areas within 20-30 minutes drive of Orange (that aligns relatively closely with Part A of the Shire). Table 2 shows that the average population growth within this commuter zone for Blayney Shire from 1991 to 2006 was 3.3%/year. The average population growth from 2001 to 2006 increased to 3.82%/year.

Year	1991	1996	2001	2006	Pop. Change 1991-2006	% Change	Av. Annual Change 91-06
Population	609	676	765	911	+302	49.6%	3.3%

Table 2: Population changes in the Orange Commuter zone for the Blayney Shire from 1991-2006 (Source: GHD (2008) Local Profile – Chapter 2.1.3 – Orange Commuter Zone).

Issues & Strategies

Fragmented Population Growth: It is important to note that in the last 20 years there has been significantly higher growth in the northern section of the Shire (including Blayney, Millthorpe and Newbridge) than in the southern section of the Shire (including the remaining settlements). There are a number of factors influencing this but proximity to the key regional centres is a key factor. This trend is expected to continue in the foreseeable future.

Historical Shire Population

Garry Reynolds (1991) *Blayney Shire Heritage Study – Thematic History* (Table 3) provides some historical population counts for the Shire – some of which may be based on ABS population counts (but the reliability of the data is not confirmed).

History suggests that the population of the Shire probably peaked in the early 1900's. Table 3 shows a significant decrease in the Shire population from 1911 through to 1971. It has only been since 1971 that there has been slight positive growth.

Date	Est. Population	Date	Est. Population
1911	8,710	1966	5,719
1921	↓ 7,731	1971	↑ 5,840
1933	↓ 7,402	1976	↑ 6,085
1947	↓ 6,065	1981	↑ 6,350
1954	↑ 6,108	1986	↓ 5,870
1961	↓ 5,783		
Period	Change in Pop.	% Growth Rate	% Av. Ann. Rate
1911-1986 (75yrs)	-2840	-32.61%	-0.44%
1911-1971 (60yrs)	-2870	-32.95%	-0.55%
1971-1986 (15yrs)	+30	0.51%	+0.03%

Table 3: Historical population growth of the Shire (Source: Garry Reynolds (1991) *Blayney Shire Heritage Study – Thematic History*).

Issues & Strategies

Historical Population: In general, the Shire population peaked in the early 1900's and was in substantial decline until the 1970's/80's. There has only been low population growth in more recent history. It is important to understand some of the historical factors that have caused such a significant population change in order to estimate future projected growth rates.

Projected Future Shire Population

One aim of this Strategy is to estimate average annual rates of population growth for the Shire and each of the key settlements to gain a projected urban population for each census period for 30 years until 2036. The estimated growth rates are highly dependent on which factors are taken into account and their accuracy. This section reviews some of the different projections that are available from different sources.

CENTROC (2008) Projections / Department of Planning (2005) Projections

The *CENTROC Population Projections* (Western Research Institute: Dec 2008) has extrapolated from ABS data to obtain the following population projections for Blayney taking into account major new developments expected in Blayney Shire (Table 4). It can be seen that the CENTROC population projections are higher than the Department of Planning projections in 2005.

Based on a 2006 total Shire population of 6,593 (Total Population), the lower-level WRI Scenario C projects an average annual Shire growth of 0.547% and this Strategy states that this is more realistic than the DoP projections.

	2011	2016	2021	2026	2031	Proj. Growth 2006-31	Proj. Average Annual Growth 2006-31
DoP Projection (2005)	6,770	6,860	6,970	7,070	7,160	8.6%	0.344%
WRI Scenario C (2008)	7,110	7,262	7,376	7,445	7,494	13.67%	0.547%
WRI Scenario B (2008)	7,186	7,455	7,636	7,714	7,767	17.81%	0.712%
WRI Scenario A (2008)	7,281	7,696	7,961	8,050	8,106	22.95%	0.918%

Table 4: Comparison of the estimated population projections for the Blayney Shire by Department of Planning (DoP) and CENTROC/Western Research Institute(WRI) to 2031 (Source: CENTROC Population Projections (2008)).

Rural & Industrial Strategy (2008) Projections

The Rural & Industrial Strategy noted that the population growth is unlikely to occur evenly across the Shire with the dominant population growth occurring in the north of the Shire closer to the centres of Bathurst and Orange (Table 5) and negative growth rates in the south of the Shire.

Statistical Local Area	2001	2031	Av. Ann. % Δ
Shire Part A (North)	4,790	5,460	+0.5%
Shire Part B (South)	1,740	1,700	-0.1%
Total Shire	6,530	7,160	+0.32%

Table 5: Population projections from the Rural & Industrial Strategy (Source: Local Profile, Table 2.7, page 12) based on total population (not resident population).

Please note that the ABS Census figures that were based on resident population had a 2001 Census figure of 4,473 for Blayney Part A and 1,646 people for Blayney Part B which is lower than the figures used in the Rural & Industrial Strategy which are based on total population.

Department of Planning (2010) Projections

Table 6 is taken from recent projections published by the DoP (2010) that project a positive overall growth rate for the Shire up until 2036 reaching 7,300 in population based on a 2006 population of 6,900 (total) (an increase of 400 people/ 5.8% total or an average annual growth of 0.19%). Please note that this differs slightly as a starting population to the ABS residential population of 6,169 and adopts a variable rate of growth over time.

Historical and projected population and selected characteristics – Shire of Blayney								
Year	Population			Sex ratio ¹	% aged		Dependency ratio ²	Median age
	Males	Females	Persons		0-14	65+		
1996	3,300	3,100	6,400	105	23%	12%	55	35
2001	3,300	3,200	6,500	104	24%	14%	59	37
2006	3,500	3,400	6,900	102	22%	15%	59	39
2011	3,500	3,500	7,000	102	21%	17%	61	41
2016	3,600	3,500	7,100	101	20%	19%	63	42
2021	3,600	3,600	7,200	101	20%	21%	67	43
2026	3,600	3,600	7,200	100	19%	23%	72	44
2031	3,600	3,600	7,300	100	19%	24%	76	45
2036	3,600	3,700	7,300	100	19%	26%	79	46

¹ Sex ratio is the number of males per 100 females.

² Dependency ratio is the number of people aged 0-14 and 65+ per 100 people aged 15-64.

Table 6: DoP (2010) projected population growth in Blayney Shire (Source: www.planning.nsw.gov.au).

Settlement Strategy (2010) Projections

As Table 7 shows, based on a +0.7%/year average growth rate in the northern section of the Shire (Part A) (compared to a +0.5%/year growth rate in the Rural & Industrial Strategy) and a negative 0.1% growth rate in the southern section of the Shire (Part B), the following projections for the future Shire population are reached.

This results in a projected future average growth rate from 2006 to 2036 of approximately 0.6% per year (comparable to the WRC Scenario C rate of 0.547%/year) and results in a 2036 actual resident population of 7,262 (which is comparable to the DoP (2010) Estimate of 7,300).

Year	Part A (North) +0.7% Av. Ann. Growth	Part B (South) -0.1% Av. Ann. Growth	Strategy Shire Projected Pop. (Resident Pop.)	Strategy Shire Proj. Pop. (Total Pop.)	WRI Scenario B (Total Pop.)	DoP (2010) Population Projection	Rural & Industrial Strategy
2001	4,473	1,646	6,119	6,120	N/A	6,500	6,530
2006	4,862	1,307	6,169	6,593	N/A	6,900	
2011	5,035	1,300	6,335	6,793	7,186	7,000	
2016	5,213	1,294	6,507	6,999	7,455	7,100	
2021	5,398	1,288	6,686	7,212	7,636	7,200	
2026	5,590	1,281	6,871	7,431	7,714	7,200	
2031	5,788	1,275	7,063	7,657	7,767	7,300	7,160
2036	5,994	1,268	7,262	7,889	N/A	7,300	
Period	△ Shire Pop.	% △ Shire Pop. (This Strategy)	% Av. Ann. △ (This Strategy)	% Av. Ann. △ (This Strategy)			
2006-2036	1,093	17.7%	0.6%	0.6%			

Table 7: Projected Strategy Shire growth rates (including the North – Part A and South – Part B) through to the year 2036 (in comparison to WRI Scenario B and DoP Projection 2010).

Please note that the Settlement Strategy Projection is based on a 2006 population of 6,169 (Resident Population), whereas the WRI Scenario B is based on a 2006 Total Population of 6,593 (which explains the higher starting population) and the DoP (2010) Projection is based on a 2006 Population of 6,900. This affects the projected end population – so it is more important to look at the average annual rates of growth that are used. The Settlement Strategy projection is based on an average annual growth rate that is constant over the 30 year period. However, in reality the growth is unlikely to be constant but will vary either side of the average.

Recent Settlement Populations

Table 8 shows the total population and recent average change in population of each of the eight (8) key settlements in the Blayney Shire from 2001 to 2006 (see Settlement Chapters for details).

Settlement	2001 Pop.	2006 Pop.	△ in Pop. 2001-06	Total % △	Av. Ann. % △
Blayney	2,608	2,745	137	5.25%	+1.05%
Millthorpe	705	724	20	2.84%	+0.57%
Lyndhurst	225	258	33	14.57%	+2.93%
Carcoar	182	218	36	19.78%	+3.96%
Mandurama	158	150	-8	-5.06%	-1.01%
Neville	Not Known	Estimated 150	N/A	N/A	N/A
Newbridge	99	90	-9	-9.09%	-1.82%
Barry	Not Known	Estimated 99	N/A	N/A	N/A
Urban Pop.	N/A	4,434	N/A	N/A	N/A

Table 8: Population of each settlement in the Blayney Shire based on 2006 Census data (Source: 2006 Quickstats www.abs.gov.au).

Issues & Strategies

Settlement Growth: Over the 2001 to 2006 period there was positive growth in all of the settlements that could be counted (excluding Neville and Barry) except for Newbridge and Mandurama which had negative growth. The highest rates of growth were in Carcoar and Lyndhurst but this is likely to fail to take into account significant growth in population in Rural Residential Areas adjacent to Blayney and Millthorpe.

Projected Settlement Populations

Each of the Settlement Chapters reviews the key factors that may affect population growth in each settlement and estimates the future minimum, average and maximum population growth rates for the next 30 years (to 2036).

Table 9 summarises this information and provides the average 2036 estimated population and population growth since 2006.

Settlement	2006 Pop.	Min. Ann. Proj. Growth Rate	Av. Ann. Proj. Growth Rate	Max. Ann. Proj. Growth Rate	2036 Pop. Av. Rate	△ Pop. 2006-2036
Blayney	2,745	+0.50%	+1.05%	+1.50%	3,755	+1,010
Millthorpe	724	+0.78%	+1.00%	+1.50%	977	+252
Lyndhurst	258	+0.50%	+0.70%	+1.00%	318	+60
Carcoar	218	-0.50%	+0.30%	+0.70%	238	+20
Mandurama	150	-0.50%	+0.10%	+0.50%	155	+5
Neville	Est. 150	-0.30%	+0.30%	+0.50%	164	+14
Newbridge	90	+0.30%	+0.50%	+0.70%	105	+15
Barry	Est. 86	+0.10%	+0.30%	+0.50%	100	+14
Urban Pop.	4,434	N/A	N/A	N/A	5,822	1,387

Table 9: Est. population growth rates for each settlement and projected population by 2036 based on findings of this strategy.

Demographic Profile

Age Structure

Table 10 sets out the age structure at the 2006 Census.

Age groups	No. in Shire	% in Shire	% in Australia
0-4 years	457	6.9%	6.3%
5-14 years	1,025	15.5%	13.5%
15-24 years	732	11.1%	13.6%
25-54 years	2,547	38.6%	42.2%
55-64 years	816	12.4%	11.0%
65 years and over	1,016	15.4%	13.3%
Median age	39	-	37

Table 10: Age Structure - ABS Census 2006 (Source: www.abs.gov.au)

Issues & Strategies

Ageing Population: There is a significant existing and future issue with the ageing of the population in Blayney Shire and across Australia. With 15.4% of the population over 65 years of age and 27.8% of the population over 55 years of age (both of which are larger than the Australian average) there will be increasing pressure on community and health infrastructure. In addition (as stated above) the DoP estimates that the percentage of people over 65 years of age in the Shire will increase from 15% in 2006 to 26% in 2036. This is a critical issue for those settlements or rural areas with limited access to community and health infrastructure as the ageing population will either access to these services or they may relocate to centres that do provide them – causing a significant decrease in the population of those settlements (up to 26%!).

Incomes, Education & Employment

Labour Force

Table 11 sets out the labour force structure at the 2006 Census. In general the levels of employment/non-employment in the Shire are similar to the Australian average. This suggests that the Shire is averaging well in terms of employment provision and this will impact on socio-economic well being and growth in the area.

LABOUR FORCE (Population aged 15 years and over)	Blayney Shire	% in Blayney Shire	% in Australia
Total labour force (employed and unemployed persons)	3,066	-	-
Employed full-time	1,875	61.2%	60.7%
Employed part-time	798	26.0%	27.9%
Employed away from work	115	3.8%	3.5%
Employed hours not stated	75	2.4%	2.6%
Unemployed	203	6.6%	5.2%
Not in the labour force	1,883	-	-

Table 11: Labour Force Structure - ABS Census 2006 (Source: www.abs.gov.au)

Income

Table 12 sets out the income structure at the 2006 Census. The income levels in the Shire are significantly below the Australian average.

INCOME (Population aged 15 years and over)	Blayney Shire	Australia
Median individual income (\$/weekly)	\$391	\$466
Median household income (\$/weekly)	\$862	\$1,027
Median family income (\$/weekly)	\$1,074	\$1,171

Table 12: Income Structure - ABS Census 2006 (Source: www.abs.gov.au)

Occupation

Table 13 sets out the occupation structure at the 2006 Census. Blayney Shire has a higher proportion than the Australian average in the fields of manager, labourers, and machinery operators (generally lower paid jobs) – but lower proportion in the fields of professionals, clerical and administrative workers and sales workers (generally higher paid jobs). This would partially explain the slightly lower average individual and household incomes in the area.

OCCUPATION (Employed persons aged 15 years and over)	Blayney Shire	% in Blayney Shire	% in Australia
Professionals	365	12.7%	19.8%
Managers	561	19.6%	13.2%
Technicians and Trades Workers	406	14.2%	14.4%
Community and Personal Service Workers	249	8.7%	8.8%
Machinery Operators and Drivers	327	11.4%	6.6%
Labourers	410	14.3%	10.5%
Clerical & Administrative Workers	302	10.5%	15.0%
Sales Workers	203	7.1%	9.8%

Table 13: Occupation Structure - ABS Census 2006 (Source: www.abs.gov.au)

Employment by Industry

Table 14 sets out the employment by industry at the 2006 Census.

INDUSTRY OF EMPLOYMENT (Employed aged 15 years and over)	Blayney Shire	% in Blayney Shire	% in Australia
School Education	147	12.5%	4.5%
Hospitals	103	3.6%	3.3%
Metal Ore Mining	134	4.7%	0.4%
Sheep, Beef Cattle & Grain Farming	357	12.5%	1.5%
Other Food Product Manufacturing	98	3.4%	0.2%

Table 14: Industry by Employment - ABS Census 2006 (Source: www.abs.gov.au)

Mining

Whilst mining is not a land use within the Village Zone, it has a significant impact on each of the settlements in terms of employment and economic flow-on effects. Recent mining employment growth has come about since the commencement of the Cadia Valley Operations including Cadia Hill and Ridgeway operated by Newcrest Mining. Cadia Hill was discovered in 1992 and is one of the largest open pit gold-copper mines in Australia. Ridgeway is an underground mine adjacent to the Cadia mine. Cadia Hill has a reserve of approximately 258Mt @ 0.6 g/t Gold, 0.15% Copper for 5.3Moz Gold and 380kt Copper (Source: www.newcrest.com.au/operations). The ore is transported by a slurry pipeline to Blayney filtering plant and rail loader for dewatering and rail transport to the coast. The forecast life of the mine is 2013.

Regionally, both the Cadia Hill and Ridgeway Mines were estimated in 2003/04 to produce \$803 million in annual direct and indirect regional output or business turnover and 2,303 in direct and indirect employment and there have been significant increases due to new mines since this time.

In addition, Newcrest is looking at an additional two major future development projects including the Ridgeway Deeps and Cadia East Underground which has a potential mine life to approximately 2030 and long term employment and revenue benefits for the Blayney Shire.

There are also other potential mining projects in the sub-region (including a potential mine at Kings Plains that may be bigger than Cadia) as the area forms part of the Lachlan Fold geological area and is identified as having known and potential mineral resources with a number of exploration permits over the Shire.

An important ramification of this is that mining and exploration is best served by maintaining larger parcels of land to maximise separation and buffers to sensitive land uses, minimise land use conflicts and minimise impacts on exploration/mining potential from scattered development.

Agriculture

It is also important to note the importance of agriculture to the Blayney Shire with 16% of the employment and a significant percentage of state revenue. It is a key recommendation of the Rural & Industrial Strategy that agricultural lands are protected and this has ramifications for the extension of urban areas in this Strategy as well as providing employment for many of the settlements.

Manufacturing

The Shire has also managed to attract and retain a number of key industries to the area including Nestle Purina/Friskeys Pet Care (380 employees); Blayney Frozen Foods/Sealink (up to 230 employees annually); FCL Pty Ltd Inter-modal Transport Terminal (dedicated train to Port Botany); ICR Engineering (steel fabricators for industry and transport); Western White Linen (regional laundry service – staff of 40); and Westinghouse has a parts warehouse that services Orange. However, nearly all manufacturing industries are located in the Town of Blayney and there are very few industries (other than home industries) in the other settlements.

Wind Farms

In addition, there are a range of new and innovative industries in the area such as wind farms. There is the completed Carcoar Wind Farm (the largest of its type in Australia – 15 turbine generators) and proposals for a new wind farm at Flyers Creek with 30-40 turbines and \$160-200 million in capital investment currently in the application process. There is a need to review controls to manage potential conflicts and promote investment for these new industries.

Issues & Strategies

- **Income:** The slightly lower median individual income and household incomes in Blayney Shire suggest a prevalence of lower-paying jobs compared to the Australian average that may impact slightly on the ability of people in the region to afford more expensive property and services.
- **Employment Industries:** It can be seen that public employment (education/hospitals) combined with agriculture and mining are key industries. There are issues with the lack of diversity of employment that may make the local economy susceptible to changes in conditions for resources/agriculture but this is offset by more stable public employment.
- **Mining:** The continuation of Cadia Mine's employment and the opening of Cadia East will have a minor positive effect on the Shire's employment and economic flow-on effects. Note that due to other Cadia/Ridgeway mines reducing employment over time there is not likely to be a significant increase in employment generation from Cadia East mine – but merely an extension of current demand. However, if McPhillamys / Kings Plains were to commence then there could be a significant increase in employment demand.
- **Industry:** There is a need to create appropriate zonings for these activities as well as development controls that promote investment whilst managing potential conflicts to enhance this as a key economic/employment initiative. It is unlikely that manufacturing will every have significant sites outside of the Town of Blayney and this limits employment opportunities in other settlements.
- **Agriculture:** There are potential employment and economic ramifications if prime agricultural land in areas around Orange is utilised for urban or rural residential development, even though this may result in temporary growth in construction and services in these areas. Agriculture is also a key employer for many of the residents of settlements in the Blayney Shire.

Family & Dwelling Structure

Family Structure

Table 15 sets out the family structure at the 2006 Census. In general the family characteristics in Blayney Shire are similar to the Australian average.

FAMILY CHARACTERISTICS	Blayney Shire	% of total families in Blayney Shire	% of total families in Australia
Total families	1,783	-	-
Couple families with children	795	44.6%	45.3%
Couple families without children	695	39.0%	37.2%
One parent families	271	15.2%	15.8%
Other families	22	1.2%	1.7%

Table 15: Family Characteristics - ABS Census 2006 (Source: www.abs.gov.au)

Dwelling Type

Table 16 sets out the dwelling types at the 2006 Census.

PRIVATE DWELLING CHARACTER	Blayney Shire	% in Blayney Shire	% in Australia
Total occupied private dwellings			
Total priv. dwellings (incl. unoccupied dwellings)	2,858	-	-
Occupied priv. dwellings:	2,447	-	-
Separate house	2,294	93.7%	74.8%
Semi-detached, row or terrace house, townhouse etc	47	1.9%	9.2%
Flat, unit or apartment	77	3.1%	14.2%
Other dwellings	29	1.2%	1.7%
Not stated	0	0.0%	0.1%

Table 16: Private Dwelling Character - ABS Census 2006 (Source: www.abs.gov.au)

Dwelling Tenure

Table 17 shows the rate of dwelling ownership / purchase v's renting of dwellings. There is a slightly higher percentage of ownership and lower percentage of rental dwellings in the Shire compared to Australia. Whilst dwelling ownership is a sign of economic prosperity or affordable housing, the low number of rentals can be a concern for lower socio-economic groups and temporary accommodation needs.

TENURE TYPE - OCCUPIED PRIVATE DWELLINGS	Blayney Shire	% in Blayney Shire	% in Australia
Fully owned	1,017	41.6%	32.6%
Being purchased (includes being purchased under rent/buy scheme)	796	32.5%	32.2%
Rented (includes rent-free)	541	22.1%	27.2%
Other tenure type	13	0.5%	0.9%
Not stated	79	3.2%	7.1%

Table 17: Tenure Type – ABS Census 2006 (Source: www.abs.gov.au)

Household Composition

Table 18 shows the household types. Blayney Shire has a slightly higher percentage of family households and lone person households than the Australian average and a slightly lower percentage of group households. It is important to note that the slightly higher percentage of lone person households may suggest a need for smaller dwelling types for this group (but lone households may still prefer and be able to afford larger dwellings).

HOUSEHOLD TYPE – OCCUPIED PRIVATE DWELLINGS	Blayney Shire	% in Blayney Shire	% in Australia
Family household	1,762	72.0%	67.4%
Lone person household	604	24.7%	22.9%
Group household	40	1.6%	3.7%

Table 18: Household Type – ABS Census 2006 (Source: www.abs.gov.au)

Household Size & Median Rent/Loan

Table 19 shows the housing repayments and average household sizes. In general housing repayments are lower than Australia but average household size is the same.

DWELLING CHARACTERISTICS - OCCUPIED PRIVATE DWELLINGS	Blayney Shire	Australia
Median rent (\$/weekly)	140	190
Median housing loan repayment (\$/monthly)	1,083	1,300
Average household size	2.6	2.6
Average number of persons per bedroom	1.1	1.1

Table 19: Dwelling Characteristics - ABS Census 2006 (Source: www.abs.gov.au)

Issues & Strategies

- Family Structure:** A majority of families in Blayney Shire are one parent families or couples with children (59.8% combined) which suggests a need for support services for children and their parents. Many of these support services are only provided in the larger settlements of Millthorpe and Blayney.
- Household Composition:** Slight decreases in family households and increases in lone person households may change housing choices and result in smaller household sizes (decreased occupancy), demand for smaller dwellings, and demand for a larger number of dwellings to house the same population.
- Dwelling Type:** It is clear that compared to Australia there is a higher level of separate dwellings and lower level of medium density dwellings (semi-detached, row or terrace houses) and higher density dwellings (flat, unit or apartments) which relates to its rural character and lower urban densities. The high percentage of single detached dwellings is likely to consume a higher percentage of land than other medium density housing alternatives and will promote less sustainable development. There is likely to be a future demand for an increased range of dwelling choice to cater for an ageing population, lower household occupancy rates, higher rates of lone person households, and need for improved sustainability.
- Housing Ownership:** The higher levels of housing ownership/purchase in Blayney Shire compared to the Australian average and lower levels of rental may show a stronger economic commitment to Blayney Shire but it may also need to be reviewed to ensure there is sufficient rental accommodation to cater for less permanent needs and lower socio-economic groups.
- Public Housing:** There may be a need for increased public housing opportunities in Blayney Shire to ensure a range of housing alternatives, particularly as the population is growing and there is a slightly lower average income compared to Australia. All public rental housing in Blayney Shire should be properly integrated into the existing urban fabric of Blayney to avoid any social stigma.
- Housing Payments:** The median rent and housing loan repayment levels are significantly below the Australian average but similar to the rest of the Shire which suggests that some housing in Blayney is more affordable than the Australian average but equates with the lower incomes in the Shire.
- Household Occupancy:** The average household occupancy rate in the Blayney Shire is 2.6 people per household which is the same as Australia. However, it is estimated that there will be an increase in lone person households and a reduction in the average household size in the future (unless housing costs rise substantially) and this will create additional need for additional dwellings to service the same sized population.