

FOREWORD

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS PLAN

With the advent of the Resource Management Act 1991, the Invercargill City Transitional District Plan comprised:

- (A) The City of Invercargill District Scheme, operative 2 October 1989
- (B) The Bluff Borough District Scheme, operative 13 August 1973
- (C) Part of the Southland County District Scheme, operative 1 January 1987

In 1992 the Council commenced the following process to develop this District Plan:

- (A) A structured consultation on general issues through a newspaper survey.
- (B) The formation of a Plan Group comprising elected representatives, iwi, and staff. Consultation was undertaken with members of the public through “issues and options” groups and with those considered to have specialist knowledge. The Plan Group focussed on identifying and understanding the resource management issues facing the District and addressing the significant issues.
- (C) A Draft District Plan was released for informal comment. Further consultation also took place with the “issues and options” groups.
- (D) Council formally considered the Plan at its meeting of 2 December 1997. The Council resolved to formally notify the Plan as a Proposed District Plan on 31 January 1998.
- (E) The closing date for submissions to the Proposed District Plan was 1 May 1998.
- (F) The summary of submissions was advertised on 12 December 1998 with further submissions closing on 26 March 1999.
- (G) A Hearings Panel was appointed to consider and decide submissions. The Hearings Panel comprised Michael Garland (Chairman), Councillors Neil Boniface, Ian Capitaneas, Mirek Cvigr and Heather Thomson.
- (H) Hearing of submissions commenced on 6 September 1999 and concluded on 23 July 2001. Decisions on all submissions were released at various times, with the final decisions notified on 11 May 2002.
- (I) Variations to the Proposed District Plan were notified on 14 November 1998, 10 March 2001, 11 May 2002 and 29 May 2004. Decisions on these Variations were notified on 11 May 2002, 22 November 2002, 7 December 2002 and 28 October 2004.
- (J) The District Plan was approved by the Invercargill City Council on 25 January 2005 and became operative on 4 February 2005.

THE DISTRICT

The Invercargill City District is illustrated on *Infogram 1*.

Invercargill City's primary economic function is as a regional servicing centre with potential for further manufacturing and processing.

The District is surrounded by agricultural and horticultural land use activities.

Planted production forestry is widespread throughout Southland. Dairying has also expanded throughout the region and these forms of agriculture have affected the District in terms of labour requirements, commercial, financial and industrial services, the use of the land transportation network and the Seaport.

The District is in close proximity to major tourism areas. Tourists use the District's resources as a means of obtaining access to destinations such as the Catlins, Stewart Island, Fiordland, Milford Sound and Te Anau. Invercargill Airport is the alternative airport for Queenstown and Dunedin. Tourists use the commercial and financial services offered by the City.

The District possesses areas of significant indigenous vegetation, substantial wetlands of international significance, significant national habitats of indigenous fauna and outstanding natural features and landscapes. The District's coastline incorporates harbours, bays, headlands and estuaries. The combination of these features offers opportunities for eco-tourism.

Bluff and Invercargill both cater for the processing of fish, oysters and rock lobster that are caught in the surrounding seas.

Surrounding the district are:

- (A) Lignite fields
- (B) Oil and gas fields
- (C) Silica deposits
- (D) Planted production forests

The population of the District at the time of the 1996 Census was 53,209. This fell to 49,830 at the time of the 2001 Census.

Between 1961 and 1976 estimated and historical data shows that the District's usually resident population steadily rose; in the period between 1976 and 1981 the usually resident population reached a plateau; while from 1981 onwards the District has experienced an uninterrupted decline in population as illustrated in *Infogram No. 2: Population Projections*. The Infogram also illustrates how the decline in population is likely to occur over time giving three population projection scenarios.

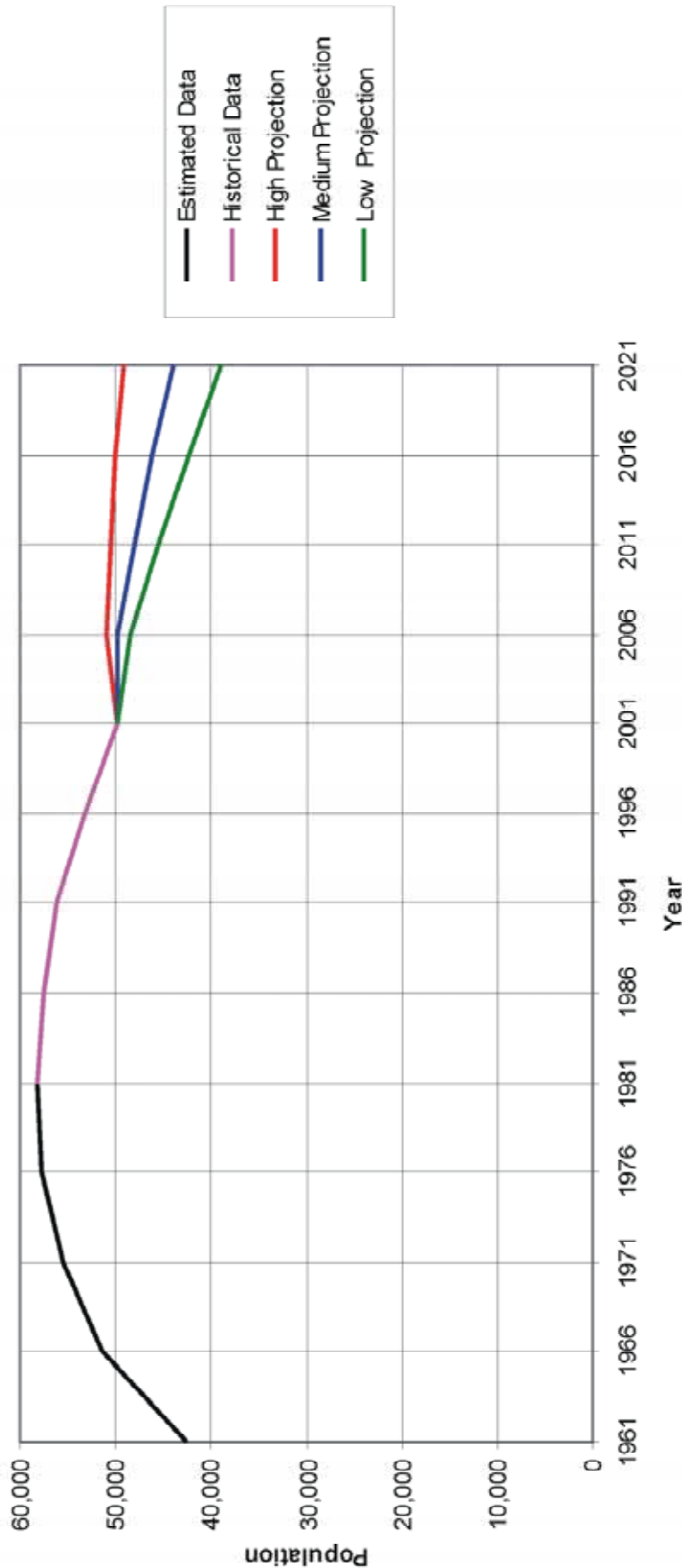
Infogram No.3: Age-Sex Pyramid 2001-2021 shows the age-sex pyramid for the usually resident population of the District incorporating the Census of 2001. The age-sex pyramid incorporates a high projection for the years 2011 and 2021. The Infogram shows that the District's population age structure is changing. Under the projection the District will experience a loss of the age groups under 50 years, a reflection of reductions in the number of births and continuing outward migration. A corresponding increase in the number of 50+ year olds also demonstrates an overall ageing of the population.

The Invercargill District is experiencing limited pressure for urban growth. Opportunities exist for economic development through new activities and enhancing existing enterprises.

This Plan enables Council to carry out its functions under the Resource Management Act 1991 while seeking to create a resource management environment which enables land use activities to change and develop.



Invercargill City District Historical and projected usually resident population 1961 - 2021 (Base 2001 Census)



Note: The usually resident population data for the years between 1960 and 1976 is estimated due to the lack of reliable historic data that can be accurately transposed to match the boundary of the Invercargill City District defined during the local government reorganisation of June 1989.



Invercargill City Council
POPULATION PROJECTION

Infogram

2

Invercargill City District Usually Resident Population

