


Insights into Australia's Emerging Population Dilemmas

Noosa Parks Association
13/05/2005

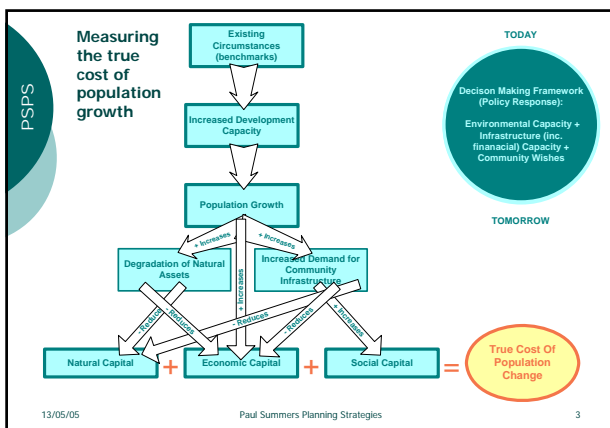


13/05/05 Paul Summers Planning Strategies 1

Introduction

- Variety of population themes from local to national and back again
- Hobby horse
- Branding the horse as a 'capper'
- Themes:
 - Measuring the true cost of population growth
 - Why and how did the variation in Noosa's so-called 'population cap' come about?
 - South-East Queensland Regional Plan and its population figures
 - Real planning vs the folly of following trends
 - The ageing dilemma facing Australia
 - The national dilemma facing Australia
 - The destruction of Australia's beautiful places

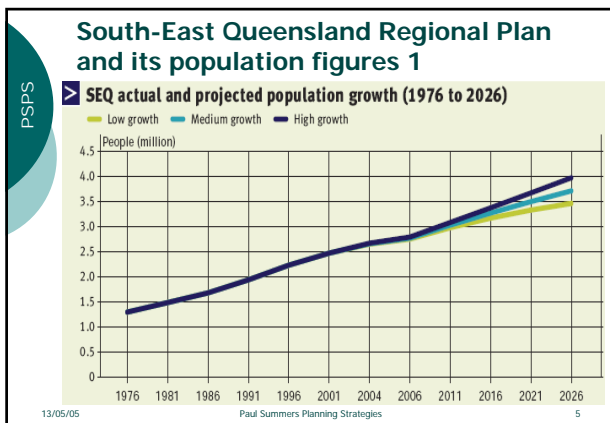
13/05/05 Paul Summers Planning Strategies 2



Why and how did the variation in Noosa's so-called 'population cap' come about?

- Every planning scheme has a cap
- 1997 Strategic Plan's 56,500 figure:
 - Measured the environmental capacity to support development
 - Example: water quality and slope
 - Measured the infrastructure capacity to support development and therefore the financial capacity to fund the infrastructure
 - Example: water supply
 - Measured community values and desires
 - Example: consultation processes
 - Relationship to census data
- 2004/05 Planning Scheme
 - Significant changes to the measuring processes – NO
 - Changes to Noosa's population structure – YES
 - More sophisticated means of measurement – YES
- Policy shift between 1997 and 2004/05 - NO

13/05/05 Paul Summers Planning Strategies 4



South-East Queensland Regional Plan and its population figures 2

- 1976: 1.35m people
- 2004: 2.65m people – increase 1.3m @ 2.4%pa
- 2026: 3.71m – increase 1.06m @ 1.5%
- Absolute terms:
 - 1976-2004: 46,000pa
 - 2004-2026: 48,000pa

13/05/05 Paul Summers Planning Strategies 6

Real planning vs the folly of following trends 1

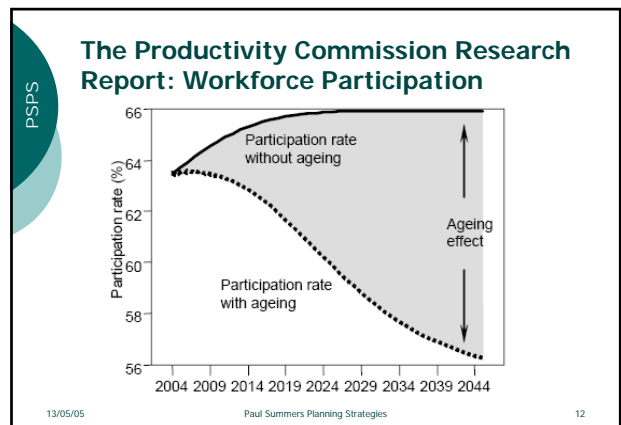
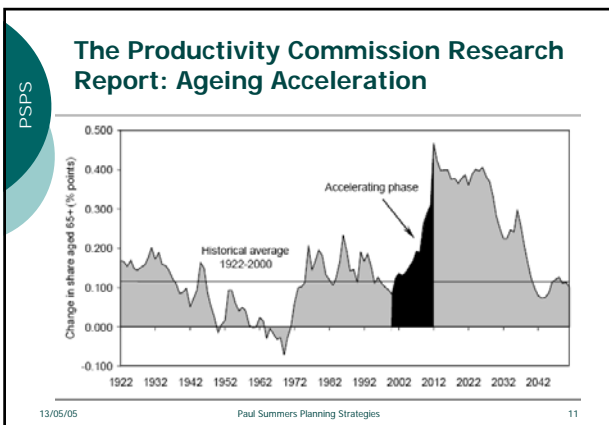
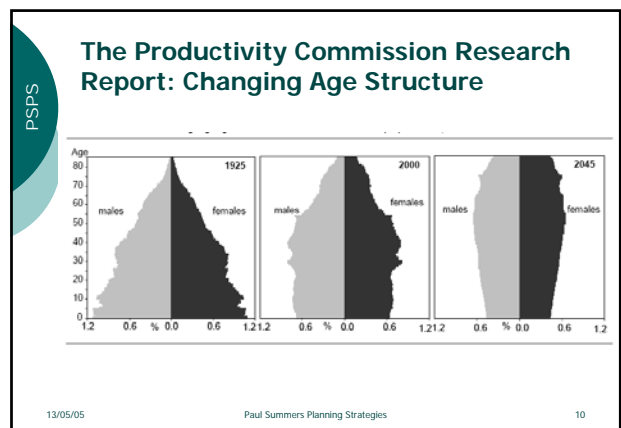
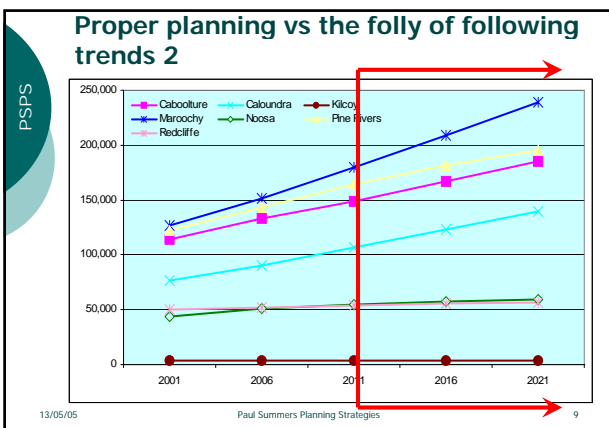
o Real planning asks four simple questions:

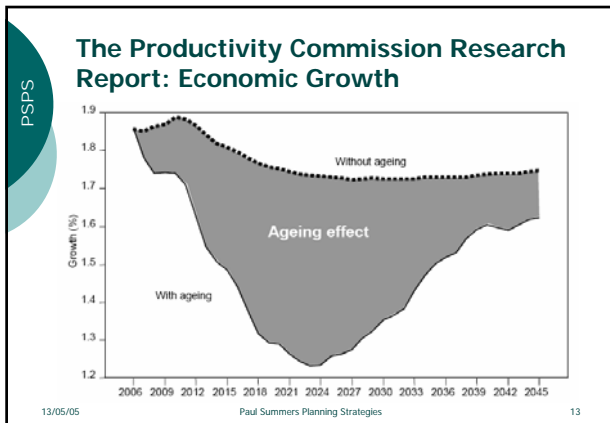
- Where are we now?
- Where are we going?
- Where do we want to be?
- How do we get there?

13/05/05 Paul Summers Planning Strategies 7

NORSROC Focus

13/05/05 Paul Summers Planning Strategies 8





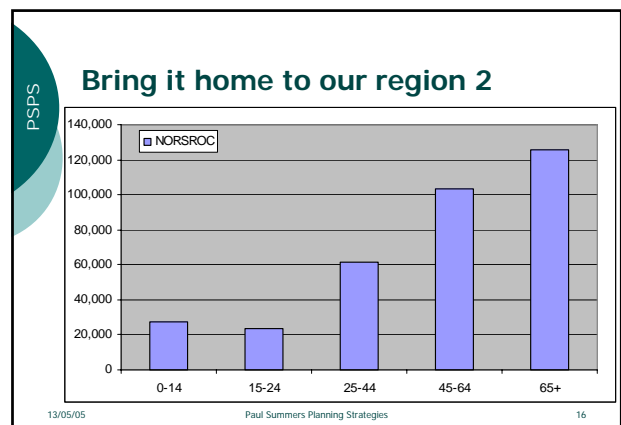
- ### Some National Implications
- Labour force:
 - Participation drops
 - Workforce is better educated
 - Unemployment:
 - Falls
 - But so do working hours
 - Economic growth:
 - Diminishes
 - Health care costs rise
 - Carers will not match demand
 - The responses:
 - Superannuation push
 - Workforce participation push (partners and singles)
 - Future fund
- 13/05/05 Paul Summers Planning Strategies 14

Bring it home to our region 1

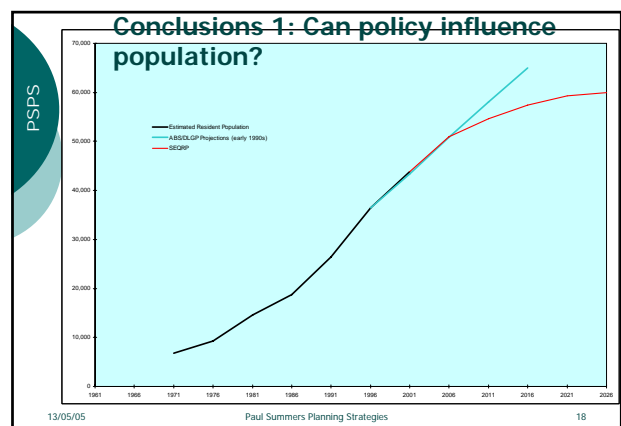
○ NORSROC population change

| Age | 2001 | 2021 | Difference (%) | Difference (persons) |
|-------|-------|-------|----------------|----------------------|
| 0-14 | 21.9% | 16.5% | -5.4% | 27,292 |
| 15-24 | 12.3% | 10.2% | -2.1% | 23,672 |
| 25-44 | 27.9% | 24.1% | -3.8% | 61,792 |
| 45-64 | 24.7% | 26.8% | 2.2% | 103,037 |
| 65+ | 13.1% | 22.3% | 9.2% | 125,350 |

13/05/05 Paul Summers Planning Strategies 15



- ### The national dilemma facing Australia
- Our rural sector:
 - Population drift
 - Prop these areas up and treat symptoms of decay
 - e.g. welfare payments vs services
 - Our cities
 - We grow them like topsy
 - Prop them up and treat the symptoms of growth
 - e.g. motorways funnelling traffic to CBDs and NSW
 - All of this will be exacerbated by the ageing process
 - We treat the symptoms but don't cure the disease
 - Curing the disease requires removing the focus from the cities and shifting it to ensuring regional locations are attractive places to live
 - But the power voting block is where – in the cities
 - And that's where the dollars go and will be likely to continue to go
- 13/05/05 Paul Summers Planning Strategies 17



PSPS

Conclusions 2

- Our governments are recognising the implications of our changing demographic structure of our population
- So far they are not recognising the need to consider the spatial distribution of population and its implications for policy
- In the meantime:
 - We are overpopulating our cities
 - Leaving our rural areas to rot
 - Destroying many of our beautiful places as the baby boomers strive to escape both city and country

13/05/05 Paul Summers Planning Strategies 19

PSPS

Further information

- For a copy of the notes from this presentation go to:
 - www.paulsummersplanning.com.au and click Presentations & Publications in the left frame
- For information on the report on the ageing go to:
 - www.pc.gov.au/study/ageing/finalreport/index.html

13/05/05 Paul Summers Planning Strategies 20