

Changing Student Populations

Where will your future students come from?

Making data-based decisions for the development of your school

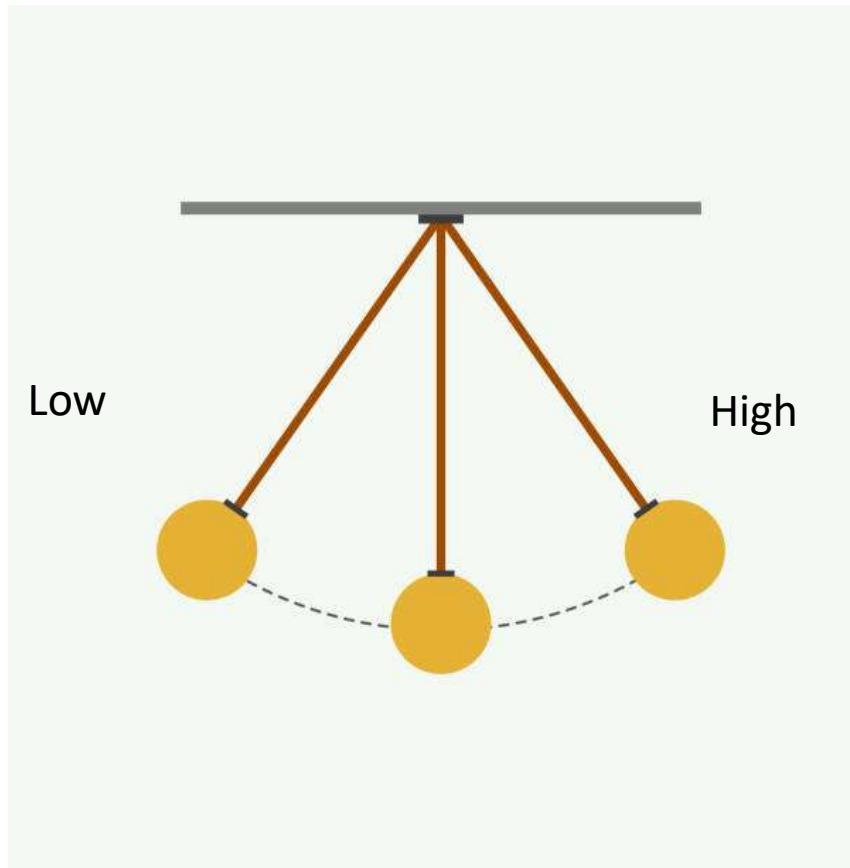


By Peter Buckingham
Co-Founder and Managing Director
Spectrum Analysis Australia

Introduction

- Are you feeling there may be slightly less interest in enrolments at your school?
- How do you feel the pool of potential students is for your area?
- Do you think the pool is growing or shrinking?
- How would this effect your school's long-term plans?

The Pendulum keeps moving



My view is we are currently in a phase of **higher** than long term averages for enrolments in Independent schools.

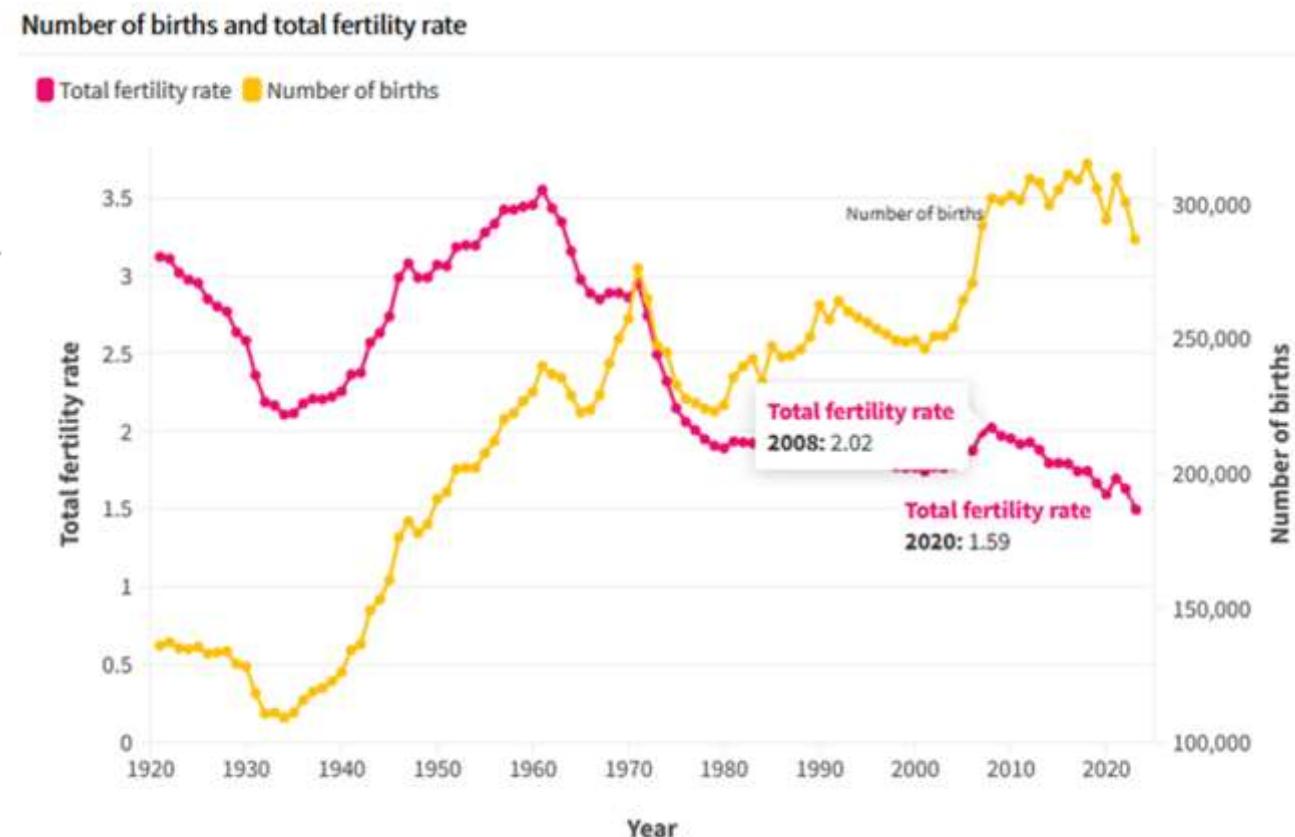
Maybe this is the new “norm”?

Four major issues affecting the pendulum

- Births – numbers of children and which way this is heading over large areas
- Where they are living and the socio economics
- Appetite of the population to spend on education – affordability?
- Desire for single sex or co-ed schools

Overview of Student Population Growth in Australia

- Australia is now feeling the results of the baby boom initiated by Peter Costello in 2004;
- The Baby boom peaked in 2008 where Total Fertility Rate (TFR) reached 2.02 children per set of parents;
- This means that a 17 year old student now was born in the peak of the baby boom;
- The TFR has dropped ever since, down to 1.5 in 2023. This is the lowest rate ever recorded. The previous lowest rate was 1.59 recorded during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020;



Australian Pop 1960 – 10M, 1970 – 12.5M, 2020 - 25.6M

Overseas migration

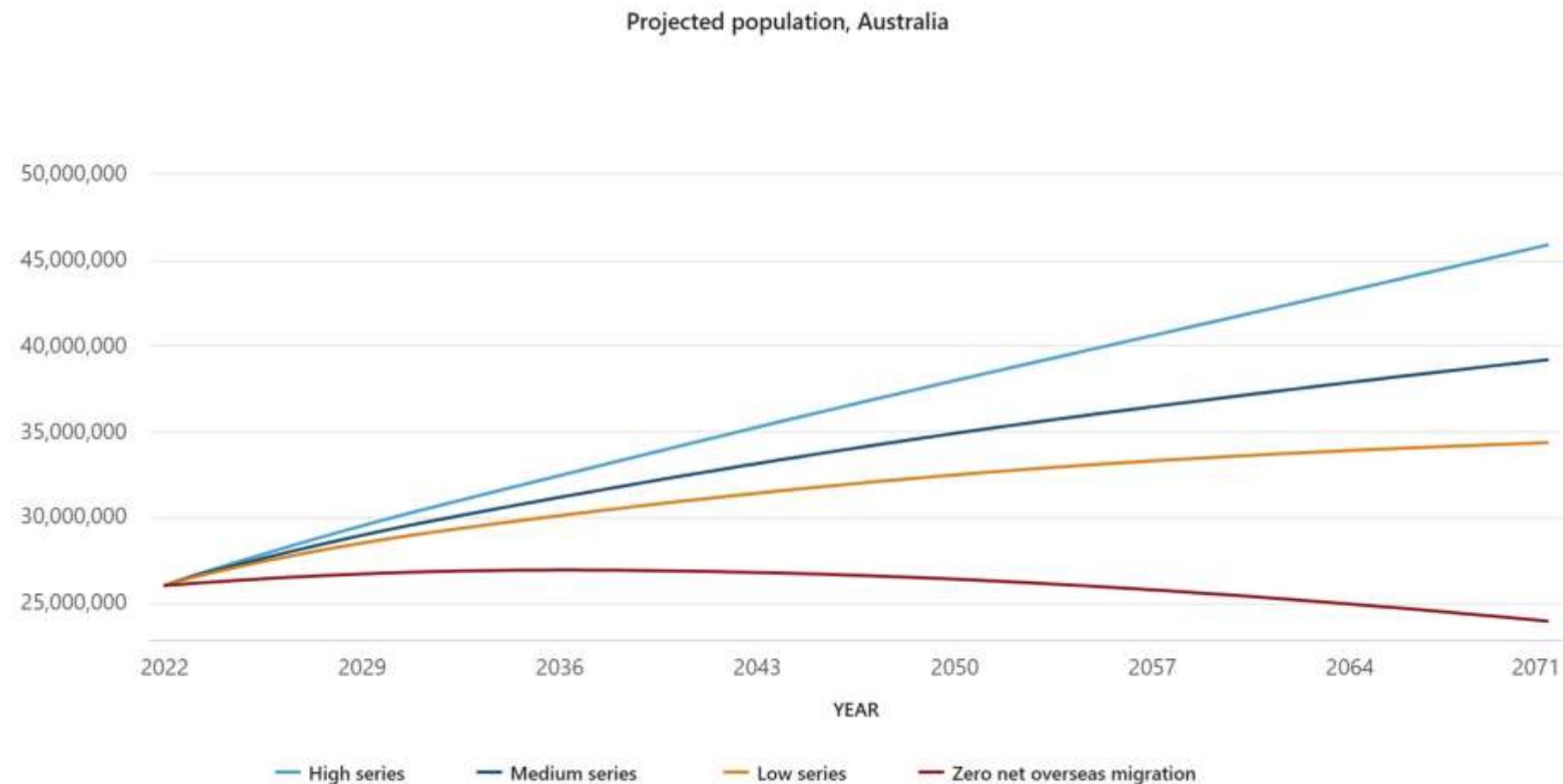
Overseas migration - Australia – calendar year

Calendar Year	Migrant arrivals	Migrant departures	Net overseas migration
2014	458,760	276,410	182,350
2015	473,250	286,520	186,730
2016	519,650	275,820	243,830
2017	531,370	289,710	241,660
2018	534,400	282,180	252,220
2019	607,870	360,250	247,620
2020	235,350	240,320	-4,970
2021	216,110	209,240	6,870
2022	653,430	220,280	433,150
2023	740,900	205,910	534,990

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Overseas Migration

Australia's stated position in the 2023 Intergenerational Report is for a long-term net migration of 235,000 persons pa.

Long term Australian population forecast



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Population Projections, Australia 2022 (base) - 2071

Long term Australian population forecast

Quotes from the ABS website

Australia's population in 2022 (26 million) is projected to reach between 34.3 and 45.9 million people by 2071

The current ten year average annual growth rate (1.4%) is projected to decline to between 0.2% and 0.9%

The median age (38.5 years) is projected to increase to between 43.8 and 47.6 years

Statistical Areas - Australia wide

SA1's – 61,845

SA2's – 2,473

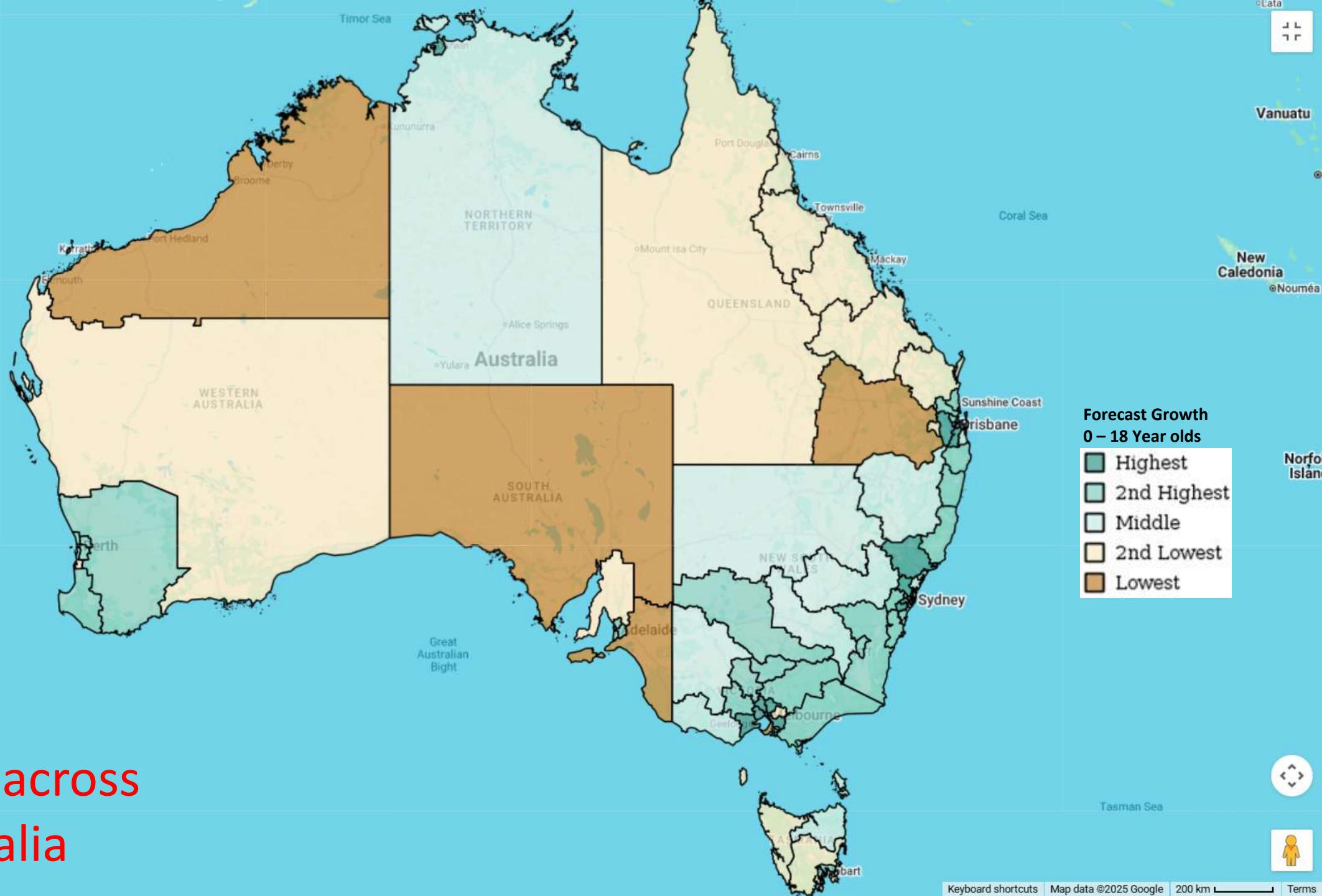
SA3's – 359

SA4's – 107

Suburbs – 15,760

Postcodes – 3,137

States and Territories – 6 + 2



SA4's across
Australia

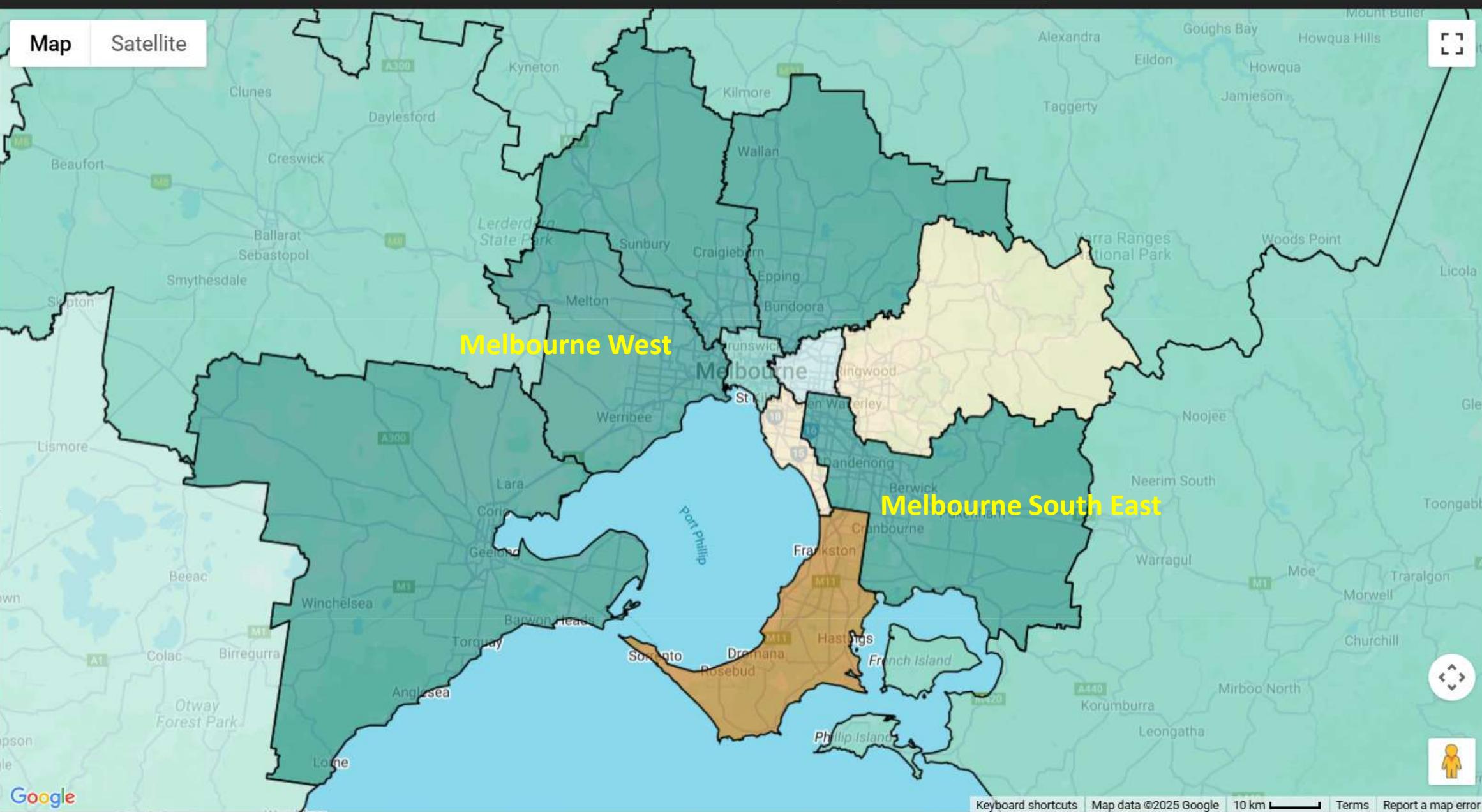
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Map  Satellite **Melbourne West****Melbourne South East**

Population projections increase / decrease 2026 - 2032

Sa4 name	Total Population Increase	% Total Population Increase	Population Aged 5-18 Increase/Decrease	% Aged 5-18 Increase/Decrease
Melbourne - Inner (incl CBD)	71,912	10.1%	-27	0.0%
Melbourne - Inner East	22,165	5.5%	-3,460	-5.2%
Melbourne - Inner South	19,705	4.4%	-5,247	-7.0%
Melbourne - North East	69,510	11.5%	5,731	5.4%
Melbourne - North West	46,703	9.9%	3,753	4.2%
Melbourne - Outer East	7,674	1.4%	-5,647	-6.2%
Melbourne - South East	123,042	12.5%	11,595	6.3%
Melbourne - West	169,930	16.9%	24,506	12.5%
Mornington Peninsula	5,237	1.6%	-4,547	-8.8%
Metro	535,878		26,658	

Population projections increase / decrease 2026 - 2032

Sa4 name	Total Population Increase	% Total Population Increase	Population Aged 5-18 Increase/Decrease	% Aged 5-18 Increase/Decrease
Ballarat	20,217	10.9%	771	2.6%
Bendigo	19,397	10.9%	1,264	4.4%
Geelong	57,629	15.9%	5,030	8.8%
Hume	17,483	9.0%	715	2.3%
Latrobe - Gippsland	37,249	11.6%	2,940	5.9%
North West	7,516	4.8%	-205	-0.8%
Shepparton	10,917	7.7%	384	1.6%
Warrnambool and South West	5,405	4.2%	-643	-3.2%
Regional	175,813		10,256	

Fertility Rates - 2024

Melbourne - Inner	0.79
Melbourne - Inner East	1.05
Melbourne - Inner South	1.3
Melbourne - Outer East	1.52
Melbourne - North East	1.57
Melbourne - South East	1.6
Melbourne - West	1.75
Mornington Peninsula	1.76
Melbourne - North West	1.82

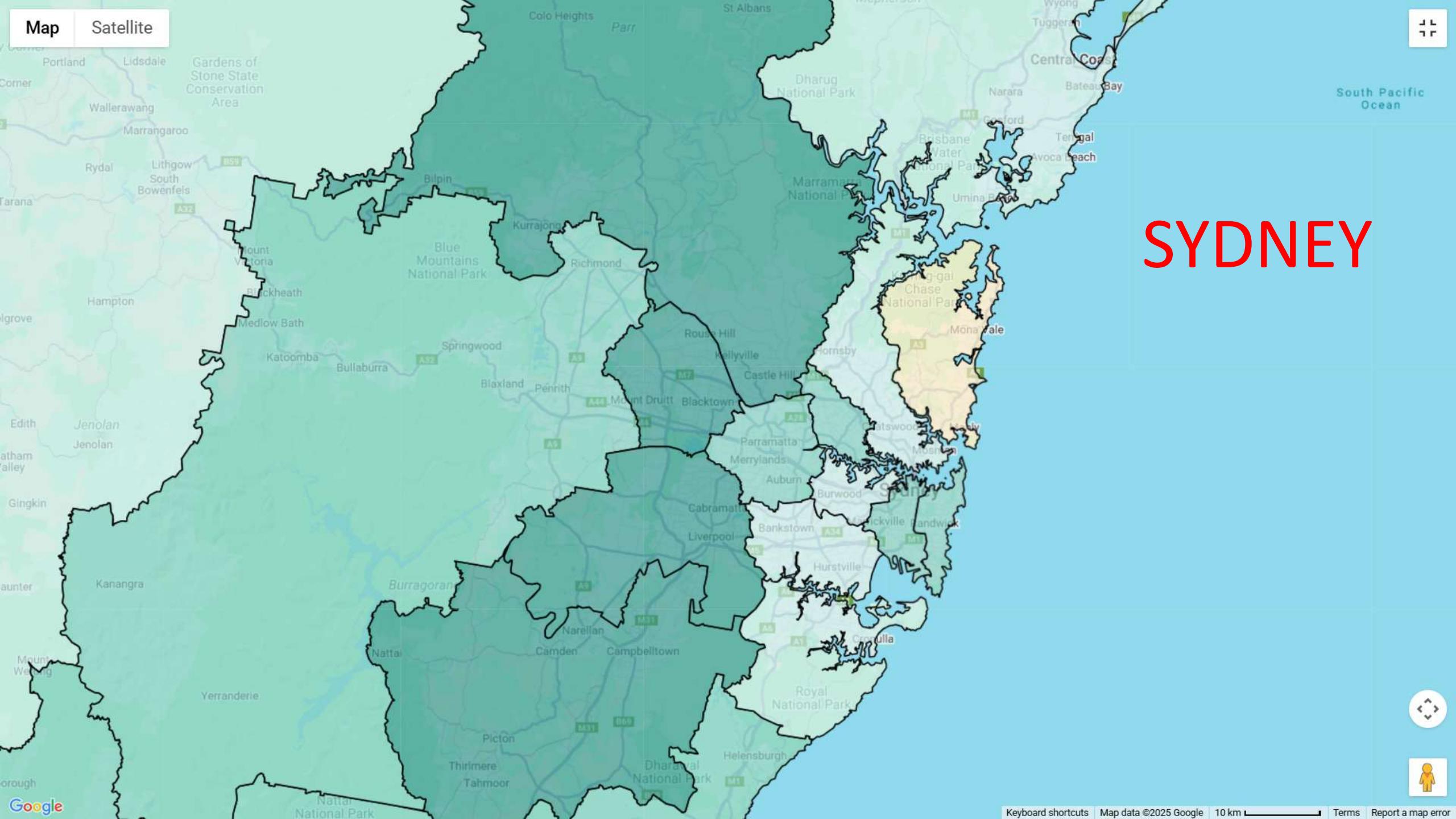
Ballarat	1.72
Bendigo	1.76
Geelong	1.76
Hume	1.88
Latrobe - Gippsland	1.95
North West	2.02
Shepparton	2.04
Warrnambool and South West	1.95

Map

Satellite



SYDNEY



Keyboard shortcuts

Map data ©2025 Google

10 km

Terms

Report a map error

Population projections increase / decrease 2026 - 2032

SA4 Name	Total Population Increase	% Total Population Increase	Population Aged 5-18 Increase / Decrease	Population Aged 5-18 Increase / Decrease
Sydney - City and Inner South	30,560	8.2%	1,347	4.3%
Sydney - Baulkham Hills and Hawkesbury	47,878	15.7%	7,331	11.3%
Sydney - Blacktown	51,979	11.5%	7,905	8.3%
Sydney - Eastern Suburbs	10,133	3.7%	-182	-0.5%
Sydney - Inner South West	28,220	4.4%	-1,242	-1.2%
Sydney - Inner West	17,271	5.3%	-540	-1.2%
Sydney - North Sydney and Hornsby	16,160	3.6%	-3,456	-4.4%
Sydney - Northern Beaches	3,182	1.2%	-3,409	-7.0%
Sydney - Outer South West	34,415	10.4%	4,328	6.4%
Sydney - Outer West and Blue Mountains	14,850	4.2%	-102	-0.2%
Sydney - Parramatta	44,706	8.3%	3,046	3.4%
Sydney - Ryde	21,014	9.3%	1,013	2.8%
Sydney - South West	70,685	13.2%	9,863	9.2%
Sydney - Sutherland	8,882	3.7%	-563	-1.3%
Central Coast	13,185	3.6%	-1,255	-2.1%
Metro	413,120	7.3%	24,085	2.5%

Fertility Rates - 2024

Sydney - City and Inner South	0.84
Sydney - Ryde	1.07
Sydney - North Sydney and Hornsby	1.13
Sydney - Inner West	1.14
Sydney - Eastern Suburbs	1.17
Sydney - Parramatta	1.5
Sydney - Northern Beaches	1.51
Sydney - Baulkham Hills and Hawkesbury	1.53
Sydney - Inner South West	1.53
Sydney - Sutherland	1.7
Sydney - South West	1.71
Sydney - Blacktown	1.77
Sydney - Outer West and Blue Mountains	1.83
Sydney - Outer South West	1.94

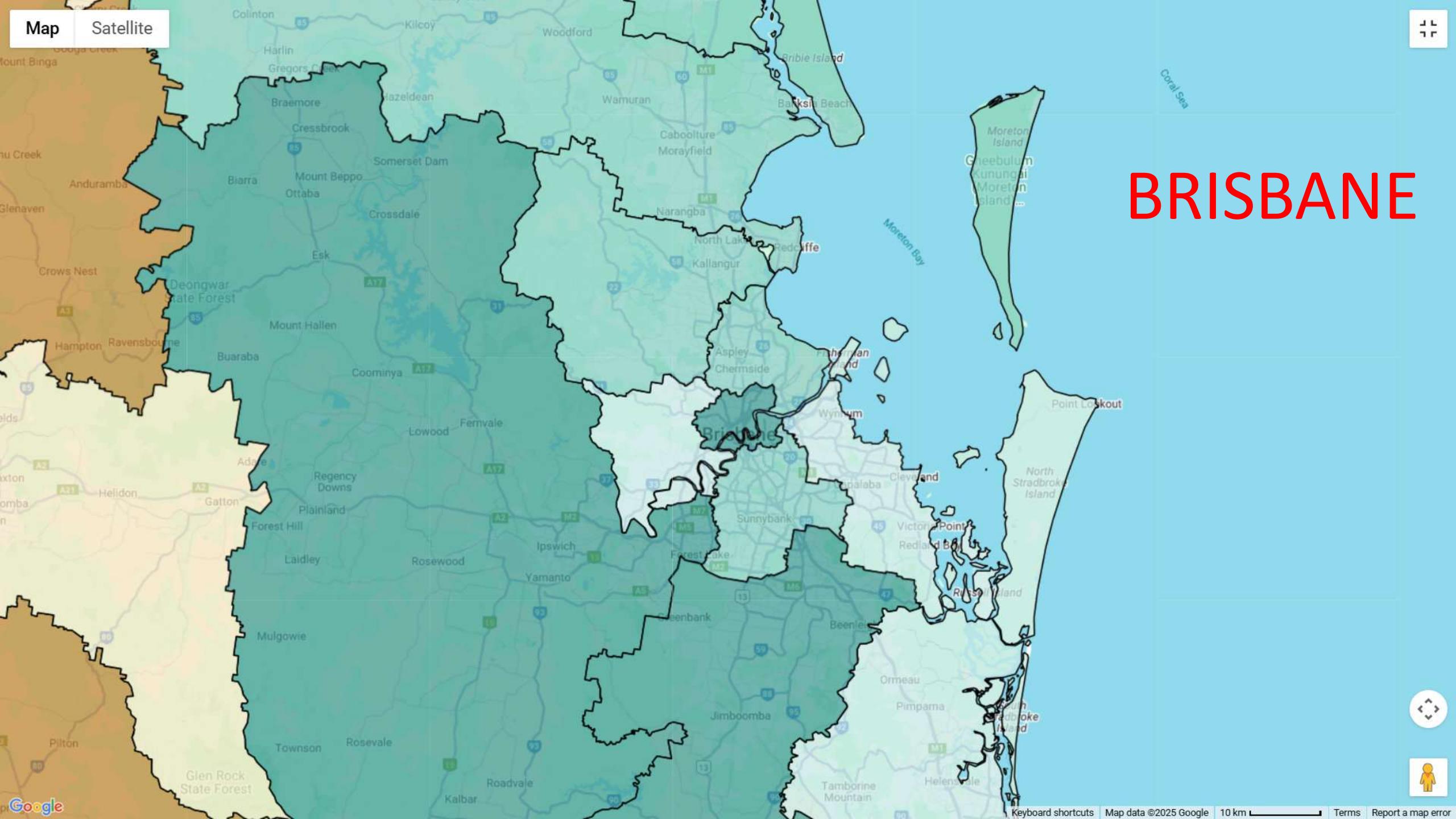
Newcastle and Lake Macquarie	1.6
Illawarra	1.67
Richmond - Tweed	1.83
Central Coast	1.87
Hunter Valley exc Newcastle	1.93
Southern Highlands and Shoalhaven	1.94
Coffs Harbour - Grafton	1.99
Capital Region	2.01
Mid North Coast	2.08
Murray	2.1
Riverina	2.1
Central West	2.12
New England and North West	2.13
Far West and Orana	2.4

Map

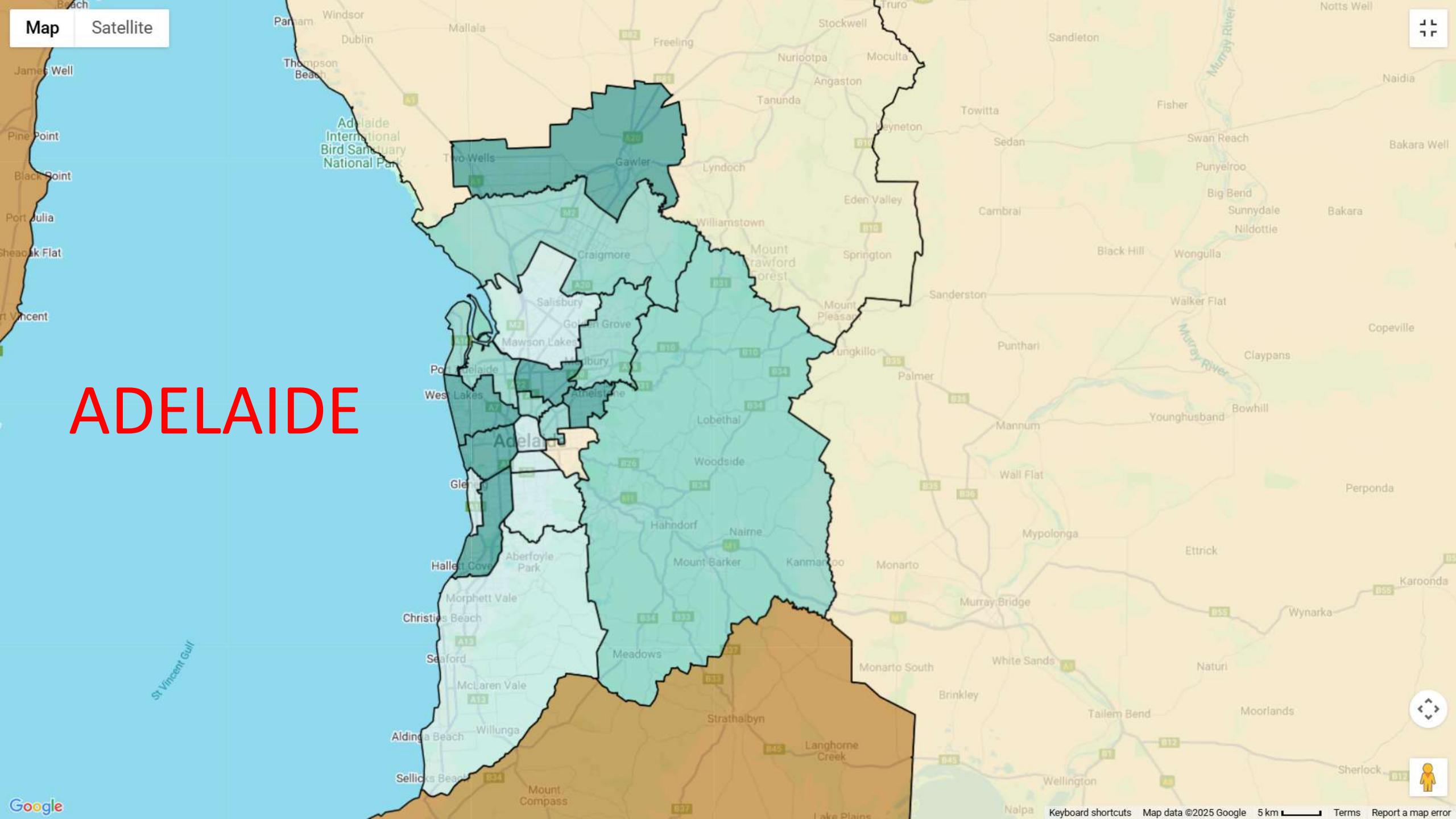
Satellite



BRISBANE

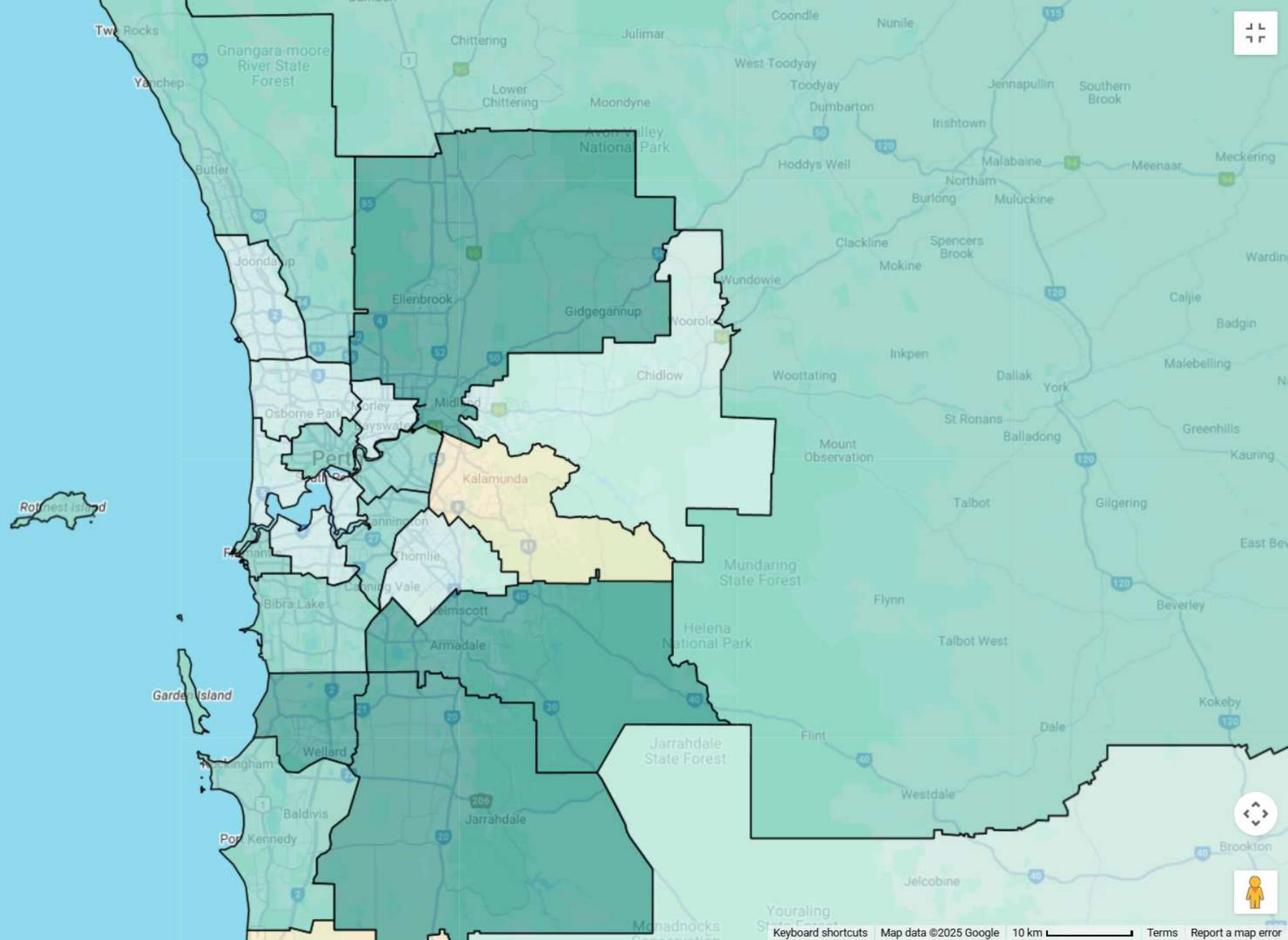


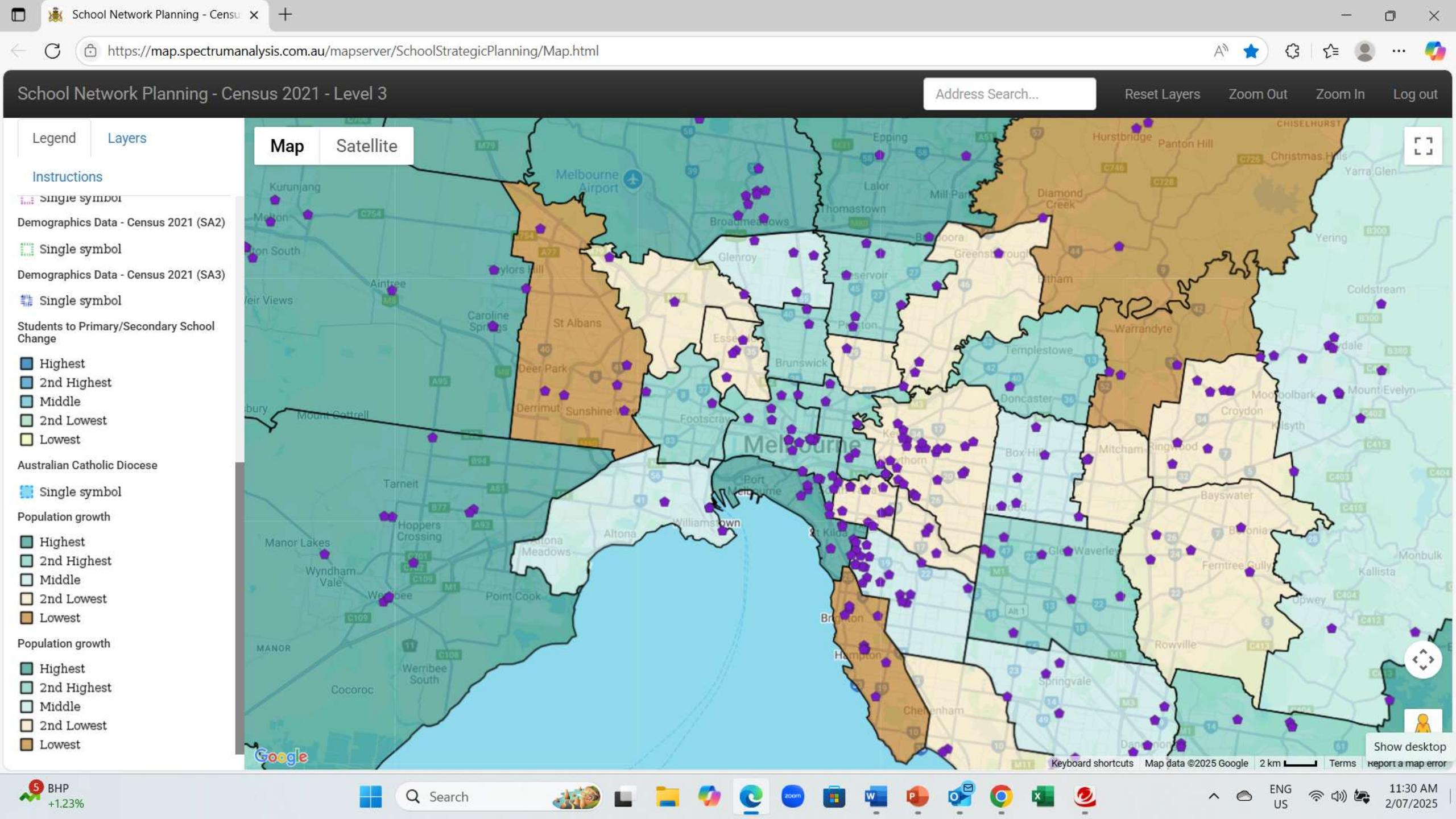
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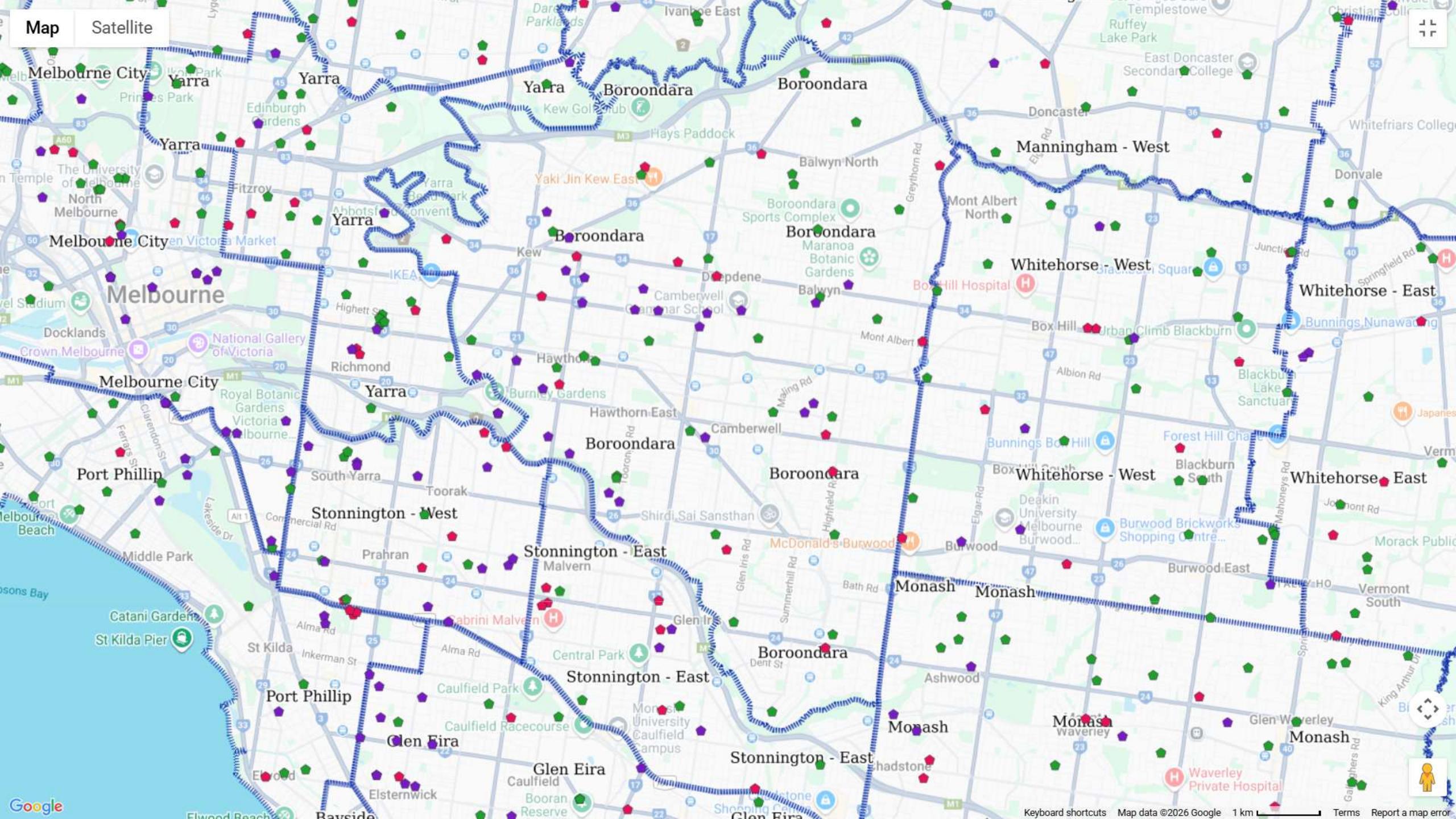




PERTH







City of Boroondara

- Census 2021 – Residents in the SA3 of Boroondara
- 6 – 18 year olds 28,081 children, (13 years representing P – 12)
- 27,072 were at Primary or Secondary school
- Independent Primary and Secondary 9,284
- Catholic Secondary 2,631
- Total 11,915
- Total in 2021 attending Independent schools or Catholic Secondary (ACARA). 16,756
- Net influx (2021) 4,841

School Network Planning - Census x +

https://map.spectrumanalysis.com.au/mapserver/SchoolStrategicPlanning/Map.html

School Network Planning - Census 2021 - Level 3

Address Search... Reset Layers Zoom Out Zoom In Log out

Legend Layers

Instructions

Single symbol

Demographics Data - Census 2021 (SA2)

Single symbol

Demographics Data - Census 2021 (SA3)

Single symbol

Students to Primary/Secondary School Change

Highest
2nd Highest
Middle
2nd Lowest
Lowest

Australian Catholic Diocese

Single symbol

Population growth

Highest
2nd Highest
Middle
2nd Lowest
Lowest

Population growth

Highest
2nd Highest
Middle
2nd Lowest
Lowest

Map Satellite

SA3 Area : Boroondara State : VIC

Census 2021 – 5 – 18 year olds 29,630

Age 0-18 Population Projections

Year	Age 0-4	Age 5-11	Age 12-18	Age 5-18
2022	6,552	13,380	16,862	30,243
2023	6,404	13,277	17,529	30,806
2024	6,228	13,071	17,862	30,934
2025	6,069	12,797	18,006	30,803
2026	5,884	12,609	18,065	30,674
2027	5,763	12,359	17,979	30,338
2028	5,641	12,067	17,800	29,867
2029	5,524	11,801	17,615	29,416
2030	5,415	11,542	17,346	28,887
2031	5,309	11,253	17,141	28,394
2032	5,210	10,987	16,871	27,858
2033	5,101	10,697	16,608	27,304
2034	4,989	10,411	16,338	26,749
2035	4,877	10,116	16,046	26,162
2036	4,756	9,819	15,748	25,567
2037	4,639	9,523	15,443	24,966
Growth 22-32 (#)	-1,342 persons	-2,394 persons	+9 persons	-2,385 persons
Growth 22-32 (%)	-20.5%	-17.9%	+0.1%	-7.9%
Growth 22-37 (#)	-1,913 persons	-3,858 persons	-1,419 persons	-5,277 persons
Growth 22-37 (%)	-29.2%	-28.8%	-8.4%	-17.4%

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5 BHP +1.23%

Search

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School Network Planning - Censu x +

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School Network Planning - Census 2021 - Level 3

Legend Layers Instructions

Single symbol Demographics Data - Census 2021 (SA2) Single symbol Demographics Data - Census 2021 (SA3) Single symbol Students to Primary/Secondary School Change

Highest 2nd Highest Middle 2nd Lowest Lowest

Australian Catholic Diocese Single symbol Population growth

Highest 2nd Highest Middle 2nd Lowest Lowest

Population growth

6 RIO +1.02%

Map Satellite

SA3 Area : Wyndham State : VIC

Age 0-18 Population Projections

Year	Age 0-4	Age 5-11	Age 12-18	Age 5-18
2022	27,643	37,941	28,048	65,988
2023	28,827	40,102	30,925	71,027
2024	28,776	41,848	33,396	75,244
2025	29,160	43,357	35,769	79,125
2026	29,620	44,547	38,026	82,573
2027	29,921	45,814	40,055	85,869
2028	30,327	46,740	42,001	88,742
2029	30,707	47,624	43,745	91,369
2030	31,073	48,446	45,225	93,671
2031	31,450	49,126	46,634	95,761
2032	31,814	49,731	47,948	97,678
2033	32,160	50,349	49,387	99,736
2034	32,510	50,989	50,919	101,908
2035	32,838	51,599	52,504	104,103
2036	33,162	52,225	54,188	106,413
2037	33,465	52,831	55,937	108,768
Growth 22-32 (#)	+4,171 persons	+11,790 persons	+19,900 persons	+31,690 persons
Growth 22-32 (%)	+15.1%	+31.1%	+70.9%	+48%
Growth 22-37 (#)	+5,822 persons	+14,890 persons	+27,889 persons	+42,779 persons
Growth 22-37 (%)	+21.1%	+39.2%	+99.4%	+64.8%

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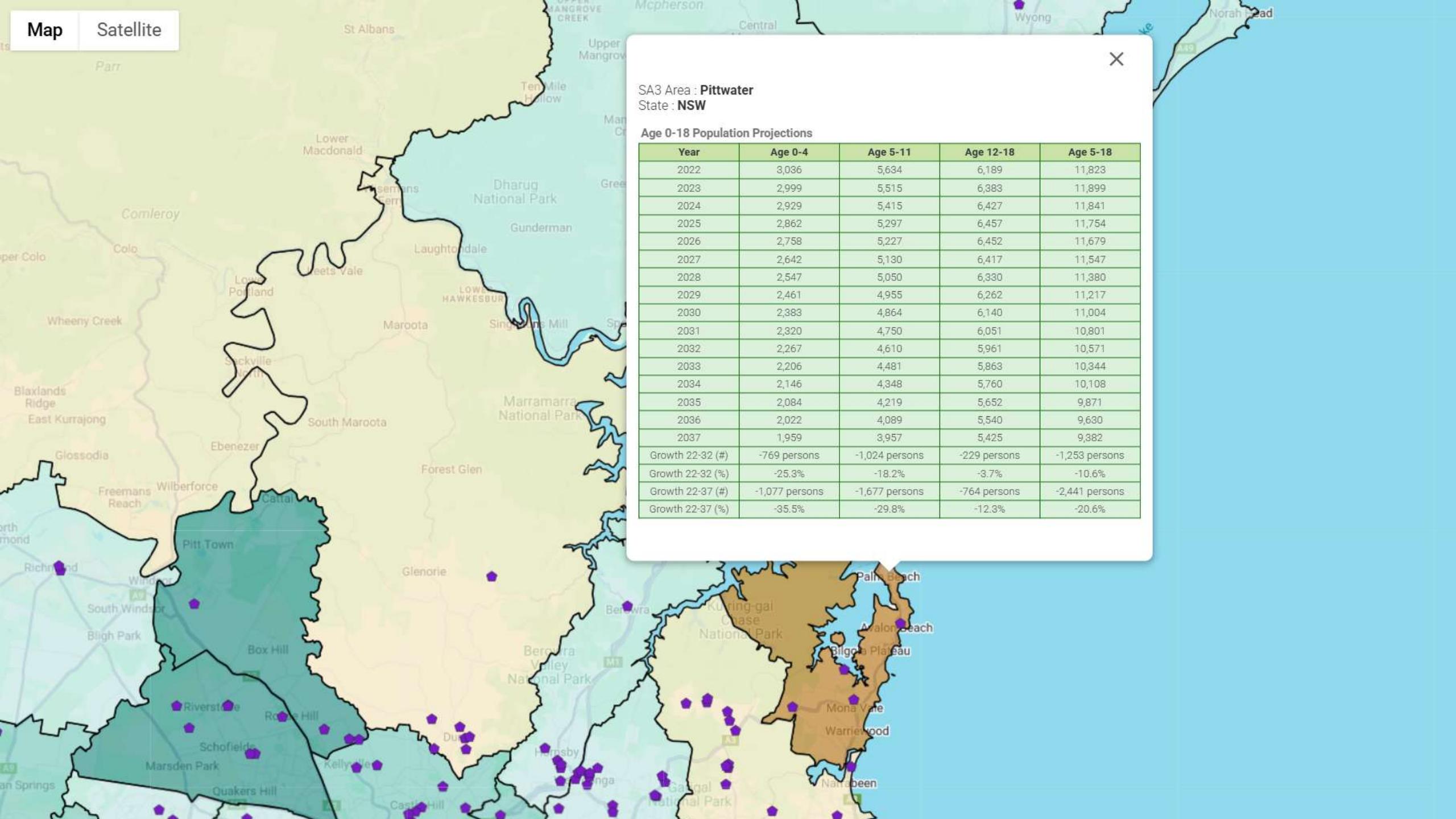
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W P O X E

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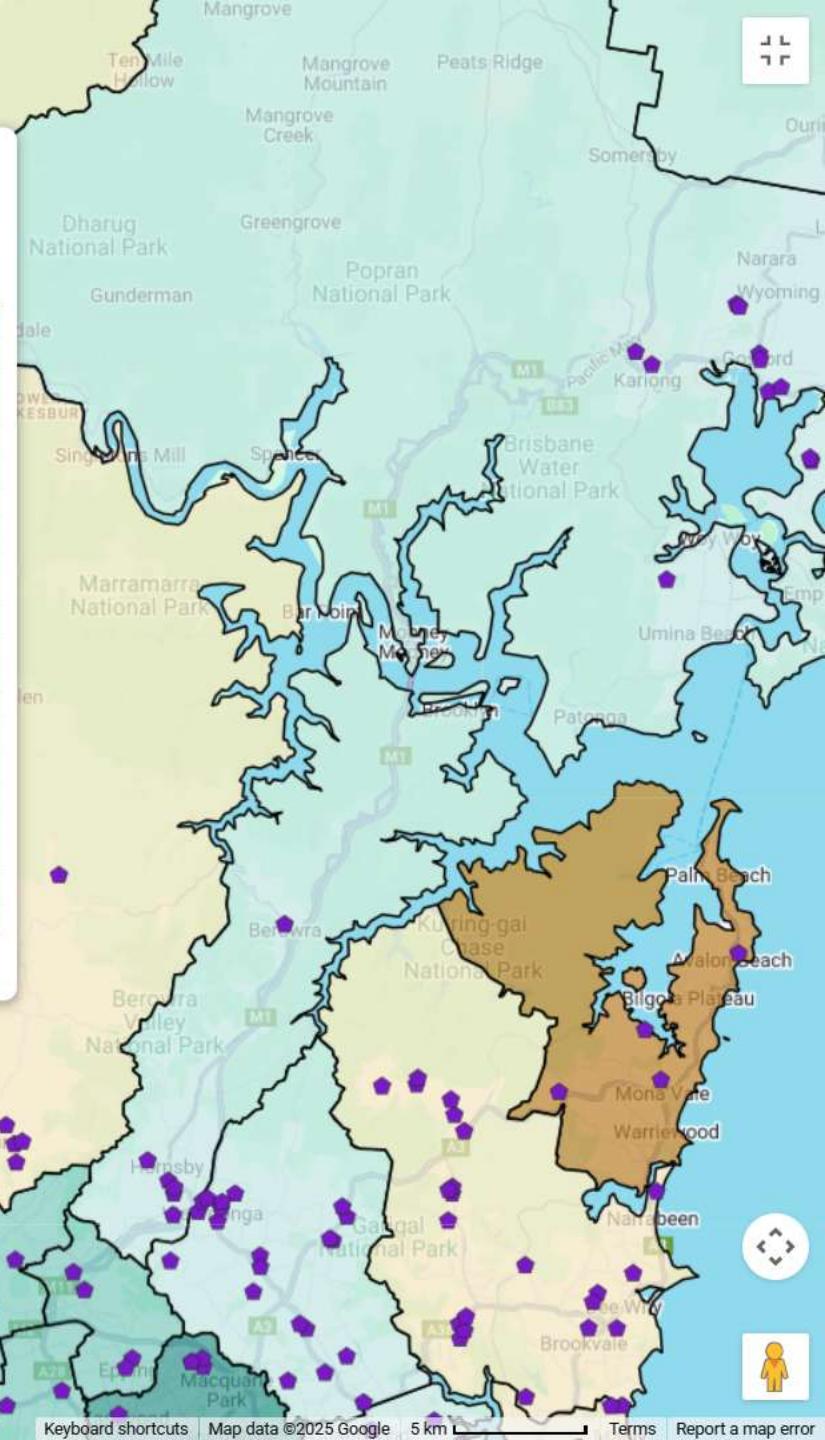


Wollangambe

SA3 Area : **Blacktown - North**
State : **NSW**

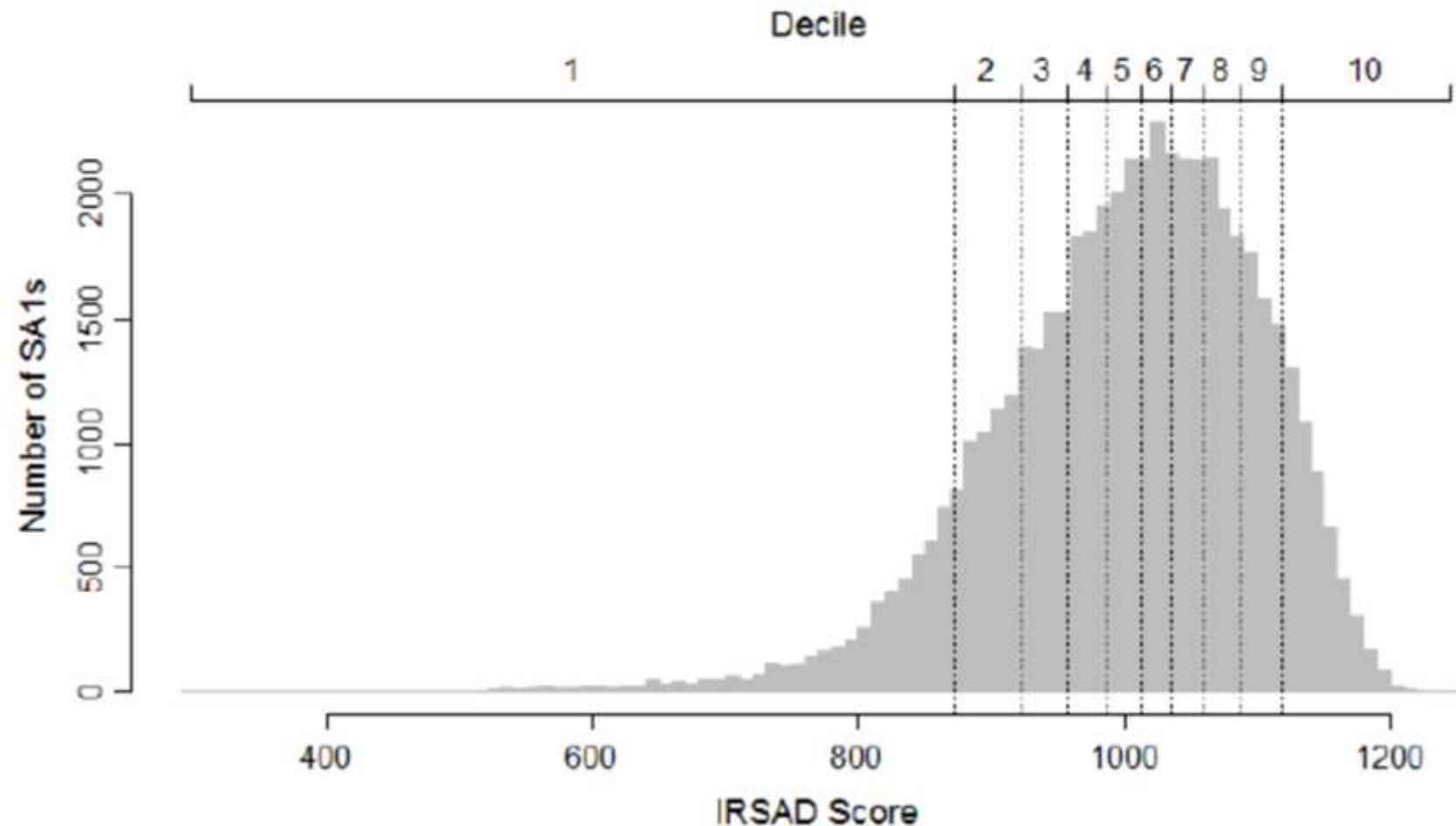
Age 0-18 Population Projections

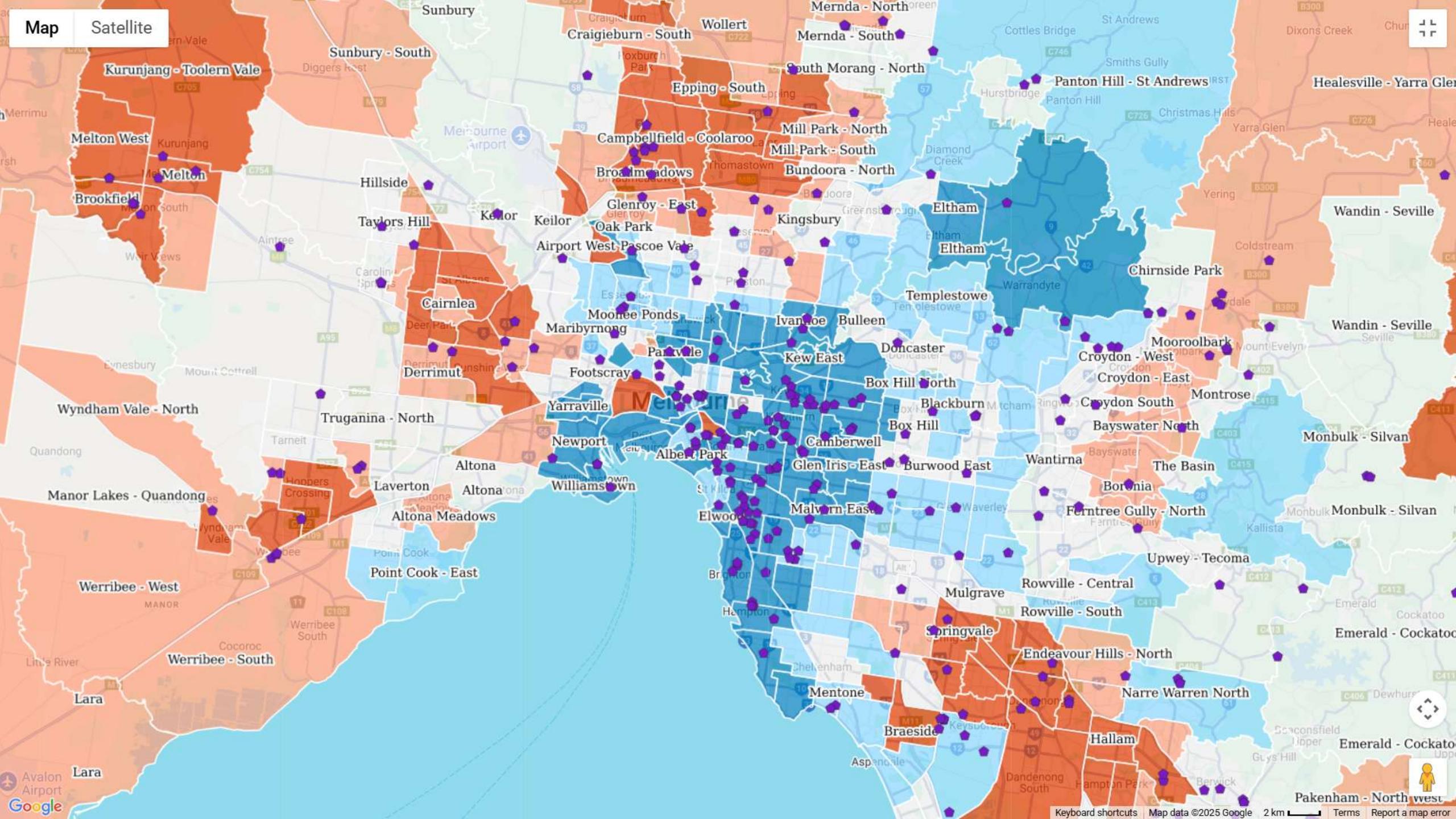
Year	Age 0-4	Age 5-11	Age 12-18	Age 5-18
2022	12,742	19,022	15,228	34,251
2023	12,890	20,044	16,704	36,748
2024	13,022	20,985	17,985	38,970
2025	13,163	21,801	19,216	41,017
2026	13,387	22,447	20,506	42,952
2027	13,560	23,086	21,683	44,769
2028	13,710	23,696	22,746	46,442
2029	13,891	24,250	23,759	48,009
2030	14,064	24,795	24,652	49,447
2031	14,249	25,283	25,503	50,785
2032	14,462	25,715	26,274	51,989
2033	14,646	26,154	27,116	53,270
2034	14,827	26,596	28,003	54,599
2035	14,994	27,015	28,902	55,918
2036	15,154	27,435	29,841	57,277
2037	15,307	27,835	30,798	58,633
Growth 22-32 (#)	+1,720 persons	+6,692 persons	+11,046 persons	+17,738 persons
Growth 22-32 (%)	+13.5%	+35.2%	+72.5%	+51.8%
Growth 22-37 (#)	+2,565 persons	+8,813 persons	+15,569 persons	+24,382 persons
Growth 22-37 (%)	+20.1%	+46.3%	+102.2%	+71.2%

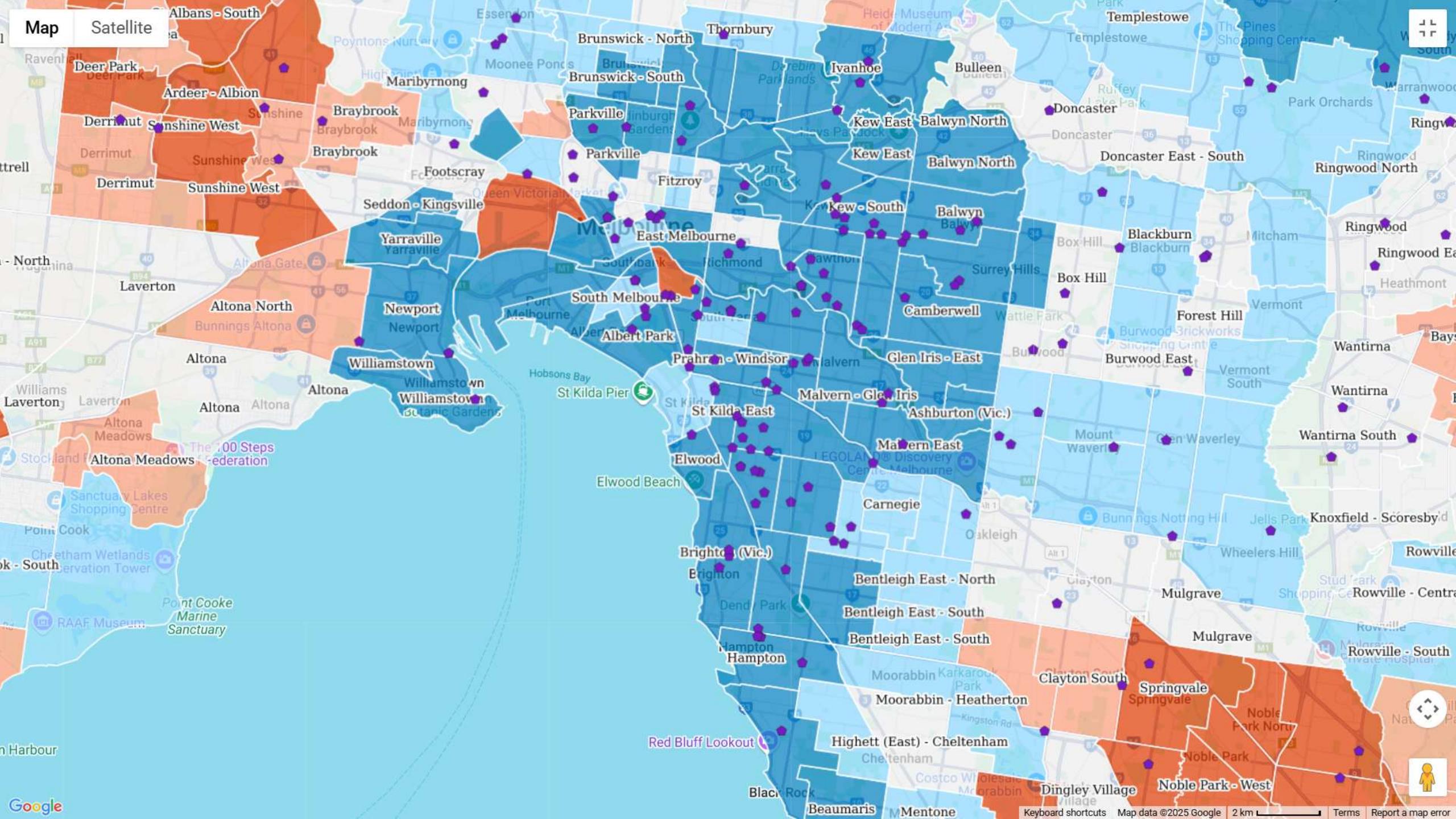


SEIFA - Socio-Economic Index for Areas

- Highest
- 2nd Highest
- Middle
- 2nd Lowest
- Lowest

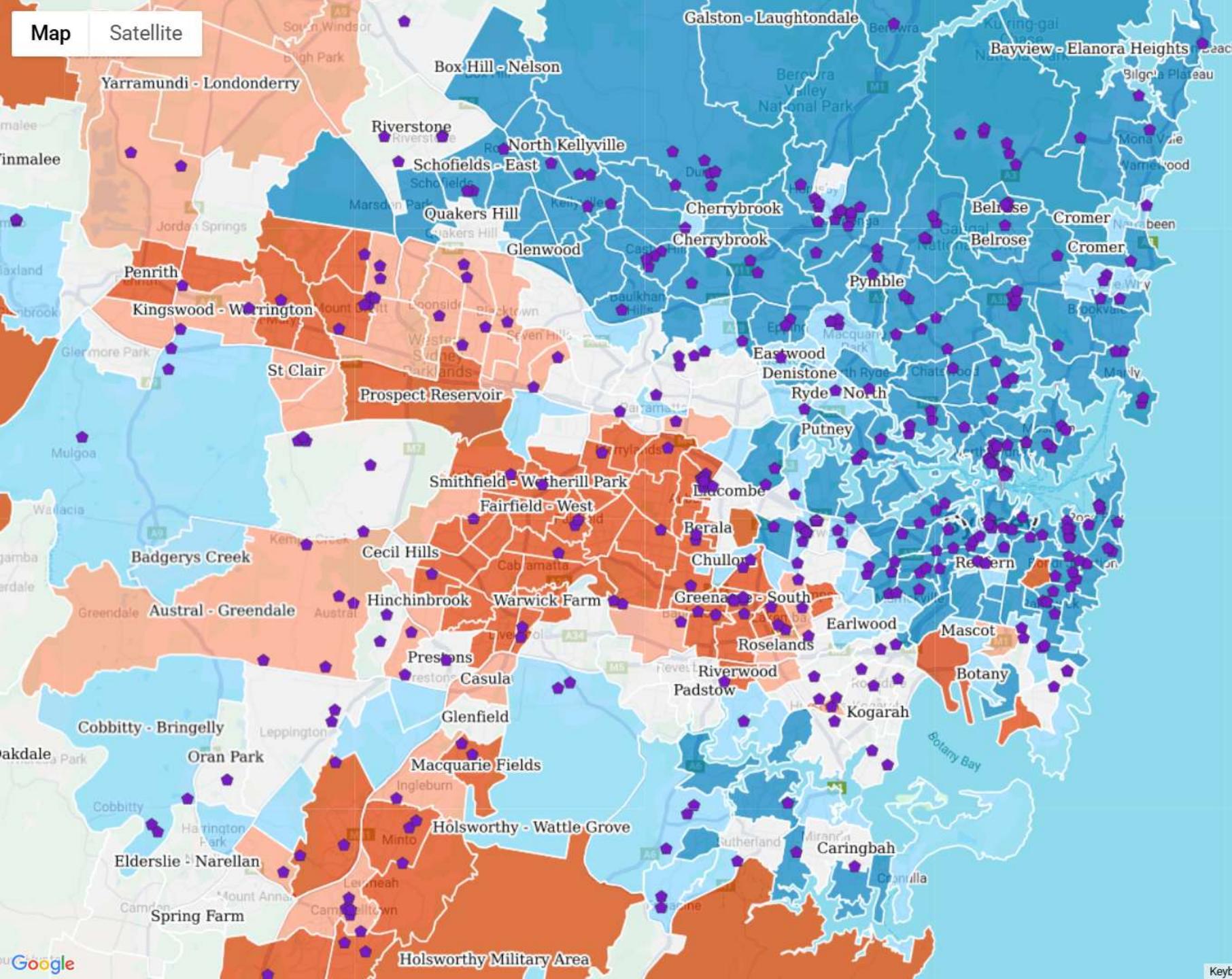






Map

Satellite



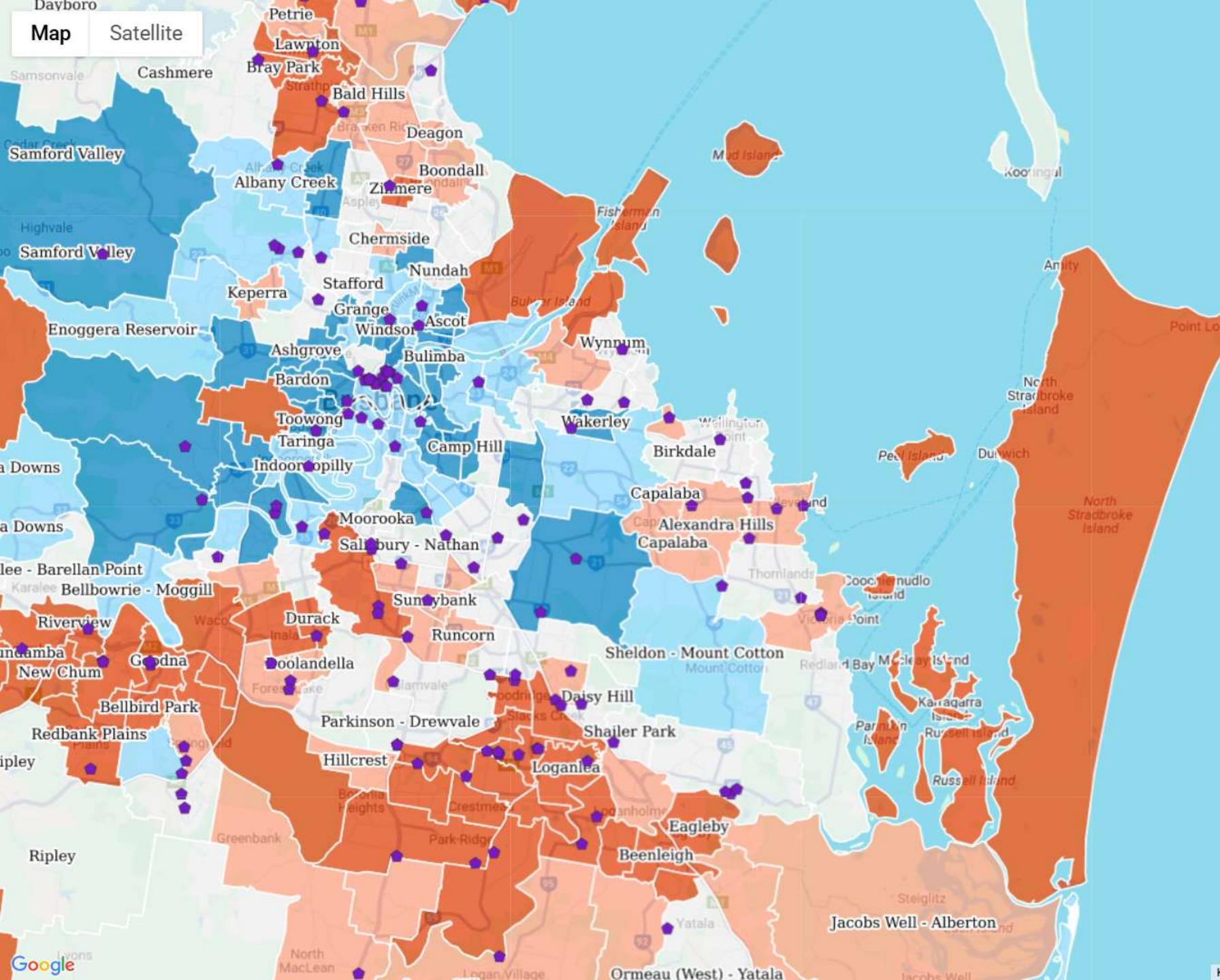
Keyboard shortcuts

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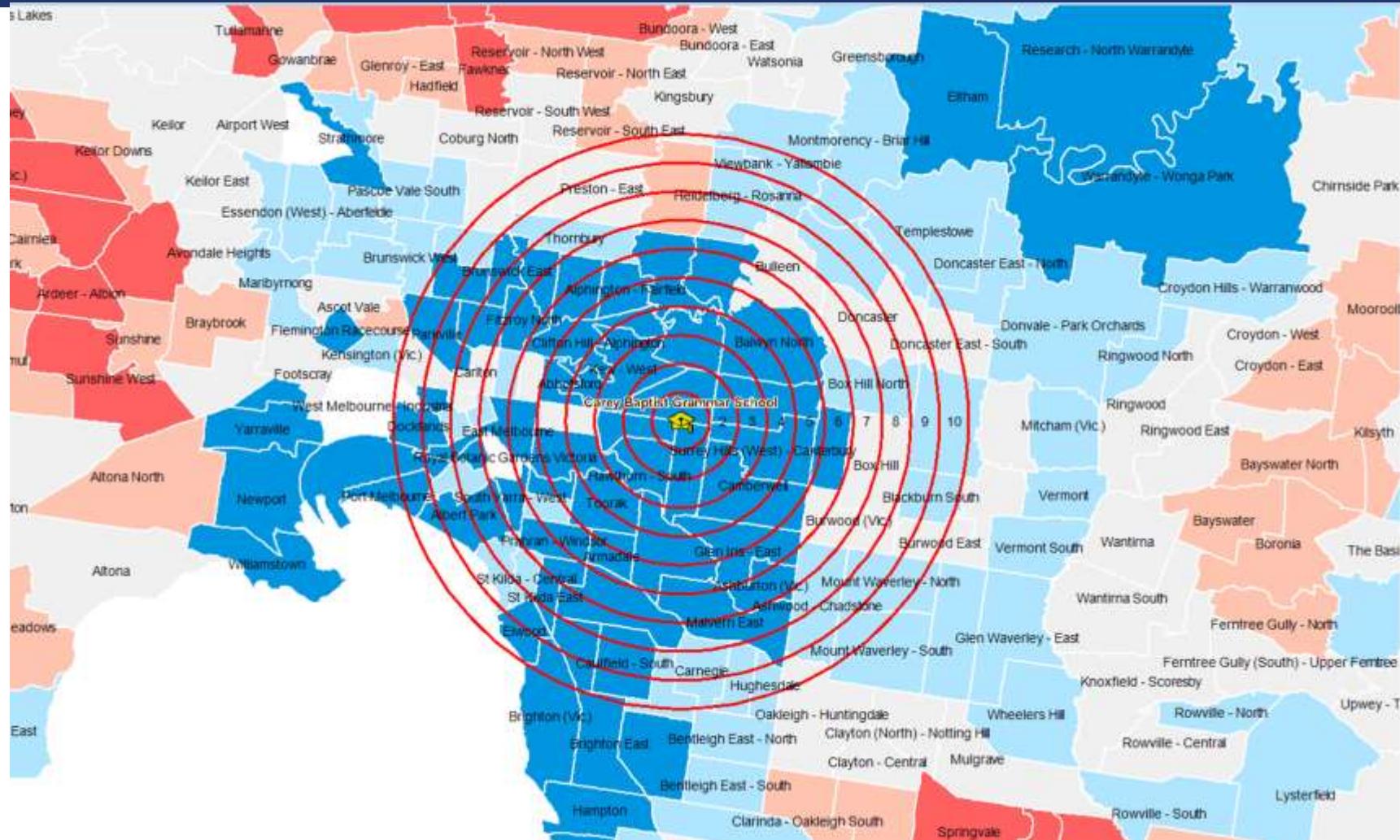
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Terms

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What is our Trade Area? – Spectrum's research



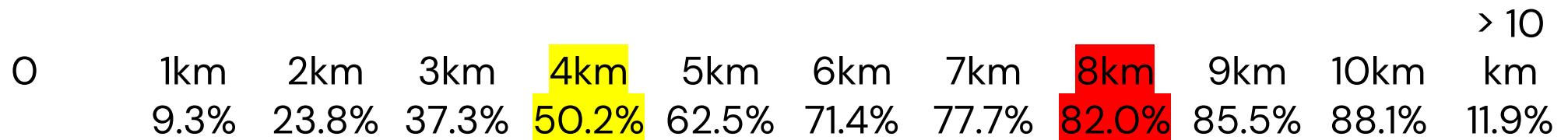
Research and sample sizes

- Inner – 13,000+ students across 16 campuses in Inner (high socio-economic area) of Melbourne
- Outer – 13,000+ students across also 16 campuses in the eastern and south eastern suburbs of Melbourne (including Mornington Peninsula)

How far do our students come from?

.....Especially in higher socio-economic areas.

Research - Spectrum has undertaken using 16 campuses and over 13,000 students in the top 20% Socio-Economic areas of Inner Eastern suburbs of Melbourne.



Example – Imaginary school of 1,000 students

Distance from school	0 - 1km	1 - 2km	2 - 3km	3 - 4 km	4 - 5km	5 - 6km	6 - 7km	7 - 8km	8 - 9km	9 - 10km	10+ km	Total
Number of students	93	144	135	129	123	90	63	43	35	26	119	1,000
Area of ring	3.14	6.28	9.42	12.57	15.71	18.85	21.99	25.13	28.27	31.42		
Students / sq km	29.7	23.0	14.3	10.3	7.8	4.8	2.9	1.7	1.2	0.8	< .8	

How far do our students come from?

Research – Spectrum has undertaken using 16 campuses and over 13,000 students in Middle and Outer Melbourne suburbs.



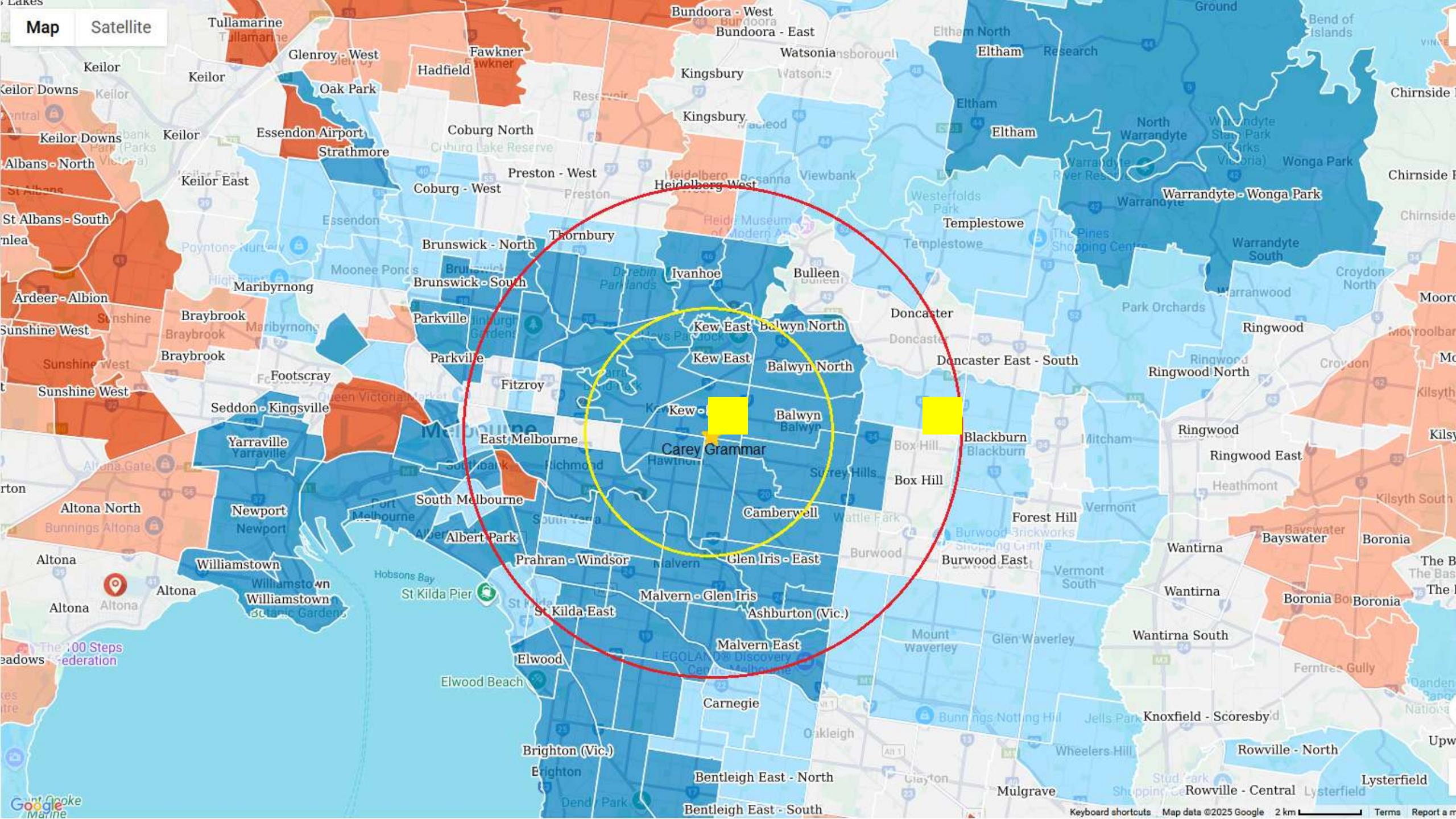
Example – Imaginary school of 1,000 students

Distance from school	0 - 1km	1 - 2km	2 - 3km	3 - 4 km	4 - 5km	5 - 6km	6 - 7km	7 - 8km	8 - 9km	9 - 10km	10+ km	Total
Number of students	77	88	111	102	96	60	55	61	64	51	236	1,000
Area of ring	3.14	6.28	9.42	12.57	15.71	18.85	21.99	25.13	28.27	31.42		
Students / sq km	24.4	14.1	11.8	8.1	6.1	3.2	2.5	2.4	2.3	1.6	< 1.6	

Conclusion – The Volcano theory



- Your highest concentration of students come from close to the school
- In 1,000 students, you could expect about 30 to come from 1 sq km very near the school
- You would expect about 1.7 students from a similar 1 sq km at around 7 – 8 kms from the school
- If digital marketing is done on suburbs, household numbers etc – spend the most money near your school



ACARA data

	2008	2008	2013	2013	2020	2020	2024	2024	2008-2024 Increase
Catholic	644,035	18.9%	695,711	19.1%	727,666	18.1%	768,352	18.5%	19.3%
Government	2,252,349	65.9%	2,375,811	65.3%	2,643,597	65.8%	2,632,284	63.5%	16.9%
Independent	519,578	15.2%	569,171	15.6%	647,214	16.1%	744,961	18.0%	43.4%
Grand Total	3,415,961	100.0%	3,640,692	100.0%	4,018,477	100.0%	4,145,597	100.0%	21.4%

ACARA data

	2008	2013	2020	2024	2008-2024
Catholic	18.9%	19.1%	18.1%	18.5%	19.3%
Government	65.9%	65.3%	65.8%	63.5%	16.9%
Independent	15.2%	15.6%	16.1%	18.0%	43.4%
Grand Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	21.4%

ACARA data

	AUSTRALIA								
	Full Time Equivalent Enrolments								
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2020-2024	2021-2024	2022-2024	2023-2024
Catholic	727,666	736,785	744,061	755,373	768,352	5.59%	4.28%	3.26%	1.72%
Combined	110,878	117,674	123,947	130,875	139,354	25.68%	18.42%	12.43%	6.48%
Primary	354,970	354,818	354,710	356,362	359,949	1.40%	1.45%	1.48%	1.01%
Secondary	258,830	261,159	262,129	264,530	264,846	2.32%	1.41%	1.04%	0.12%
Special	2,989	3,133	3,275	3,606	4,202	40.59%	34.12%	28.28%	16.53%
Government	2,643,597	2,637,137	2,619,520	2,627,224	2,632,284	-0.43%	-0.18%	0.49%	0.19%
Combined	196,476	197,882	200,975	201,675	200,818	2.21%	1.48%	-0.08%	-0.43%
Primary	1,500,380	1,487,327	1,457,758	1,457,005	1,452,635	-3.18%	-2.33%	-0.35%	-0.30%
Secondary	913,442	918,295	925,728	932,326	941,153	3.03%	2.49%	1.67%	0.95%
Special	33,299	33,632	35,059	36,218	37,678	13.15%	12.03%	7.47%	4.03%
Independent	647,214	669,203	690,734	716,848	744,961	15.10%	11.32%	7.85%	3.92%
Combined	562,620	582,872	602,862	624,584	648,002	15.18%	11.17%	7.49%	3.75%
Primary	28,182	29,270	28,458	29,035	29,739	5.52%	1.60%	4.50%	2.42%
Secondary	42,816	43,591	44,722	46,451	47,937	11.96%	9.97%	7.19%	3.20%
Special	13,595	13,471	14,693	16,778	19,284	41.85%	43.15%	31.25%	14.94%
Grand Total	4,018,477	4,043,125	4,054,315	4,099,444	4,145,597	3.16%	2.53%	2.25%	1.13%

How times have changed – Single sex vs Co-Ed

Calendar Year	2010
School Sector	Independent

Count of Total Enrolments			
State / Terr	Boys	Girls	Co-Ed
ACT	17.6%	5.9%	76.5%
NSW	9.0%	8.2%	82.9%
NT	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
QLD	5.6%	6.2%	88.2%
SA	3.1%	9.3%	87.6%
TAS	3.1%	6.3%	90.6%
VIC	4.7%	8.0%	87.3%
WA	3.6%	5.7%	90.7%
Grand Total	6.1%	7.3%	86.6%

Calendar Year	2024
School Sector	Independent

Count of Total Enrolments			
State / Terr	Boys	Girls	Co-Ed
ACT	11.1%	5.6%	83.3%
NSW	6.1%	7.2%	86.7%
NT	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
QLD	3.8%	4.7%	91.5%
SA	1.9%	4.7%	93.5%
TAS	2.9%	5.9%	91.2%
VIC	3.9%	7.8%	88.3%
WA	1.9%	5.7%	92.4%
Grand Total	4.2%	6.2%	89.6%

How times have changed – Single Sex vs Co-Ed

Melbourne experience

Back in the last century, (when I was at school) there were 20 APS and AGS schools, **all** exclusively boys' schools

- 12 of these schools have now become Co-Ed
- Carey, Penleigh & Essendon, Wesley, Caulfield, Ivanhoe, Yarra Valley, The Geelong College, Geelong Grammar, Assumption, Haileybury, Mentone & Peninsula
- 8 are still Boys schools – Camberwell, Scotch, Melbourne Grammar (small number of girls), St Kevins, Brighton, Trinity, Marcellin & Xavier

How times have changed – Single sex vs Co-Ed

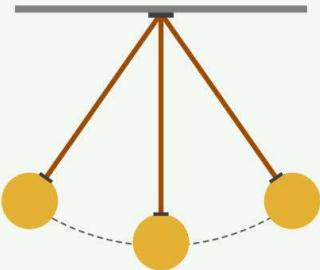
Year	Boys Schools		Co - Ed schools	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Total
1970	20		0	
2024	8		12	
2008	10,363	9,175	14,352	23,527
2024	11,099	13,448	15,559	29,007
	7.10%	46.6%	8.4%	23.29%
	Note - 1 school now has 4 Melbourne campuses and 4 schools have 2 campuses			

Looking into the Future

- Interesting to see if the Independent schools will keep growing?
- Many are indicating they are “FULL”
- Does it suit the Government to let Non-Government schools take over more of the load? Already announced “Better and Fairer Schools Agreement (2025 – 2034)”
- Politically – does it suit Labor State Governments to apply payroll taxes? Think Vote loss with parents
- If the economy is declining, will this cause a move back to lower fees (Government schools)?

Which way is the Pendulum moving?

My View



- In high socio-economic areas with low fertility rate and unaffordable for migrants and young people, the student number will decrease
- Many schools will need to reach further out for students to maintain status quo
- In scenario planning, be prepared for decreasing student numbers at many Independent and Catholic Secondary schools

Examples

Information we can use to make the right
business decisions.

Publicly available data to understand

- Socio Economic Index for Areas (SEIFA)
- ABS Census 2021
- ABS Census data related to type of school attended
- ABS Population Projections 2022 – 2032 by sex and age and extrapolated to 2037
- MySchools + ACARA data + ACECQA data (ELC's)

Your Information

- 2021 & 2024 Students (and 2016 if available)
 - Name or ID number, address, feeder school, class year, use school buses?
- Future Enrolments
 - Name or ID number, address, feeder school (if known), year of admission and class year
- Alumni
 - we normally suggest latest available
- Bus Lines and Student Users

Questions?



Keep in touch



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Mapping Demonstration

Imaginary Jells Park School on our website

<https://map.spectrumanalysis.com.au/mapserver/DemoJellsCollege/Map.html>